

Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW)
September 25 1pm ET

Attendees:

- Nancy Barth
- Adam Carpenter
- Brandon Kernen
- Brenda Zollitsch
- Carol Collier
- Diedre Mason
- Dennis McCauley
- Erick Loucks
- Heather Cooley
- Jeannie Jones
- Jeff Manning
- Jennifer Saleem Arrigo
- Jared Bales
- John McShane
- Karen Metchis
- Katie White
- Lisa Engelman
- Mary Musick
- Melissa Samet
- Mitch Heineman
- Nancy Beller-Simms
- Nancy Tueyk
- Paul Freedman
- Raha Hakimdavar

Presentation: This was given by Nancy Barth, IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering, the University of Iowa; she spoke about Flood Frequency and Mixed populations in the Western United States. Her co-authors are Gabriele Villarini and Kathleen White.

Discussion on presentation

- Jeannie Jones: CA supports climate change research; would we still go with an LP3 distribution?
 - Nancy 's papers explain why she uses this distribution. She also used other distributions, which are detailed in her publications.
- Now she is looking at relaxing the assumption of stationarity.

Other Discussion:

- Future of Workgroup

- There is still a good interest in this workgroup from attendees. Jerad has been trying to get a read from the Dept of Interior on the future of this work group. This group was not asked to present during the last ACWI meeting and has not received any guidance since then.
- We can continue to get together monthly and hear presentations, so what do we want or need to be doing? Kate and Jerad suggest putting the group on hiatus until they receive guidance from the Dept of Interior on what they should be doing.
- Nancy Barth encourages that the group still has dialogs and pushes through the lack of guidance. Collaboration between multiple subcommittees of ACWI may help to push things forward to collectively work on achieving actionable results.
- Jerad doesn't think that the WRACC doesn't have a defined product, unlike other ACWI subcommittees.
- To date, ACWI has listed to status presentations and not given advice. Jennie Jones is frustrated by this. She suggests trying to come up with advice to a technical question; her questions is how can we predict drought and flood frequencies?
- Jerad wants to remind people, if we say we should be working on something: we should have the time to work on it or have staff to work on it.
- Karen Metchis is frustrated about the status of ACWI too; the former workgroup that Jeff Peterson used to advise the Interagency Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup. That group has morphed and has merged with another group. Should we try to hang in the longer to see if this group can provide information to that group? Given the breadth of representation on this group, it's a potential wealth of resources to the federal government, especially because this is federal employees and non-federal employees.
- The opportunity to engage with feds and non-feds is something that the other climate change groups (like USGCRP) struggle with, especially because they do not have a federal advisory committee.
- Paul Freedman agrees with the need to have a specific purpose and objective other than information conveyance. The unintended consequence of reality is that if you suspend directions until directions from ACWI, the group may be sunset. It would be better if you remained active. Something highly rigorous is not in our capacity.
- Mitch Heineman is worried about rainfall frequency, especially in light of public perception of large storm events. There needs to be a discussion of how to frame rainfall event extreme statistics; perhaps this committee could tackle this.
- Karen Metchis said that extreme rainfall statistics is being worked on by the NOAA folks currently. Many people are aware of this issue. It would be great to have the input from this group to help with this effort.
- A path forward is to find the correct way to move forward. It may involve USGCRP reaching out to ACWI, or something similar. Jerad and Kate will work on reaching out and will update the group on where this conversation leads.