

# AGENDA

## Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the Advisory Committee on Water Information October 13, 2016: 1:00 – 2:30 eastern

### 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

Access code is: 53700#

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

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=mea3fe3687655950a39e57736e071cea3>

### Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, EPA Fed Co-chair	Lisa Engleman, AWRA	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Paul Freedman, WEF, Non-Fed Co-chair	Stacy Archfield, USGS	Rachel Grandpre, USACE
Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Paul Gruber, NGWA	Carol Collier, AWRA
Julian Gonzalez, ACWA	Melissa Samet, NWF	Erica Brown, AMWA
Kristina Surfus, ACWA	Mike Wilson, NRCS	Eric Loucks, ASCE
Zach Rybarczyk, EPA	Marla Stelk, ASWM	Ken Nowak, BOR
Tamara McCandless, FWS	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Mary Musick, GWPC
Karen Metchis, EPA	Mike Muse, EPA	Wendy Norton, ACWI/USGS
David Berry, SWRR	Shana Udvardy, ASFPM	
Heather Cooley, Pacific Institute	Claudia Nierenberg, NOAA	

### Presenters/Guests:

Curt Baranowski, EPA  
Jack Bayliss, DHS  
Ginger Norris, DHS

#### I) Introductions and Agenda Review

#### II) Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting (see draft notes at [http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/index.html](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html))

#### III) Presentation: New Version 3.0 of the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool; Curt Baranowski, Office of Water, US EPA; see: <https://www.epa.gov/crwu/build-climate-resilience-your-utility>; Click the following links to see videos that show how CREAT has benefitted utilities such as [Camden, N.J.](#) and [Faribault, Minn.](#)

- Presentation was a walk-through of the CREAT tool (link above), showing various screens, options, etc. Modules include Climate Awareness (utility information, utility location, climate change basics, current concerns, awareness summary), Scenario Development (threat identification, baseline scenario, time period, threat definition, etc.), Consequences and Assets (including economic and public

health consequences, asset definition), Adaptation Planning (including existing and potential adaptive measures), and Risk Assessment.

- **Question:** Have you had any feedback from entities that are using this tool?  
**Answer:** This version was only released 2 weeks ago so we don't have any feedback yet, but when we were building the tool we had a large working group including many utilities, associations, and others who would ultimately use the tool, and we incorporated their input into the development of the tool.

**IV) Presentation: National Infrastructure Advisory Council; *Water Sector Resilience: Final Report and Recommendations*; Jack Bayliss and Ginger Norris, DHS (see: <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/niac-water-resilience-final-report-508.pdf>)**

- Presentation slides are available here:  
[http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/minutes/oct2016/NIAC%20Water%20Resilience%20working-group\\_qbm\\_06-24-16\\_revised\\_for\\_doi-epa\\_briefing.pdf](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/oct2016/NIAC%20Water%20Resilience%20working-group_qbm_06-24-16_revised_for_doi-epa_briefing.pdf)
- **Question:** Applying the li-heap method and applying it in the water sector is interesting; is that normally applied to water utilities? **Answer:** We were looking for a model to undertake activities in low-income neighborhoods. AWWA says that they have done this in the past.
- **Question:** Did you recommend any larger grants in your report? **Answer:** Yes, the report goes over the Federal role and sources of funding, and makes the point that more funds are needed.
- **Question:** Did you look at flood control issues that some utilities (New Orleans, etc.) have to consider? **Answer:** Yes, we discussed this at length and consulted with the commissioner from New York who dealt with Hurricane Sandy fallout.
- **Comment:** You mentioned that a lot of other organizations were involved in the study group process. This group did a nice job of organizing the report so that it's easy to find things from the table of contents, etc. Suggest that people might want to dig a little deeper into the specific actions associated with each recommendation in the report.
- The NIAC inbox (link available on their website: <https://www.dhs.gov/national-infrastructure-advisory-council>) is the best way to contact the speakers if they have additional questions about the report.
- NIAC staff are curious about how EPA received this report. But the report has not yet been briefed to senior management, so there is no feedback available yet.
- **Question:** What feedback have you had from the White House? **Answer:** Very positive feedback so far. There is a slight gap in information regarding how the White House will work with agencies to apply the recommendations in the report, but that gap will be filled after additional discussion within the Administration. And the timing of this report is especially good, in light of new focus on cyber threats and resiliency.
- **Question:** Does the report put any focus on source water protection? **Answer:** The report addresses water *supply* and wastewater treatment, but not water *resources*. Water resources are covered under other studies.

