

**Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
June 16, 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=ma580f828df5142126d94637a5be988b9>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, EPA Fed Co-chair	Lisa Engelman, AWRA	Mike Block, NGWA
Paul Freedman, WEF Non-Fed Co-chair	Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Jeff Manning, ACWA
Leah Harnish, AWWA	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	John Wells, ACWI-SWRR
Patrick McCarthy, TNC	Carol Collier, AWRA	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Dave Carlton, ASFPM	Brenna Mannion, NACWA	Nancy Beller Simms, NOAA
Marla Stelk, ASWM	Michelle Bushman, WSWC	Wendy Norton, USGS
Noel Gollehon, USDA		

Presenters:

- Karen Metchis, EPA

Action:

Schedule for Comment Letter:

1. initial input from facilitators (i.e., Adam, Carol, and Jeff) to Jeff and Paul by next Friday, June 24;
2. draft comment letter to the Workgroup by July 1;
3. Workgroup members comment on the full draft letter by July 8;
4. send out a revised final draft letter early the week of July 11;
5. discuss letter and take final approval action on the letter at the July 14 meeting of the Workgroup; and
6. send in the final comments by the close of comment period on July 15.

There may be comments on the letter at our next teleconference (July 14) and, depending on the comments, there may be a need for one final review by the Workgroup the week of July 18.

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

II) Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting (see draft notes [here](#))

III) Presentation: Overview of *Draft Looking Forward: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate*; Karen Metchis, Interagency Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup (see materials [here](#))

- PowerPoint presentation associated with this discussion is located http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/16_june_2016/pub_comment_acwi.pdf.
- This document represents the ICCWWG. The effort began in 2009 with establishment of the Interagency Adaptation Task Force. Original [National Action Plan](#) (NAP) was published in 2011, and the ACWI Climate Workgroup commented on that plan.
- In 2013, the Climate Preparedness and Resilience Council was set up and a Water Work Group was established as part of that Council. ACWI also established its Climate Workgroup that same year.
- A State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force was established in 2014, and the President's Climate and Natural Resources Workgroup [Priority Agenda](#) was released.
- Other national forums include efforts/groups administered by DOI, NOAA, USDA.
- Most of the activities identified in the 2011 NAP have been completed. It's now time to take stock of where we are and identify focus areas for the future.
- Review of highlights to date (PowerPoint slides 8-9).
- The 2016 NAP Update streamlines its approach and includes actions to fill a gap or to support a particular critical activity. It does attempt to catalogue all climate/water adaptation activities in the Federal Government.
- Challenges (PowerPoint slide 14): more data and science, greater certainty, understanding changing trends and how to use projections, understanding uncertainty and how to manage risk.
- Moving forward we will strive to do the following:
 - sustain and expand existing monitoring and data networks to help understand nonstationary trends,
 - modernize statistical analyses of observational data,
 - improve access to projections,
 - manage risk to water supply through innovative technologies.Through these activities we are addressing areas where ACWI and State/local governments wanted us to focus.

IV) Workgroup Discussion: *Draft Looking Forward* Report

The Workgroup will review and discuss each of the four major sets of recommendations in the [Looking Forward](#) report. Members of the Workgroup will facilitate these discussions:

- Data and Research (Discussion Leader: Adam Carpenter, American Water Works Association)
- Planning and Decision Support (Discussion Leader: Carol Collier, Drexel University)
- Training and Outreach (Discussion Leader: Jeff Manning, Association of Clean Water Administrators)

- Workgroup Management and Coordination (Discussion Leader: Jeff Peterson, EPA Office of Water)

Input from these discussions will inform a first draft of a comment letter on the [Looking Forward](#) report with the goal of developing comments by the July 5 deadline. Workgroup members may also want to refer to the final [Next Steps report](#) developed by the Workgroup in 2014.

- The group walked through the various sections of the report and got input from WRACCW members:
 - **Data and Research** – There isn't a lot of information in this section about wetlands data; that seems important to include, in view of National Wetlands Inventory, National Wetlands Inventory 2.0, National Wetlands Conditions Assessment, State wetlands standards, and other efforts/products. Rather than just mentioning these items, we need to address what the gap is: i.e., what needs fixing? **Action:** Marla will send links to Adam so these can be included.
 - Note – on page 19 (in the Planning section) there is a little emphasis on wetland issues, but obviously the appropriate data needs to be highlighted. The awareness of wetlands needs to be “spread around” the document a little more, so that the “data” section reinforces the “planning” section, etc.
 - Around page 9, just before details on the recommendations, “these issues are elaborated in the following recommendations ... the workgroup believes should be prioritized” – Q: *Are they going to be prioritized?* A: That phrase means that we believe they should be identified in this document as priorities.
 - Q: On page 9, there's a reference to National GW Network. Is that the National GW Monitoring Network? A: Yes, it is. The name needs to be amended in the report.
 - Page 10 – Section 1.1, first paragraph needs to have the word “wetlands” inserted.
 - Page 13 – Section 1.32, near the bottom, long-term models are addressed; do the models incorporating demand incorporate the recent trends that we've been seeing in the municipal sector related to declining demand for water in areas of increasing population? In some areas, we're seeing demand for water drop, due to efficiencies. That efficiency phenomenon needs to be incorporated into these models.
 - Section 1.4 – Q: Is there more that we need on water reuse and perhaps desalination? A: Agreed, this section is unnecessarily narrow and should discuss/explore desalination, reuse of remediated water, and other water/energy nexus issues.
 - **Planning and Decision Support** – challenges include not knowing how to find/understand/select/use existing tools; multitude of tools can be overwhelming; curation of tools needs improvement; need more guidance on use of downscaling info and understanding decision processes that embrace uncertainty.
 - ACWI made lots of recommendations in this area; the NAP refresh focuses on coordination and guidance because it can't include *all* the ACWI recommendations.

