

Meeting Minutes –**Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW)
of the Advisory Committee on Water Information
March 20, 2014, 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time****Attendees**

Rolf Olsen, COE	Erica Brown, AMWA	Nathan Bracken, WSWC
Chitra Kumar, CEQ	Brandon Kernan, ASDWA	Gary Belan, American Rivers
Noel Gollehon, USDA	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Carol Collier, AWRA
Mark Crowell, DHS	Dave Carlton, ASFPM	Sascha Petersen, ASAP
Julie Kiang, USGS	Peg Bostwick, ASWM	Michael Block, NGWA
Dave Raff, BOR	Mary Musick, GWPC	Ben Chou, NRDC
Levi Brekke, BOR	Sue Lowry, ICWP	Dr. Aris Geogakakos, NIWR
Jeff Peterson, EPA	Cynthia Finley, NACWA	Paul Freedman, WEF
Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Judy Francis, NACP	
Jeff Manning	Dave Fuller, NTWC	

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

- Attendance
- Agenda review and approval

II) Approval of Meeting Notes

- Meeting notes for February 19/20 meeting approved.

III) Draft Report to CEQ on WRACC recommendations re Ex. Order on Climate Change.

- Presentation & discussion of summary report
 - Applauded work group for participation, cooperation, timeliness and quality of reports
 - Jeff presented the draft report in overview: structure of report which includes introduction, process description and summary listing of recommendations and then with subgroup reports appended (but with some minor changes to provide a similar format). We did not consolidate/collapse any of the recommendations or prioritize them, just developed a combined listing. We also modified the wordings of some of the recommendations slightly for the overview. Also, we added some supplemental recommendations for consideration, recommendations that were discussed at the meeting, but did not end up in the various subgroup recommendations. We are hoping for comments back on the draft within one week. Next steps are further review of the report at a meeting of the Workgroup April 10 and eventual forwarding to full ACWI for May 20 meeting.

- Suggestion/question: Can we combine or prioritize the recommendations? Jeff and Paul: might be hard without a long consensus process and we decide to provide complete set to CEQ and let them prioritize and integrate with other input.
 - Suggestion: Can we give more time for individual representatives to take our draft recommendations back to their organization or agencies for their input. Jeff and Paul: yes we can allow 2 weeks.
 - Question: Are workgroup member organizations formally endorsing each of the recommendations in the report? Jeff and Paul: the report is the product of the Workgroup and member organizations are not expected to endorse specific recommendations. Workgroup members that have significant concerns with a recommendation should identify the concern within the next 2 weeks and we will try to resolve the issue in a mutually agreeable manner.
- Discussion of supplemental recommendations
 - Need to vet these supplemental recommendations with subgroups and agencies/organizations
 - Chitra noted that CEQ is looking for bold ideas and likes the supplemental recommendations, kinds of things CEQ is looking for. Actionable items, bold and new.
 - Paul: These supplemental recommendations did not go through the process of subgroup debate and presentation to WRAA. Hopefully we will not have disagreement or, if major issues arise, they can be moderated by some modest change in wording.
 - Paul & Jeff: Another idea, what about issues of fellowships or traineeships for agency or collegiate training in climate change planning? The Clean Water Act EPA traineeships of the 70's was one example.
 - Noel: consider expanding supplemental recommendation 3 to expand beyond engineering, to include all aspects of IWRM, including social, environmental and economic not just engineering.
 - Comments/feedback on subgroup reports/recommendations
 - Data and Information: Aris made some suggestions to modify the wording of recommendation 1 under data and information. Will provide more feedback by email.
 - Vulnerability: Judy noted some minor correction to wording
 - Efficiency: Brendan suggests not combining the recommendations. Aris asked if we wanted to talk more about thermoelectric water use (e.g. cooling towers); Brendan, this was discussed in the subgroup but they tried to keep the list to three. They will have to go back to subgroup to reconsider if they want to emphasize this.
 - IWRM: Rolf commented on natural infrastructure SRF and integrating this into IWRM recommendations; they are considering this. Carol liked idea of creating a funding mechanism for planning and natural infrastructure. IWRM will deliberate on this and get back to us. Peg really likes the idea of SRF like funding either as a standalone or integrated with the IWRM recommendations.

- Capacity building: Levi and Jeff suggested some wording enhancements, and will email. They will look at supplemental recommendation 3 as it relates to their subgroup recommendations.
- General: Mary said we used many terms of art like natural infrastructure that need to be defined.
- Schedule for finalizing WRACC report, ACWI review and submittal to CEQ.
 - Deadline Friday April 4 deadline, schedule for WRACC to comment on the report, content, wording anything. Same for subgroup deliberations.
 - Jeff and Paul will review and incorporate feedback into final report and submit assuming the feedback is in conflict. Looking for consensus. If we have major issues or lack of consensus then will have to explore a process to reconcile.
 - Individuals are asked to characterize their comments as major concern with a recommendation or minor editorial suggestion
 - We need sufficient turn around so that we can get final approval of our report at our April 10 call and then submit for ACWI review.

IV) Workgroup Business

- Introduction of New Members
 - Gary American Rivers replaces Katherine Baer
- Review & comments on In-Person Meeting
 - Peg liked balance of elements. Important to get to know people personally will make us more effective
- Discussion of future of key documents data base
 - Carol: with assistance from staff at LimnoTech, Carol now has the data base set up on her computer. Carol will add some additional references and send out, along with template to Wendy who can post the spreadsheet and submittal form for new references. Send new forms to Carol who will periodically update the data base to post.
- Webinars: Levi email will go out to solicit ideas for new webinars. bimonthly
- Review of 2014 work plan
 - Approved, but always we can revise/adapt thru the year as new needs arise
- Next call date/time: tentative April 10, 2014 1:00-2:30 EDT (or alternatively the 17th)
 - April 10 will be the next call date, agreed

V) Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members (a brief highlight of your organization's activities related to climate change and water)

- Nothing urgent

VI) Adjourn:

- 2:31