

**Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
February 15, 2018: 1:00 – 2:30 EST**

Attendees:

Kate White, COE, Fed co-chair	Dwight Atkinson, EPA	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Jerad Bales, CUAHSI, non-Fed co-chair	Scott Berry, USWA	Jimmy Hague, TNC
Aris Georgakakos, NIWR	Melissa Samet, NWF	Noel Gollehon, NRCS
Mary Musick, GWPC	Paul Freedman, WEF	Mitch Heineman, ASCE
Marla Stelk, ASWM	John McShane, ASFPM	Jeanine Jones, WSWC
Lisa Engelman, AWRA	Eric Loucks, ASCE	Wendy Norton, USGS-ACWI
Karen Metchis, EPA	Mikko McFeely, AMWA	

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

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

Minutes were approved and adopted.

III) Discussion of draft workplan, including especially tasks 6, 7, and 8

- Do we want to include tasks 6, 7, 8 in the workplan, or not? The main work under task 6 is identifying the training, and members can just send info on training they're aware of to the workgroup secretary (wenorton@usgs.gov), who can make the information available on the website or via an email to the whole workgroup. Several member organizations will follow up on this task, since education opportunities are important to their organizations.
- Set up a small workgroup to compile info on training. Several people liked this idea. Volunteers for this workgroup: Nancy Turyk, Lisa Engelman.
- Task 7 – This task could help people target the most useful resources amid the great variety of resources that are available. Curation might be a more appropriate activity than simple compilation. Reference library we developed a few years ago has not been sustained/updated (go [here](#) and click on "ACWI Climate Change Reference Database" under the "Products" heading). The Round Robin portion of our monthly teleconferences might actually be the more useful part of Task 7.
- If we want to build a library, we should organize materials according to some scheme (topical, type of organization targeted, etc.). But do we really want to build a library? Is there an organization that already has a database/listing of resources that we can contribute to, instead of building our own? What about working with the Climate Resilience Toolkit? Nancy Beller-Simms could help us with this; Karen Metchis will talk with Nancy before the next meeting. Could we get help with hosting from the Adaptation Clearinghouse at Georgetown Climate Center? Incorporate information about demand for water and how that demand is changing due to climate change. Nancy has put together a water dashboard that might be helpful, and we should ask her if she can show it to this group so we can see if we want to feed information into that system.

- Task 8 – this task is pretty vague right now because it's not clear where/when we might offer advice. Maintenance of basic data collection networks needs to be highlighted, and this is one area where we could offer advice. Would it be possible to put together recommendations on the recently announced infrastructure proposal? Recommendations would need to be vetted through the main ACWI, and we need to be aware that this would lengthen the process.
- We have in the past only provided advice/input in response to specific requests from other organizations. Unsolicited advice is permissible, but we need to make sure we're offering advice in areas where there is a real need and where people will be willing to listen.
- We could help States who need the assistance, but that's really outside our scope of activities, since ACWI and its sub-groups are supposed to be advising Federal agencies, not States.
- We can comment on the need for improved support for water data infrastructure, but we cannot make specific recommendations to increase funding for these efforts because the Federal agencies have to support the President's Budget (and the Federal members of this group cannot be cut out of the consultation/advisory process).
- We might want to take another look at the National Action Plan comments we provided during 2016. That could help us decide where to proceed from here.

IV) Brief-out from [January meeting](#) of the Advisory Committee on Water Information

We skipped this agenda item, but the link on the previous line leads to the portion of the ACWI website where all the presentation slides are available. As soon as the meeting minutes have been finalized, those will be available on this same web page.

V) Call for presentations and resources

VI) Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members (brief highlights of other organization's activities, news, articles, and reports related to climate change and water)

- Recently released HUD guidance for Community Development Block Grant program, which will allocate \$7.39 billion in Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funds appropriated by the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements, for the purpose of assisting in long-term recovery from 2017 disasters in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Allocations, Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for 2017 Disaster CDBG-DR Grantees can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Allocations-Common-Application-Waivers-Alternative-Requirements-2017-CDBG-DR-Grantees.pdf>. Note that on pp. 68-69, assistance funds used for new construction, repair of substantial damage, or substantial improvement as defined in 24CFR 55.2(b)(10) required elevation 2 feet above the FEMA BFE for structures (including residences), and the higher of 3 feet above the BFE or the 0.2% annual exceedance probability floodplain for Critical Actions (defined in 24CFR 55.2(b)(3)).
- Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI): <https://www.wicci.wisc.edu/>. Most of the information on this website came out of a 2011 WICCI report. We are

discussing updating that report to a WICCI 2 report using newer data and information. The report is used by laypeople, natural resource and agricultural managers, businesses, and municipalities.

- GWPC has a large initiative that's looking at potential uses for produced water from oil and gas development, beyond just disposal. This effort is also examining potential hurdles in the law and regulations that might prohibit using this produced water the way we would use other alternative supplies. See:
<http://www.gwpc.org/programs/water-energy/water-usage> and
http://www.gwpc.org/sites/default/files/GWPC%20Resolution%2017-1%20Produced%20Water_0.pdf
- WSWC last month held a workshop with NASA/JPL on water information management systems which provided a good overview of State-level research projects:
<http://www.westernstateswater.org/upcoming-meetings/2018-water-information-management-systems-wims-workshop/>.
- California State climate change adaptation plan update 2018:
<http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/#safeguard>
- PowerPoint on our experimental 3-week atmospheric river (extreme precip) forecasting project with NASA JPL. (We aren't publicly sharing the experimental forecasts themselves yet as they are very much an experimental research project):
http://www.nwri-usa.org/pdfs/WALISER_S2S_Forecasting_DWR_NWRI_Workshop_12052017.pdf
- ASWM is focused on helping States build capacity for wetlands. Right now they're trying to navigate complexities of WOTUS and help States understand what role they may need to play. They're also working on a growing project (in collaboration with other organizations) concerning mapping floodplain functions. National approach to support local issues related to floodplain mapping. Workshop will be held in April, and the results will be shared with the group.
- NIWR: Hydrosoft meetings in Geneva and U.K. General forecasting system and pilot areas in Africa and India. The goal is a tool that water and geological services around the world can use. Also, flood forecasting system being deployed in other countries around the world. Aris will update us on these efforts as they continue.
- COE: Released the non-stationarity detection tool last year and have been running it to look at regional areas. There is a poster from AGU that Kate can share with the group. [Both of these items were mailed to the group along with the draft meeting notes, and will also be posted on the website along with the final meeting notes on this [page](#).]

VII) Action Items

- **Action:** In monthly meeting invitations, remind people of the value of bringing items to share during the Round Robin portion of the meeting. People can email items to Wendy prior to each call, and Wendy can add them to the agenda so everyone can see the web links, etc.
- **Action:** Federal members will check with their agencies' ethics officers to see what is permissible for the group to offer advice on.

VIII) Adjourn

Next meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time