- Moving forward we focus on advancing regional coordination and guidance on assessing vulnerability.
- Carol Collier can be contacted at Crc92@drexel.edu; please send her your comments on the Planning and Decision Support section. Her concerns: among the recommendations we discussed last time was the need to look at ecosystem services and natural capital. Those things are not included here. So what is the purpose of this report? Regional coordination of Federal agencies and guidance/assistance to local agencies both need more coordination (at the regional level). The NOAA dashboard and USGS library of vulnerability assessments are great, but is that really as far as we can go? Shouldn't we try to develop watershed action plans?
- Marla had two primary comments: (1) wetland restoration must be done from a watershed perspective so it doesn't cause downstream damage; (2) ecosystem services and natural capital aren't congruent (she can help with defining those).
- ASFPM: don't see any mention of effects of changes in water temp/availability/quality on endangered species. Does this affect water utilities? Do we need better buffers? Do we need to leave more water in the stream? Issues like this need to be addressed; we need to turn the data into information and decision tools, and then work locally and on a watershed scale to get those tools distributed and into common use.
- Data > information > knowledge > decision making
- **Training and Outreach** – Challenges: need different levels of training for various types of users; there is diversity of skill levels, backgrounds, and preferences. Two general categories: U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit; Climate Change and Water Working Group Professional Development series.
- Making data available through these toolkits is a great thing, but maybe not for all audiences.
- Doing outreach with regional and State organizations holds true for this sections, as well as for the previous section we discussed.
- When you get into training, it's specific to which tools people already use in their decision-making and how you should incorporate climate into those. The training and tools need to be tailored to individual users. Look at SEACOGS and see how they have done this.
- The WRRIs are no longer mentioned here, but we used them in the past for outreach. We can talk with the WRI program manager at USGS about that.
- We need training on how to communicate the information to decision makers in a way that is meaningful to them. There is now a YouTube video being linked to each of the dashboard items that helps with this communication issue. We could also include something in this section of the report that addresses this need.
- **Workgroup Management and Coordination** – Recommendation: maintain continuity of interagency collaboration and leadership. Rotate leadership among member agencies and strengthen workgroup staffing.

- **Next steps:** public comments are due July 15, 2016, to Water_Climate_Change@epa.gov. The ACWI Climate Workgroup wants to have a letter that we can consider at our meeting on July 14. To meet that date, we need input from facilitators by Friday, June 24. See full schedule for comments at the beginning of this meeting minutes document.
- Q: What about putting climate change activities into grant requirements? A: EPA is thinking about this already. This workgroup might consider actively promoting this idea within our agencies.
- Q: Any chance the public comment deadline might be extended? A: Probably not.

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

- Senate bill S. 2860 Climate Adaptation Bond Act; <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c114:S.2860>:
- House bill HR 1276 on CZMA climate adaptation planning <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1276/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Climate+Change+Adapt+America+Bond+Act%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=2>
- Water Resources Development Act; reported in Senate; http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/141a2eca-1a00-4392-a3f3-b69cc0cec872/edw16572.pdf and bill summary; http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/1f31185b-51bd-43e0-bde9-20bdc869cf4c/water-resources-development-act-of-2016-sec-by-sec-updated-4-25.pdf
 - WaterSense authorization; p 147
 - New EPA national drought resilience guidelines; p 191
 - local water conservation plans as a priority; page 125
 - New CSO grants p 155; include grants for “measures to manage, reduce, treat or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water...”
- HUD grant (\$96 M) to State of Iowa for Watershed and Flood Protection: http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/documents/hazard_mitigation/IWA_StakeholdersMtgDocs_050916.pdf
- DOD report on sea level rise risk to facilities; <https://www.serdp-estcp.org/News-and-Events/News-Announcements/Program-News/DoD-Report-on-Regional-Sea-Level-Scenarios>
- USDA grants for Climate Smart Agriculture: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAO/bulletins/148d2df>
- EPA new release on national wetlands assessment: <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2016/05/11/stories/1060037082>
- Rio de Janeiro Climate Adaptation Strategy; note emphasis on water; http://www.100resilientcities.org/strategies/city/rio-de-janeiro#/_Yz45MzY3OSdpPTEocz5j/
- National Geographic article on Atlantic City and climate change/sea level rise; <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/05/160502-rising-seas-climate-change-atlantic-city/>

- World Bank report; climate change, water, and economic issues; <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/publication/high-and-dry-climate-change-water-and-the-economy?CID=WAT TT Water EN EXT>
- New COMET Ocean Acidification Training: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1195#.VzCp503Vwb0
- Webinar on Water Utility of the Future; May 19; <https://watereuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/UOTF-Webinar-2-FINAL-Registration-flyer.pdf>
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) climate grants; <http://bia.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/text/idc1-033626.pdf>
- Circle of Blue; information series; <http://h2ocatalyst.org/>
- GAO report on water reuse; <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/676898.pdf>
- New NOAA Water Dashboard: <http://toolkit.climate.gov/topics/water-resources/water-resources-dashboard>
- Other brief highlights?

VIII) Adjourn

Next teleconference: Thursday, July 14, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time