



**Meeting Minutes –
 Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW)
 of the Advisory Committee on Water Information
 June 12, 2014, 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Attendees

Paul Freedman, WEF, co-chair	Paul Fleming, WUCA	Noel Gollehon, USDA
Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Ben Chou, NRDC	Levi Brekke, BOR
Mike Block, NGWA	Sara Larsen, WSWC	Rolf Olsen, COE
Lisa McWhirter	Troy Thompson, USFS	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Aris Georgakakos, NIWR	Ernie Wells, NOAA	Dave Carlton, ASFPM
Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Cynthia Finley, NACWA	Wendy Norton, USGS
Ben Grumbles, U.S. Water Alliance	Jeff Manning, ACWA	

Action Items:

- ACTION – All: Levi Brekke will no longer be able to coordinate our webinars, so we are looking for a volunteer to take on that task. If you are interested in soliciting speakers, etc., for the webinar series, please contact Jeff Peterson, Paul Freedman, or Wendy Norton. Levi will be glad to help with the transition to a new webinar coordinator.

Announcement:

There is a new version of our interactive reference database available on the website: go to http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html and click on "ACWI Climate Change Reference Database" in the "Products" section. Many thanks to Carol Collier and the others who worked on this great tool!

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

Paul Freedman 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, so the minutes are approved.

III) Presentation: Water Elements of the National Climate Assessment

Review of water related elements of the new National Climate Assessment (see: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>)

"Third National Climate Assessment: Overview of the Process and Findings of the Water Resources Chapter," Aris Georgakakos, Georgia Institute of Technology and Paul Fleming, Seattle Public Utilities; Convening Lead Authors of the Water Resources Chapter <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/sectors/water>

This presentation deals with just one of the 30 chapters of the National Climate Assessment, and the rest of the NCA is also worth exploring.

Slides from the presentation are available here:
http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html

Comments and questions following the presentation:

- *Question:* On the high-end estimates of emissions for the future, do they represent a continuation of historic trends in emissions, or do they represent a presumed future increase in economic activity? *Answer:* It's really a continuation of the kinds of practices that are in place now.
- *Question:* It was startling to look at the forecast and how the hydrologic conditions would change, but also how the forecast and the demand will change. Did the assessment look at how shifts in commercial activities, agricultural practices, etc., would change in response to that? Or is there an assumption that existing operations would remain in place but would require higher demand in the future? *Answer:* They did look at that. Population changes, etc., were taken into account. But new technologies are not easy to take into account. They have made some interesting assumptions to try to incorporate this effect, but it's not a simple projection to make. There are strategies that can be used to reduce demand, too.
- *Comment:* As we talk about adaptation to climate change, adapting our demand is certainly something we can do (through reuse, conservation, etc.). In Israel, for example, they use agricultural water three times before they discharge it.
- *Question:* Thank you for a good presentation. Will the slides be available on the website? *Answer:* Yes they will be posted in the area where meeting minutes and presentation slides are always posted.
- *Question:* Do you think there's anything we missed in our workgroup activity earlier this year, compared to your list of high priority needs? *Answer:* I think most of the ideas have in a general way been incorporated, so the ACWI group covered it pretty well. Maybe the exact language isn't the same, but the general concepts are covered.
- *Question:* In terms of the groundwater withdrawals for agriculture, a lot of people perceive agriculture as food production, and I wonder if it's important to tease out what portion of that water use is actually attributable to energy production rather than food production. *Answer:* Pretty sure that topic was broached at least broadly, if not in detail. It would appear in the Great Plains chapter, maybe in the Agriculture chapter, and in the Energy chapter. The Water chapter also includes a general breakdown of water use based on most recent USGS data.

IV) Climate Workgroup Management:

- "Next Steps" Report (see http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html)
- Webinars for Workgroup members: Levi Brekke; Bureau of Reclamation
- Suggestions of topics for future Workgroup meetings

- *Next Steps report update* – The "Next Steps" report was finalized and we obtained approval from the full ACWI to post it on the website, so it's available to all who need it. We added a summary of ACWI comments to the report document; these were not consensus comments, but comments from individual ACWI representatives. Paul Freedman reviewed some of the specific comments briefly for the group and encouraged WRACCW members to read the ACWI comments.
- *Webinar series* – Levi Brekke will no longer be able to coordinate our webinars, so we are looking for a volunteer to take on that task. **ACTION:** [If you are interested in soliciting speakers, etc., for the webinar series, please contact Jeff Peterson, Paul Freedman, or Wendy Norton. Levi will be glad to help with the transition to a new webinar coordinator.](#)
- *Innovation and other topics to discuss* – Would like to explore what new innovations we need for water adaptation strategies; are there other topics people would like to see us cover during a future call? If you think of anything, please let Jeff Peterson, Paul Freedman, or Wendy Norton know.

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

- Report from EPA describing indicators of climate change:
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/pdfs/climateindicators-full-2014.pdf>
- Report on public views of climate change:
<http://www.climatechangecommunication.org/report/climate-change-american-mind-series-spring-2014>
- Report from National Wildlife Federation on adaptation:
http://www.nwf.org/pdf/Climate-Smart-Conservation/NWF-Climate-Smart-Conservation_5-08-14.pdf
- Report about watershed resilience and wetlands benefits of beaver:
<http://www.beaversww.org/assets/PDFs/BeaverandClimateChangeFinal-1.pdf>
- Article in Nature Climate Change Journal on precipitation shift from snow to rain:
<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2246.htm>
- From EPA Climate Change News, "Network of Mayors and Local Officials Share Report on Recommendations to the President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience":
<http://www.icleiusa.org/library/documents/rc4a-federal-policy-initiative-report-5.12.14>

Next call is tentatively scheduled for July 10.

VI) Adjourn