## V) Workgroup Business

- Welcome new Workgroup members; see updated member list; [http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/wraccw\\_members\\_10\\_03\\_2016.pdf](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/wraccw_members_10_03_2016.pdf)
- Discussion: Format and organization of in-person meeting of Workgroup December 7-8 in the Washington, D.C., metro area
  - Information on travel arrangements will be sent to everyone in a little over a week (late October). We can reimburse travel expenses for non-Federal members who would not otherwise be able to attend; however, if you need us to reimburse your expenses, please do NOT make your reservations until [Wendy Norton](#) or her assistant Sharon Alcalde have told you that it's all right to do so.
  - We think we will be able to have the meeting at our hotel, which will save everyone a lot of time each day traveling to the meeting room, and will also make networking and after-hours discussions much easier.
  - The meeting will focus primarily on recommendations for the incoming Administration on water resource issues related to climate change. Our next teleconference (in November) will focus in part on constructing a framework for the agenda for the face-to-face meeting.
  - If you want to help in framing the agenda for the face-to-face meeting, please contact [Jeff Peterson](#), [Paul Freedman](#), or [Wendy Norton](#).
  - The goal is to have a short report that could be submitted to the full ACWI in early January and made public by mid-January (prior to the Inauguration)
  - We hope to have some more info available to you prior to our November teleconference that will help everyone think some more about this.
- Status of Federal interagency refresh of *National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate*; final Workgroup letter; [http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/iwrcc/refresh\\_comment\\_memo\\_v3\\_07142016final.pdf](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/iwrcc/refresh_comment_memo_v3_07142016final.pdf)
  - We submitted our comments on the draft, and the document is now undergoing final review and should be released on CEQ and ACWI websites in a couple of weeks.

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

- New climate data platform jointly among US agencies and private sector: <http://www.prepdata.org/partners>
- Stanford University Woods Center Climate Change Papers and recommendations for new administration: <https://woods.stanford.edu/news-events/event/climate-change-implementation-project-conference-series>
- Guide for Considering Climate Change in Coastal Conservation: <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/considering-climate-change.html>
- National Infrastructure Advisory Council: Water Sector Report <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/niac-water-resilience-final-report-508.pdf>
- EPA fact sheets: What Climate Change Means for Your State: <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts/state-impact-factsheets.html>

- World Water Council book on Climate Resilience; <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/news/news-single/article/world-water-council-launches-book-on-climate-resilience-in-stockholm/>
- NPR article on climate change and storm surge; <http://www.npr.org/2016/08/24/488523371/climate-change-complicates-predictions-of-damage-from-big-surf>
- New EPA report: *Hazard Mitigation for Natural Disasters: A Starter Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities*; <https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/hazard-mitigation-natural-disasters>.
- Washington Post article on Colorado River and climate change: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/08/19/climate-change-is-water-change-why-the-colorado-river-system-is-headed-for-trouble/?utm\\_term=.b3e90ab42bc9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/08/19/climate-change-is-water-change-why-the-colorado-river-system-is-headed-for-trouble/?utm_term=.b3e90ab42bc9)
- Scientific American article on flooding: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/extreme-floods-may-be-the-new-normal/>
- USGCRP report: Climate Change and Human Health: <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/>
- Association of State Wetland Managers new report Government Liability and Climate Change: [http://www.aswm.org/pdf lib/government liability and climate cahnge kusler 0 416.pdf](http://www.aswm.org/pdf/lib/government%20liability%20and%20climate%20change%20kusler%20416.pdf)
- American Meteorological Society report: *State of the Climate 2015*: <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/state-of-the-climate/>
- DOD report, “Regional Sea Level Scenarios for Coastal Risk Management” <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/News-and-Events/News-Announcements/Program-News/DoD-Report-on-Regional-Sea-Level-Scenarios>
- New NEPA Guidance on climate change: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/nepa\\_final\\_ghg\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/nepa_final_ghg_guidance.pdf)
- National Wildlife Federation report on climate change and sea level rise: <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/Reports/Archive/2016/08-16-16-Changing-Tides.aspx>
- USDA Report Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry; <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=climate-smart.html>
- ASWM was recently contacted by Danielle Shannon ([USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub](#) Coordinator) who is looking for a few regional experts to touch base with on a project that will be developing a tool to “devise a set of adaptation resources for water resource oriented land managers to incorporate climate change into their decision-making, planning and implementation of adaptation actions.” This tool will be built on an existing toolset that NIACS has created through the [Climate Change Response Framework](#), the [Forest Adaptation Resources](#) and will be offered as an optional "menu" to land managers whom are focused on water resources. If you are interested in helping out, please contact [Danielle Shannon](#).

**VII) Adjourn**

**NEXT MEETING: November 17, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time**