

Meeting Minutes –

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

Attendees

Jeff Peterson, EPA, co-chair	Ben Chou, NRDC	Troy Thompson, USFS
Paul Freedman, WEF, co-chair	Nathan Bracken, WSWC	Erica Brown, AMWA
Michael Block, NGWA	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Ben Grumbles, USWA
Paul Wiegand, NCASI	Veronica Blette, EPA	Paul Fleming, WUCA
Noel Gollehon, USDA	Ron Hoffer, EPA	Sascha Petersen, ASAP
Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Rolf Olsen, COE	Karen Metchis, EPA
Carol Collier, AWRA	Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Joan Brunkard, CDC
Mary Musick, GWPC	Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Mike Muse, EPA
Liz Berger, USFS	Peter Evans, ICWP	Wendy Norton, USGS
Jeff Manning, ACWA		

Action Items:

Action: ALL – take a week to look carefully at the redline version of our draft report to CEQ and send your comments back to Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman by April 17.

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? None were offered, so the minutes are approved.

III) Implementation of President’s Climate Action Plan

- Report: Natural Resources and Climate Change Workgroup; Chitra Kumar; CEQ
- Report: Infrastructure and Climate Change Workgroup; Craig Zamuda; DOE
- Data and Tools Group (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/03/19/fact-sheet-president-s-climate-data-initiative-empowering-america-s-comm>)
- Draft *Directory of Regional Climate Change Adaptation Programs of Federal Natural Resources Agencies* (see attached)
- Update: 2014 National Climate Assessment; May 6 Release Date

Since Chitra Kumar couldn't join us today, Jeff updated the group on what's happening with the Natural Resources and Climate Change Workgroup, and what the schedule is for the rest of the spring and summer.

Craig Zamuda will give a more detailed presentation about the Infrastructure and Climate Change Workgroup at our next meeting.

The Data and Tools Workgroup has provided a link to a white house fact sheet that may be of interest: (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/03/19/fact-sheet-president-s-climate-data-initiative-empowering-america-s-comm>). Numerous organizations (including ESRI, Google, Microsoft) have made commitments to assist development and distribution of products that may help in this area. There will be a new climate-focused geo-collaboration portal for sharing resources related to climate change.

Draft Directory of Regional Climate Change Adaptation Programs of Federal Natural Resources Agencies should help people more easily figure out who to contact in their own regions, to learn about what's happening with climate adaptation programs. The draft is a "work in progress" and will be available in a few weeks on the ACWI-WRACCW website: (http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html). Please send us any suggestions you have about additional organizations to include in the Directory.

2014 National Climate Assessment is now scheduled to be released May 6. Jeff will ask for someone from the USGCRP to give us a briefing on this during an upcoming teleconference.

IV) Water Utility Climate Resilience Summit: Report

- Erica Brown; AMWA
- Cynthia Finley, NACWA

Erica Brown updated the group on the purpose, participants, and plans of the NACWA and AMWA effort on this Summit. The Summit included participants from across the country, and from all sectors (government, finance, private sector, etc.). This Summit helped make people more aware of the challenges that water utilities are facing. We have identified some opportunities for the best way to move forward, and now we're figuring out how to take advantage of those opportunities. There is also a press release available, which Erica offered to send to the group. Jeff added that EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy was at the meeting yesterday and spoke about the importance of water in the context of climate adaptation.

Question: Erica, you represent the larger water utilities, correct? Answer: Yes, this effort was mostly large utilities, but we also had a flood management district represented.

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

- Presentation and discussion of revised draft report (see attached)

You all received both a clean version and a redline version of this report prior to this call. We got a good range of input on our draft report. We tried to respond to general comments by adding some clarifying text, so we have moved a little away from the subgroups' original text, but we haven't made any substantive shifts or redirection.

The ACWI meeting is scheduled for May 20-21, though it could still be delayed, due to some administrative SNAFUs. The report can be forwarded to ACWI members ahead of the meeting, however. Is the group in agreement that it's all right to forward the report to the ACWI members? Or do people have additional comments?

- **Action: ALL – take a week to look carefully at the redline version of our draft report to CEQ and send your comments back to Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman by April 17.** If there are no substantive problems with the report as it stands now, the workgroup members authorize the co-chairs to go ahead and forward it to the full ACWI as a draft. Question: Does the workgroup agree with this approach? Answer: Yes.
- Clarifying point: the report will be publicly available on the website, but it won't be highlighted for public release.
- Some additional comments were sent to the co-chairs earlier today, so those still need to be incorporated. There are still some concerns about how groundwater is incorporated in the report. There seem to be two different approaches being used, regarding the way in which groundwater is included (or not) in the term "watershed."

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

- Climate Change 2014: *Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability* IPCC Working Group II Contribution to AR5; <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/>
- Green Stream: Nature Conservancy Initiative <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/california/ca-green-vs-gray-report-2.pdf>
- New Report: *Defining a Water Resilient Business Model for Water Utilities* <http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/4366.pdf>
- National Ground Water Association: Managed Aquifer Recharge (see attached)

Additional item: yesterday Senator Tom Udall introduced S. 2226 encouraging water use efficiency. This may be of interest to the group, though it has not been posted online yet (it should be available in a few days). The bill will be referred to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Senator Boxer is a co-sponsor.

Our next teleconference will be during June at a date to be determined by the co-chairs.

VII) Adjourn