

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
February 9, 2017: 1:00 – 2:30 eastern

Call in Numbers:

USGS offices/DOI locations - 703-648-4848

Non-USGS locations (toll free) - 1-855-547-8255

Access code is: 53700#

When it is time to attend the meeting, please visit this link:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m1dfdf921a92a71fa83fca8bcdf842e92>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Fed Co-chair, USEPA	Stacey Archfield, USGS	Kristina Surfus, NACWA
Paul Freedman, non-Fed Co-chair, WEF	Tamara McCandless, FWS	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA
Jimmy Hague, TNC	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Mikko McFeely, AMWA
Dennis McCauley, GLEC	Jon Radtke, Coca-Cola	Robert Moore, BOR
Lisa Engelman, AWRA	Chris Weaver, EPA	Mitch Heineman, ASCE
Marla Stelk, ASWM	Melissa Samet, NWF	Karen Metchis, EPA
Mary Musick, GWPC	Keeley Brooks, WUCA	Chris Carlson, USFS
Paul Tashjian, FWS	Carol Collier, AWRA	Noel Gollehon, NRCS
Marty Link, GWPC	Mike Block, NGWA	Raha Hakimdavar, USFS
Robin O'Malley, USGS	Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Wendy Norton, ACWI
Erica Brown, AMWA	John Wells, ACWI-SWRR	

Presenters/Guests:

[Megan Susman](#), EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

[Chris Weaver](#), EPA Office of Research and Development

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

II) Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting (draft notes: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html)

III) Presentation: New Report “*Smart Growth Fixes for Climate Adaptation and Resilience: Changing Land Use and Building Codes and Policies to Prepare for Climate Change*”:

Megan Susman; EPA Office of Sustainable Communities (see presentation attached)

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-01/documents/smart_growth_fixes_climate_adaptation_resilience.pdf

- Presentation slides available here: https://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/
- *Question:* What’s the delivery mechanism for getting this out into the world? Are there people who can follow up? *Answer:* The report is posted on the website, and the material is a summary of each policy option.

- *Question:* There's a nice summary of community ratings system for FEMA. What have you heard from local governments about their reactions to or interest in the community ratings system? *Answer:* I haven't really heard anything about that yet. But people would probably talk to FEMA about their reactions, rather than us.
- *Question:* You mentioned that a lot of these options cost less than traditional policies. Does your report look much at cost-benefit studies? *Answer:* No, we didn't get into that aspect of analysis.
- *Question:* Is there any smart-growth initiative underway to help more regional uplift that would help smaller communities within the region of larger municipalities? *Answer:* Some projects are more attuned to this than others. It's really up to the councils for individual communities.

IV) Presentation: New Report from Global Change Research Program: “Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States”: Chris Weaver; EPA Office of Research and Development; see

<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/new-regional-sea-level-scenarios-help-communities-prepare-for-risks>

- Presentation slides available here: https://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/
- Regarding differences between this new report and the report published in 2012: For the 2012 report, we looked at the full range of published 21-century sea-level rise (SLR) estimates and tried to treat every plausible piece of evidence and use that to define max upper bound and minimum lower bound. There's uncertainty, but these numbers bracket where we think we're going. Since the 2012 report was released, there have been a number of studies that looked at the potential for more-rapid-than-previously-thought ice melt; much of the uncertainty in previous SLR estimates could be attributed to uncertainty about melting, so these additional studies have suggested upper bounds of SLR well above 2 meters. Similar approaches have been taken in the U.K. as well.
- *Comment:* A key anticipated use of this new information is to inform the next fourth National Climate Assessment that's just getting underway. How would this info be used in the NCA4? *Response:* Teams are working to create a simplified integrated package of scenarios (land use change, etc.) for NCA4 teams which are being formed now.
- *Question:* You mentioned that some of the forecasts go to 2200, but the graphics only seem to extend to 2100 or 2060. Where is that data? *Answer:* There are actually graphics and text in the report that deal with the extended timeframe (see table 5). But we don't do it at decadal levels (we show 2120, 2150, and 2200).
- *Question:* It would be helpful to be able to give a clear image of what happens before 2100; that still seems very far away to a lot of people. If there's a way to pull out some realistic projections for timeframes prior to 2100, that would be quite compelling. *Answer:* Yes, that's why we provide decadal information. But it will be hard to tell what trajectory we're on until we get a couple more decades into the future.

V) Discussion and Approval: Draft Report of Workgroup January Meeting (see revised draft report attached in REDLINE and CLEAN versions)

- Review and discussion of comments on first draft of report (see REDLINE attached) and any further needed changes
- Approval of report for sending forward to full ACWI for February 22-23 meeting
- We will send a fresh copy of the report to the whole Workgroup, based on today's discussion. Then, once everyone approves of the changes, we will forward it to the full ACWI.
- Is there anything in the report that anyone feels should be removed? Anything big that needs to be added? Think about this and let Jeff and Paul know.
- Adding groundwater to the list of networks.
- Do we want to add something about managing *existing* infrastructure? We didn't discuss explicitly this during our meeting, but our recommendations do talk about modernizing, which speaks to both new infrastructure and upgrading old. It's a bit late to add a whole new recommendation, but a sentence or two within existing text would help make it clear that we're thinking about *all* infrastructure, and not just the new items.
- *Question:* Is everyone OK with the changes we have discussed? *Answer:* Yes. Everyone is willing to have the report sent to ACWI as it is, with today's changes.

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

- New NOAA Water Initiative and Five Year Plan: <http://www.noaa.gov/explainers/noaa-water-initiative-vision-and-five-year-plan>
- New NOAA State of the Climate 2016 report: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/201613>
- New report from Pacific Institute on sea level rise on west coast; <http://pacinst.org/publication/the-impacts-of-sea-level-rise-on-the-california-coast/>
- New report on air temperatures in northeast increasing faster than global average; <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/northeast-us-temperatures-are-decades-ahead-global-average>
- New report on climate change and wildfires; <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/predicting-wildfire-western-us-under-changing-climate>
- New report from Pacific Institute with water recommendations for new Administration; <http://pacinst.org/news/water-strategies-next-administration-new-major-u-s-water-policy-recommendations/>
- Climate scenario planning website: <http://www.adaptationscenarios.org/>
- Use of climate projections: <https://www.eccforum.org/we-have-these-climate-projections-now-how-do-we-use-them>
- 2016 End of Year Report for the National Drought Resilience Partnership: <https://www.usda.gov/documents/ndrp-january-2017-end-of-year-report.pdf>
- New climate change industry tool: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/tpi/the-toolkit/>
- GAO report on climate change and building codes: http://www.eenews.net/assets/2017/01/04/document_cw_01.pdf
- USDA Climate HUBs Tool Shed: https://tools.taccimo.info/tbl_tools_list.php

- USDA Snow and Water Climate Mapper:
https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/snow_map.html
- USDA report on helping farmers with climate adaptation:
<https://blogs.usda.gov/tag/climate-adaptation/>
- USDA climate change training website: <http://www.climatelearning.net/e-learning-modules/>
- Water Resource Development Act:
<http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20161205/CPRT-114-HPRT-RU00-S612.pdf>
- Bill addressing connectivity corridors for climate change adaptation:
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2016/12/08/stories/1060046838>
- Other brief highlights?

VII)Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern