

AGENDA

Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the Advisory Committee on Water Information April 21, 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=mdf9259d6283ce1938e02a0f3b6e655ae>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Erica Brown, AMWA
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Ken Nowak, BOR	John Wells, ACWI-SWRR
Michael Block, NGWA	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Charles Kovatch, CEQ
Marla Stelk, ASWM	Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Noel Gollehon, USDA
Jeff Manning, ACWA	Mike Muse, EPA	Steve Roy, Ramboll Environ
Patrick McCarthy, TNC	Ron McCormick, BLM	Wendy Norton, USGS/ACWI
Dave Carlton, ASFPM	Paul Wagner, COE	
Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Adam Carpenter, AWWA	

Presenters:

- Candace Leong, Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program Coordinator, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Mandy Chesnutt, Conservation Programs Senior Manager, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Henrik Sønderup, Ramboll Environ

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

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

III) Presentation: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Response to Hurricane Sandy and Climate Resilience HUB; Candace Leong and Mandy Chesnutt, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; materials provided [here](#)

- Q: What success have you had linking the mapping work into your program/project investments? A: The first helpful application has been in plotting project proposals against these maps, to see if the area proposed for work is a high-risk area, is it in an area of high impact or low impact, etc.? That helps us ensure we're supporting projects that will give us the biggest impact for our investment. We also see a future for

resilience funding, through partnerships with foundations and industry, and these tools will assist in guiding those efforts too.

- Q: Just recently learned about your coastal resilience project in Rhode Island, which is a drinking water supply area, and I wonder if you have other projects that are tied to drinking water protection. A: We can dig further into it, but we can't think of anything right now. Please follow up with us, through an email, and we'll be glad to investigate for you.
- Q: Are you expecting these tools and assessment models to provide insight/benefits in the future, in light of sea level rise? A: That's not really incorporated now, but we're looking for ways to expand this model in the future, with respect to sea level rise, subsidence, etc. We'll also be looking at this question during the Hurricane Sandy program evaluations.
- Q: Very impressed with your ability to prioritize through mapping, and also the Sandy metrics. Can you comment on the variety and numbers of metrics? How do you integrate those into a simpler dashboard? A: We haven't created a scorecard for the program yet, but we will be looking at that as part of the program evaluation. We'll develop communication tools, etc., and a scorecard or dashboard roll-up would be part of that.
- If you have additional questions, contact the presenters: candace.leong@nfwf.org and mandy.chesnutt@nfwf.org.

IV) Presentation: Overview of Copenhagen's Approach to Coastal Resiliency Planning;

Henrik S nderup, Ramboll Environ; materials provided [here](#)

- Q: The scope of the redesign of the community is impressive. Were tunnels a common consideration as part of your plan? A: Yes, it is a part of the plan. Two tunnels are planned: one running NE and one running SE from the harbor. They would divert storm water. The largest one will be a little more than 3 meters in diameter.
- Q: What is your timeline on how this has been implemented, and how is it being financed? A: The timeline is hard to answer, but we're basically looking at (at least) 25 years, and it all has to be coordinated with existing infrastructure planning. There used to be a clear distinction between utility and city funding for projects, but now there have been some changes, and the utility companies will be funding much of the plans you saw in this presentation. Comment: In many ways, a lot of the funding is already in your planning because infrastructure will have to be replaced every few years anyway. Comment: Squeezing all these plans into our streets is difficult because the streets are narrow and are full of utilities, so this can be a big challenge.
- Q: To what extent did projections of climate change (storm event extremes, sea level rise) get factored into the planning? A: We looked at a 100-year time horizon, so we tried to incorporate climate change effects in terms of more frequent rainfall and about 1 meter of projected sea level rise.
- Q: Have there been changes to code that would support aspects of this plan? A: Utility companies being allowed to finance the project is a change. But the city is always pretty cooperative in processes like this.

