

Meeting Minutes
Climate Change Adaptation Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
October 9, 2014: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in Numbers:

USGS staff at Headquarters - x4848
Other USGS offices/DOI locations - 703-648-4848
Non-USGS locations (toll free) - 1-855-547-8255
The access code is: 53700#

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

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?ED=315813502&UID=2133731222&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, co-chair, EPA	Peg Bostwick, ASWM	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Paul Freedman, co-chair, WEF	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Mike Muse, EPA
Wendy Norton, USGS	Robin O'Malley, USGS	Sarah Murdock, TNC
Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Dennis McCauley, NALMS	Erica Brown, AMWA
Karen Metchis, EPA	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Michael Block, NGWA
Paul Wiegand, NCASI	Ben Chou, NRDC	Paul Fleming, WUCA
Jeff Manning, ACWA	Brenna Mannion, NACWA	

Speakers:

Alice Ewen, CEQ
Emily Read, USGS
Brian Pickard, EPA

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

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

III) Presentation: Release of *Priority Agenda for Priority Agenda Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources*

Alice Ewen, Deputy Associate Director for Lands, Council on Environmental Quality

- Overview of Report
 - presentation materials are available here:
http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/enhancing_climate_resilience_of_americas_natural_resources.pdf
 - The report has a strong theme around natural infrastructure, support for landscape-scale restoration efforts. There's a section on water efficiency, a recommendation relating to WESTFAST, recognition of green infrastructure (especially for storm-water management), and a piece about training the Federal workforce and partners.

- CEQ would appreciate it if WRACCW members could spread this document around to their colleagues and partners. (The report will be posted on the ACWI/WRACCW website, but if you can send it out to people you know, that would help to spread the word further.)
- Carbon monitoring is one area that's ripe for dialogue.
- Questions and Discussion
 - *Question:* In several places the report mentions coordinating; based on the page 6 language, there's a hope that in around a year there will be a chance to look back at implementation and progress on cross-cutting strategies, so is there anything in particular that CEQ would like to hear from us during the next year? *Answer:* Some of these details are TBD. The Council on Resilience will probably meet later this month, and at that time they'll decide how to implement our priority plans. We'll probably have a quarterly check-in to make sure we're on track in meeting our goals. It would be helpful if ACWI member organizations could track the items in the report that relate to their areas of expertise/responsibility.
 - *Comment:* Based on that, WRACCW should probably come up with our short list of things in the priority agenda that we consider to be within the area of interest that we're most concerned about.

IV) **Presentation: Water Theme of the Interagency Climate Data and Tools Initiative**

Emily Read on behalf of Nate Booth, USGS, Water Theme Chair (see:

<https://www.data.gov/climate/>; note that water theme not yet posted to site)

- Overview of Report
 - An Executive Order issued in 2013 mandated government information be open and machine readable; in 2014 third National Climate Assessment was released. The Climate Data Initiative (CDI) lies at the intersection of these two things.
 - CDI includes seven themes. The Climate Resilience Toolkit (CRT) includes actionable information, subject matter expertise, decision support, and case studies. These two things (CDI and CRT) are connected by a series of "framing questions" and a collection of tools/maps/resources.
 - The site "climate.data.gov" has some great resources for data related to climate.
 - There have been significant commitments made by the Administration and by the private sector.
 - The goal of the water theme is to gather relevant data, tools, maps, and other resources from agency partners and stakeholders and to make those resources available through CDI and CRT. Partners on this theme include numerous government and non-government entities (see slides).
 - We would love to have feedback from this group on our concepts.
- Questions and Discussion
 - *Question:* You mentioned the needs and noted that it's outside the purview of this initiative; is that because the initiative focuses on pulling together suites of info that already exist? *Answer:* Yes, right now we're looking for the low-hanging fruit. But there are opportunities for workshops associated with the Toolkit and the CDI to help develop modeling tools and other tools. *Comment:* The next step of identifying and filling in gaps is also quite important.

