

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
September 9, 2014: 1:00 – 2:30

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=305517477&UID=2078031167&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, co-chair, EPA	Chris Reimer, NGWA	Kate Flynn, USGS
Paul Freedman, co-chair, WEF	Dave Ballard	Mary Musick, GWPC
Wendy Norton, USGS	David Fuller, NTWC	Mike Muse, EPA
Ben Chou, NRDC	Dwane Young, EPA	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA
Ben Grumbles, USWA	Emily Read, USGS	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Brandon Kernan, ASDWA	Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Patrick McCarthy, TNC
Brenna Mannion, NACWA	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Rolf Olsen, COE
Carol Collier, AWRA	Karen Metchis, EPA	Sascha Petersen, ASAP

Speakers:

Davia Palmeri, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Steve Hostetler, USGS

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

Jeff Peterson took the roll and introduced the first presenter.

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

No one offered any amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting.

III) Presentation: Release of *Taking Action 2014: Progress Report on Implementation of the Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*

Davia Palmeri, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (presentation slides are available here:

(http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/palmeri_2014_fwp_strategy_11_sept_2014.pdf)

- Overview of Report
(http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/taking_action_draft_proof.pdf)

- Questions and Discussion
- Question: How will the report be distributed to the people you mentioned at the start of your presentation (people who may be skeptical or who think there's nothing they can do)? Answer: We're working on the roll-out plan right now. One of the best ways to do that is for everyone on this group and everyone working on the strategy can share it through their networks. Once the report is released, Jeff can share it with this group, and this group can send it out to their contacts.
- Question: How do you envision next steps once the report is distributed? Answer: Next steps will propose collaborative projects that cut across agencies. The working group is hosting a meeting on Monday to discuss implementation, and the meeting is open to the public. Any information resulting from this and other meetings regarding this topic can be shared with the ACWI WRACCW.

IV) **Presentation: USGS National Climate Change Viewer (NCCV)**

Steve Hostetler, U.S. Geological Survey

- Overview of Viewer (see http://www.usgs.gov/climate_landuse/clu_rd/nccv.asp and PowerPoint [presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/hostetler_acwi_9_11_2014.pdf])
- Questions and Discussion
- Question: Now that this tool is posted on your website and there's a tutorial function, have you considered doing outreach webinars or more structured training for people who are interested? Answer: We have been considering this but haven't done anything formal yet; the training might ultimately be in video form.
- Question: Regarding the temp model showing more long-term consistency than the precipitation model – it seems you could chose one of multiple models or precipitation projections, or you could use the average of all models (the default); is opting for the average of all models giving us a more homogenized result that might not be as useful? How do you decide, over time, whether the collection of models you're averaging is the right collection? Answer: Yes, the variability gets averaged out if you use the default/average; in terms of choosing which models to include, we advocate looking at the mean and the area of variability around the mean as a way of framing the climate envelope.

V) **Updates and Information**

- Report from Climate Change Discussion at Meeting of Full ACWI in August (Paul Freedman, WEF) – Paul gave a recap of the August ACWI meeting discussion and let everyone know that the Climate report was very well received. The presentation slides from the ACWI meeting area available online (<http://acwi.gov/acwi-minutes/acwi2014/index.html>), and the meeting minutes will be available soon at this same location.
- Status Report: Natural Resources and Climate Change Report – Jeff Peterson reported that the report required under Section 3 of the Exec Order has been drafted and went to OMB for the official interagency review, which is now underway. Comment is requested by COB Friday, Sept 12. The report represents a lot of creative thinking across the participating agencies, and it may

be released some time during the next month (perhaps in time for our October teleconference).

- Status Report: Interagency Climate Change and Water Resources Workgroup Development of 2014 Progress Report and 205 Workplan (Karen Metchis, EPA) – Freshwater Resources workgroup, among others, is still active and continues to meet regularly. The group is committed to implementing the National Action Plan and is planning for work in FY 2015. The draft report will be submitted to ACWI-WRACCW for comment around December 1. We will include a discussion of that report as part of our December meeting.
- Initial Discussion: 2015 In-Person Meeting of the Workgroup (Jeff Peterson, EPA) – We need to start thinking about our next in-person meeting now, to ensure we can get all the necessary approvals. Is there interest in holding such a meeting in the late February or early March 2015 timeframe? We'll also need to decide what the main focus of the meeting should be (for example, at the 2014 meeting, we had a specific task to accomplish). **ACTION – ALL: If you have ideas for a location or for a focus topic for the meeting, let Jeff, Paul, or Wendy know ASAP (the location needs to be in a Federal facility or a non-Federal facility that we can use at no cost).** If the timing works out, one possible focus for the meeting would be commenting on the report Karen Metchis told us about earlier in this meeting.
- Carol Collier told the group about a specialty conference June 14-17 in New Orleans, sponsored by AWRA and focused on climate change issues (i.e., “what are we doing about climate change?”). We're really interested in tools to highlight at the conference, as well as activities underway at the Federal agencies that aid States and Tribes. If WRACCW wanted to hold their in-person meeting in June, it could be combined with this conference.

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

- *President Obama's Climate Action Plan: One Year Later*; by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions: <http://www.c2es.org/publications/president-obamas-climate-action-plan-one-year-later>
- New National Research Council Report: *Reducing Coastal Risk on the East and Gulf Coasts*: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18811
- USDA Grants \$33 Million to Staten Island Water Plan for “Bluebelts”: http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=52133295&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5c9k3k1&split=0
- The Vulnerability Sourcebook: Concept and guidelines for standardized vulnerability assessments: http://www.adelphi.de/files/uploads/andere/pdf/application/pdf/vulnerability_sourcebook_guidelines_for_assessments_adelphi_giz_2014.pdf
- Georgetown Climate Center Report: *Preparing Our Communities for Climate Impacts: Recommendations for Federal Action*: <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/sites/www.georgetownclimate.org/files/GCC%20-%20Recommendations%20for%20Federal%20Action%20-%20September%202014.pdf>
- National Conference on Large Landscape Conservation: <http://www.largelandscapenetwork.org/>

- Reuters Investigation: Climate Change Coastal Impacts:
<http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/waters-edge-the-crisis-of-rising-sea-levels/>
- Other brief highlights?

VII) Adjourn