

Meeting Minutes –

Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW) of the Advisory Committee on Water Information July 10, 2014, 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Attendees

Jeff Peterson, EPA, Federal co-chair	Erica Brown, AMWA	Ron Hoffer, EPA
Paul Freedman, WEF, non-Fed co-chair	Dave Fuller, NTWC	Paul Wiegand, NCASI
Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Amy Shallcross, DRBC	Carol Collier, AWRA
Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Rolf Olsen, COE	Karen Metchis, EPA
Dennis McCauley, NALMS	Michael Block, NGWA	Mary Musick, GWPC
Brenna Mannion, NACWA	Matt Vitello	Troy Thompson, USFS
Peg Bostwick, ASWM	Sascha Petersen, ASAP	Peter Evans, ICWP
Monica Kacprzyk, NEIWPC	Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Ben Chou, NRDC
Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Wendy Norton, USGS

Guest Speakers: Jamesine Rogers, Risky Business Project; Melissa Higbee, ICLEI

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

Jeff Peterson took the roll and previewed the agenda.

II) Approval of Meeting Notes (see: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html)

Are there any additions, corrections, or updates needed to the notes from our previous meeting? No comments were offered, so the minutes from the June meeting are approved.

III) Updates and Information

- Meeting of Full ACWI in August; *Next Steps* Report by Climate Workgroup
 - ACWI meeting will take place Aug 19-20 in Reston, Virginia, at USGS Headquarters, and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Meeting information, including a draft agenda and a link to the online registration form, is available here: <http://acwi.gov/acwi-minutes/acwi2014/index.html>. The agenda will include a summary of the Climate Workgroup's activities during the last year, an overview of the report we released earlier this spring (see full report at: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/Climate_water_recommendations_rpt-april_21_2014_final_draft.pdf), and discussion of the next steps resulting from that report.
- Status of Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Coordination Work

- Fact Sheet: National Disaster Resilience Competition (see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/14/fact-sheet-national-disaster-resilience-competition>)

IV) Presentation: Recommendations to the State and Local Leaders Task Force by Resilient Communities for America – Melissa Higbee, ICLEI (Core Partners include: ICLEI USA, National League of Cities, National League of Cities, US Green Building Council, and World Wildlife Fund)

- Overview of Report (see: <http://www.icleiusa.org/library/documents/rc4a-federal-policy-initiative-report-5.12.14>)
- Questions and discussion
- Slides from this presentation are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html
- *Question:* One of your recommendations was around flexible programs; does your report include some examples of what those programs are, or what they could look like? *Answer:* Yes we did try to provide an example (DOE's solar rooftop challenge).
- *Question:* Were there particular suggestions that Federal agencies should consider that might be responsive to small community needs? *Answer:* One of the things we discussed was an umbrella org that might help agencies work with smaller communities on items like information searches, grant applications, etc.
- *Question:* What is the likelihood of implementing all of this? Does this represent a shift of resources or new appropriations? Which agency would be responsible? *Answer:* When the task force produces its final recommendations in August, we may have a better sense of that; but the answer to that question would really have to come from the Administration.
- *Comment:* One of your recommendations concerned standards for local governments, and that could be a change for those agencies. *Response:* That recommendation is really more concerned with the Federal programs incorporating climate preparedness into their decisions.

V) Presentation: *Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change* – Jamesine Rogers, Project Manager of the Risky Business Project

- Overview of *Risky Business* Report focusing on water elements (see: <http://riskybusiness.org/>)
- Questions and discussion
- The Risky Business Project was started in recognition that government and business community response to climate change threats needs to be more aggressive, and information needs to be communicated to a much larger a more diverse audience.
- The Rhodium Group (including Paulson, Bloomberg, Schultz, Cisneros, Shalala, others) has been tasked with conducting an independent assessment of the range of economic risks posed by climate change. They used the same climate models used by National Climate Assessment and analyzed over 20 terabytes of climate and economic data.
- There's a lot of interest in looking at water demand and supply; the data to support such an analysis has only recently become available.

- This effort is complementary to the NCA effort.
- We designed this effort so that all the models are transparent and are available online.
- Some findings of the project include:
 - there are multiple and significant economic risks from climate change if we continue on our current path;
 - changes include temperature, storm surge, rainfall, etc.;
 - different regions will be affected differently;
 - higher temps will increase electricity demand, putting pressure on hydroelectric power sources and thus requiring more water;
 - average precipitation findings are consistent with NCA in that wet areas will become wetter and dry areas will become dryer;
 - increased precipitation in the fall throughout the country in the fall;
 - up to 20% reduction in precipitation in the summertime in some areas;
 - upper Midwest and Great Plains may benefit from greater precipitation;
 - communities on the Gulf of Mexico will face significant risks from storm surge, etc., and costs (which will be in the hundreds of billions of dollars) will not be borne equally among States affected by sea-level rise and storm surge;
 - if we act immediately, we can avoid the worst impacts both locally and nationally, but that will require changing our business practices and public policy right away.
- *Question:* Who were the scientists involved in this project? *Answer:* That information is available on the website, along with a technical document (American Climate Perspectives) describing the methodology.
- *Question:* You alluded to potential next steps for the water arena; are the funders of the initiative thinking of doing a follow-up report? *Answer:* We're talking a lot about that internally and have currently committed to engaging business leaders, mostly in private conversations (which seem to work better). We also have some plans to engage business schools. If there are other data sources or models that you think would be applicable to water supply and demand issues, please let us know.
- *Question:* Does the report explore more of the issue of how few of the large companies have adopted solutions? *Answer:* No, since business responses depend so much on where they're located and what their specific risks are. About half of these companies acknowledge that climate change is having an impact on their bottom line.
- *Comment:* One of the things we have trouble getting access to is water use information; many States and businesses don't want to disclose this information or don't want to require collection of the information in the first place. If you see an opportunity for discussion of this in the business community, we sure would like to talk to you about it.

VI) Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members (a brief highlight of your organizations activities related to climate change and water)

- NRDC report on Climate and State Revolving Funds (see PDF located under the July 10 heading here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html)

- GAO Report: *Freshwater: Supply Concerns Continue, and Uncertainties Complicate Planning*; see <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-430>
- USGS Report: Carbon Sinks; see <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1804/>
- EPA RFA on Climate Change and Drought; see <http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2014/2014-star-natl-priorities.html>
- EPA Climate Justice Blog series: <http://blog.epa.gov/ej>
- Washington Post Article: Sea Level Rise in North Carolina: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ncs-outer-banks-got-a-scary-forecast-about-climate-change-so/2014/06/24/0042cf96-f6f3-11e3-a3a5-42be35962a52_story.html
- Other brief highlights?
- AWRA is hosting a specialty conference in New Orleans (June 15-17). This conference will focus on actions and how the Fed Government can help States and locals. Anyone who has a desire to be involved or has any ideas about what we should include in the conference should contact us.
- We heard a report last summer from Jay Jasperse on adaptation strategies in Sonoma County (http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/27june2013/ACWIwebinar-Sonoma.pdf); EPA had previously produced fact sheets that dealt with the issues Jay discussed, and now there is a full report available (a collaboration among EPA and various Federal and non-Federal entities) on the EPA website.
- AMWA and NACWA's Water Resilience Summit occurred in April, and a summary of discussion and next steps is available; Jeff or Wendy can distribute that summary to the full workgroup, and we should consider putting this item on the agenda for our September call.
- NRDC final version of the State Revolving Funds paper is out, and it can be found here: <http://www.nrdc.org/globalwarming/files/state-revolving-funds-IP.pdf>.

VII) Adjourn

The next meeting will be held September 11 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time.