V) **Presentation and Demonstration: Update to [ACWI Website for Climate Change Workgroup](#)**; Wendy Norton; USGS

- **ACTION: Add a topical cross-reference section to guide people to presentations. Use perhaps half a dozen topics to categorize the presentations.**

VI) **Workgroup Management Topics**

- 2016 Workgroup Membership Update
 - If anyone currently serving needs to move on or thinks someone else from their organization should be representing them, please tell Jeff, Paul, and/or Wendy.
 - If there are any other organizations you think it would be beneficial to include as members, please let Jeff, Paul, Wendy know. We do have a few vacant slots available for new organizations.
- Discussion: Schedule and Comment on Refresh of the Freshwater Climate Change *National Action Plan*
 - The process of refreshing the NAP is moving along and the latest version is in review across the Federal agencies; we hope that agency clearances will be done and the draft will be published for public comment in the next few weeks.
 - WRACCW co-chairs will notify workgroup members immediately upon release of NAP for public comment, with the goal of putting together some focused comments (just a few pages), and we encourage people to focus narrowly on key areas of the document. We would follow this up with webinar-focused feedback to the Federal agencies. This process would be on a faster track effort than the last time we did something like this, but it would also be much smaller in scope than our previous effort.
- Proposed Joint Meeting with Water Sustainability Roundtable: Paris Climate Accords and Water
 - There was a proposal for a joint meeting, but it doesn't look like the timing will work out. We'll consider the Paris Accords as a topic for another WRACCW conference call later this year.

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

- White House Report from Water Summit; COMMITMENTS TO ACTION ON BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE
https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/documents/White_House_Water_Summit_commitments_report_032216.pdf
- Hansen Paper on Sea Level Rise: *Ice melt, sea level rise and superstorms: evidence from paleoclimate data, climate modeling, and modern observations that 2 global warming could be dangerous*; <http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/16/3761/2016/acp-16-3761-2016.pdf>
- Climate Model Predicts West Antarctic Ice Sheet Could Melt Rapidly;
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/31/science/global-warming-antarctica-ice-sheet-sea-level-rise.html?ref=topics&_r=0

- New Study Finds that Up to 70 Percent of Northeast U.S. Coast May Adapt to Rising Seas; <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/new-study-finds-70-percent-northeast-us-coast-may-adapt-rising-seas>
- International Water and Climate Forum: Synthesis Report: <http://www.waterclimateforum.org/news/>
- New Report from the USGCRP on Climate Change and Health: <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/>
- Climate Change Tab at Weather Website: <http://wxshift.com/>
- Experts Launch Project to Assess Drought Effects on Ecosystems and How Communities Can Adapt: A Partnership of USGS, The Nature Conservancy, and Wildlife Conservation Society under the Science for Nature and People Partnership <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4481#.VwKRRU3Vwb2>
- FY 2016 Tribal Climate Resilience Program; Adaptation & Ocean/Coastal Planning, Travel Support, Youth Funding, and Capacity Building (New!) <http://bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/climatechange/index.htm#currentkit>
- FY 2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FEMA) Grant Program; <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/fy16%20fma%20fact%20sheet.pdf> and <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/110202>
- New EPA Report on Flood Benefits of Green Infrastructure: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/flood-loss-avoidance-benefits-green-infrastructure-stormwater-management>
- US SENATE: A NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS DROUGHT AND WATER SECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=03D88F56-1AE2-4DEE-A3EC-7CAC0E9BCF03
- DROUGHT MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/03/21/presidential-memorandum-building-national-capabilities-long-term-drought>
- Drought Response and Recovery for Water Utilities www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/drought-response-and-recovery-water-utilities
- SECURE Water Act Report to Congress on Climate Change <http://www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/> and <http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=53208>
- Request for Public Comment on the Draft EPA-USGS Technical Report: Protecting Aquatic Life From Effects of Hydrologic Alteration; <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/03/01/2016-04448/request-for-public-comment-on-the-draft-epa-usgs-technical-report-protecting-aquatic-life-from>
- Other brief highlights?

VIII) Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: TO BE ANNOUNCED