- *Question:* Can you give us a sense of the best target date for us to provide you with any datasets that don't currently appear on your list?
Answer: The initial launch will be in early November, so the deadline for new datasets for that launch is just a couple of days from now. However, data.gov will be continuously updated, so we'll accept input on a continuous basis, at least for the next 6 months or so.
- *Comment:* If anyone in this group wants to send some tools or datasets directly to Emily, your input would be appreciated. WRACCW can look further at the list of tools, and we may want to provide some coordinated input later, but if you have some datasets in mind right now, don't wait.

V) **Presentation: *Flood Resilience Guidance for Water Utilities***

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/emmerplan/upload/epa817b14006.pdf>

Brian Pickard, EPA, Water Security Division

- Overview of Report
 - Note that this is an interactive PDF rather than a static report.
 - Pilot study in Berwick, ME, examined events affecting a small water utility and documented the process (on film), then shared that process.
 - The report lays out a four-step approach for small utilities to take, to make themselves more flood-resilient: understand the threat of flooding; identify vulnerable assets and determine consequences; identify and evaluation mitigation measures; develop a plan to implement mitigation measures. The report includes worksheets to help utilities to follow this four-step process, including valuation of assets.
 - The Step 4 worksheet leads into the Fed FUNDS tool, which gives an overview of Federal disaster-assistance funding for which impoverished utilities can apply.
 - If WRACCW member organizations can share this tool with their stakeholders, that would be wonderful, and you can contact Brian Pickard if you have questions.
- Questions and Discussion
 - *Comment:* This format is very useful and is much easier to use than a manual.
 - *Question:* What relationship do you see between this tool and the CREAT (Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool) tool? *Answer:* The CREAT tool is actually incorporated in this tool.
 - *Question:* Do you find that, when water utilities that have gone through a process like this, is there a particular action that they consistently identify as a top priority, or does that vary a lot? *Answer:* For Berwick, they were above the 500-year flood level, but they didn't realize that all their machinery being located in the basement would be disastrous because it's underground and would be ruined. Mostly the low-tech, low-cost solutions are the first ones that utilities tend to implement. We hope to have more feedback from utilities on this and other questions, as those utilities use this tool.

VI) Climate Workgroup Updates and Information

- Status Report: Interagency Climate Change and Water Resources Workgroup Development of 2014 Progress Report and 2015 Workplan
 - This work is well underway and there's a draft now; the workplan is coming together. We anticipate both products will be available for review by WRACCW in November or early December.
- 2015 In-Person Meeting of the Workgroup
 - We hope to have another in-person meeting, provided that funds are available (once we have an appropriation). To that end, we need to decide when and where the meeting would be held (some time during spring 2015).
 - Anyone who can work with the co-chairs to define the agenda should let Jeff Peterson, Paul Freedman, and/or Wendy Norton know; we want the meeting to be as interactive as possible.
 - It would be best if we could build the meeting around a particular task that we want to accomplish.
- Planning for 2014 Report of the Workgroup to the ACWI and 2015 Workplan
 - As we did last year, we will provide a report of our 2014 activities to the full ACWI. The co-chairs hope to have a draft ready for the group to look at during our November meeting, so we can have a final version by December. Also please let the co-chairs know if you think there are new areas that WRACCW needs to get involved with during 2015.

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

- AMWA recommendations to State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Change (http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/AMWAletterCEQ-23sept2014.pdf)
- Georgetown Climate Center Report: *20 GOOD IDEAS FOR PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENCE: Opportunities for State and Local Governments*
<http://www.georgetownclimate.org/sites/www.georgetownclimate.org/files/GCC-20%20Good%20Ideas-July%202014.pdf>
- AWRA Conference November 3-6 Tysons Corner Va., Call for talks on Open Water Data <http://awra.org/meetings/Annual2014/lightning.html>
- *Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk Based Adaptation Plans*; <http://www2.epa.gov/cre/risk-based-adaptation>
- The Nature Conservancy; Coastal Resilience Mapping Portal: <http://maps.coastalresilience.org/network/>
- Other brief highlights?
 - The Federal advisory committee that advises DOI Climate Science Centers is producing a report that's scheduled for completion in spring 2015. The recommendations focus on actionable science, interactions between public and private partners, and how to evaluate the entire Climate Science Center enterprise. Robin O'Malley has offered to present the draft report to WRACCW; we will schedule that presentation for January or February.

VIII) Adjourn