

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
January 22, 2015: 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?MTID=m1aa780d5fd8ce607d1639df3eaba0741>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Carol Collier, AWRA	Ellen Tarquinio, CEQ
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Levi Brekke, BOR
Dave Carlton, ASFPM	Nathan Bracken, WSWC	Brenna Mannion, NACWA
David Fuller, NTWC	Sascha Petersen, ASAP	Chris Carlson, USFS
Mary Musick, GWPC	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Marla Stelk, ASWM
Mike Block, NGWA	Noel Gollehon, USDA	Ben Chou, NRDC
Mark Crowell, FEMA	Lauren Schapker, NGWA	Tamara McCandless, FWS
Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Wendy Norton, USGS

Speaker:

Karen Metchis, EPA

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

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

Chair asked if anyone wants/needs changes to be made to the November meeting minutes. No one wanted changes, so the minutes are approved.

III) Workgroup Business Items

- Review of Draft 2014 Annual Report of the Workgroup to the full ACWI (see draft report here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/2014_annual_report_draft_01_15_15.pdf)
 - We sent out the draft Annual Report several days ago; hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to scan the report. Once we approve the Report, we can give it to the full ACWI. A couple of corrections were offered by Workgroup members during the call. The Workgroup members on this call agree that we can finalize the report and submit it to ACWI.

- Review of Draft 2015 Workplan for the Workgroup (see draft workplan here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/2015_workplan_draft_01_15_14_clean.pdf)
 - The draft 2015 Workplan outlines priorities and 15 major tasks for 2015. Is the scope of this Workplan appropriate? Does it include the right range of activities? Do we need to set deadlines for some of the tasks, to ensure we have some progress to report at year-end?
 - *Question:* Regarding the “Next Steps” report, we made recommendations on various topics, but there were no responsible parties identified. Whose responsibility is it to see those recommendations realized? *Answer:* The report showing activities planned for 2015 for Federal agencies includes some discussion of the reaction of Federal agencies to the ACWI WRACCW recommendations from the “Next Steps” report; we hope that this report showing planned 2015 activities can be shared with this workgroup in a couple of weeks.
 - *Comment:* There’s a list on page 5 of the teams/subgroups, and it would be nice if we had a little more description of the areas that each of those groups were supposed to tackle; if we could include definitions here, it would be helpful.
 - Reactions to proposal for an in-person meeting? Travel and meeting restrictions are a problem this year because there is a cap on spending for those purposes, but there’s a possibility that those restrictions will be easing later in the year. Workgroup members offer support for an in-person meeting because face-to-face dialogue is so much more effective than conversations over the telephone.
 - **ACTION:** If you have comments on the Workplan for 2015, please send them to Jeff Peterson by February 6. We will finalize the Workplan during our next meeting.

IV) Presentation: DRAFT 2014 Highlights Report of the Interagency Water Resources Workgroup supporting the Council on Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience

Karen Metchis; EPA (draft report is available here:

http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/nap_fy14_highlights_15_workplan_01_20_15_14_highlights_only.pdf) (NOTE: 2015 Workplan for the interagency Workgroup to be discussed at February meeting)

- Back in 2011 the original Action Plan was produced, and it included six key recommendations (see draft report). Some of these recommendations involve actions taken by multiple agencies/organizations, and the ACWI WRACCW is highlighted in some of the recommendations. Karen Metchis walked through the recommendations and noted the ways in which those recommendations mesh with the interests of the ACWI WRACCW.
- **The next step is to share the 2015 workplan in mid-February, and we will probably discuss the workplan during the February WRACCW call with comments due to Karen Metchis by March 2.**
- Plans are to have the document finalized by mid-April 2015.

V) Status Report: Major Climate Change Adaptation Related Initiatives

- Implementation of *Priority Agenda for Enhancing the Climate Resilience of America's Natural Resources*
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/enhancing_climate_resilience_of_americas_natural_resources.pdf
 - Jeff walked quickly through the report, focusing on areas of particular interest to the group. The report includes numerous actions related to green infrastructure and other modernization and resilience-building activities.
- Implementation of *Recommendations to the President: State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience*
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/resilience/taskforce>
- DRAFT NEPA GHG and Climate Change Guidance comment period
https://ceq.doe.gov/current_developments/CEQ_Guidance_NEPA-GHG-Climate_Revised_Guidance.html
 - After our Workgroup has looked at this document, we can discuss adding some discussion of our impressions to the agenda for an upcoming meeting.
 - Public comments can be submitted on the website, and individuals are encouraged to comment by February 23.
- Water Resources Principles and Guidelines: Development of Agency Implementation Procedures
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/prg_interagency_guidelines_1_2_2014.pdf

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

- Bureau of Reclamation Prize Challenge: Water Availability
<http://www.usbr.gov/research/challenges/>
- Report: *Rising Waters, Rising Threat*; Center for American Progress
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/report/2014/10/31/100066/rising-waters-rising-threat/>
- EPA ORD draft report: *Regional Monitoring Networks to Detect Climate Change Effects on Stream Ecosystems*
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/global/recordisplay.cfm?deid=295758>
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals Climate Change Progress Prize
<https://adaptationprofessionals.org/2015-asap-prize-for-progress-in-adapting-to-climate-change/>
- EPA maps of storm surge areas on Gulf and Atlantic coasts
<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/stormsurge.cfm>
- Proposed legislation on water use efficiency
<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2015/01/14/stories/1060011638>
- World Economic Forum: Report on Global Risks ranking water and climate adaptation high
<http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2015/part-1-global-risks-2015/introduction/>
- AWRA Summer Conference on Climate Change Adaptation:
<http://www.awra.org/meetings/NewOrleans2015/>
- Marla Stelk – ASWM's upcoming conference/workshop at NCTC– if anyone is interested, email Marla at marla@aswm.com, and she'll send you an invitation.

- NOAA is collecting case studies for a Climate Resilience Toolkit (<http://toolkit.climate.gov/>). The online Toolkit will provide one-stop access to information on the use of data-driven resilience tools and services, and will also highlight best practices. This toolkit will provide narratives, videos, etc. that will help decision makers better understand how those who are faced with a climate-related problem are finding solutions to become more resilient. If you have any stories about resilience, please forward them to Nancy Beller-Simms (nancy.beller-simms@noaa.gov).

VII) Adjourn

Next meeting: Thursday, February 26, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time