

## **Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Call Notes**

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

(Thanks to Marianna Grossman and Rich Juricich for sending their notes to augment mine)  
Happy New Year to everyone!

### **Participants**

- o Marianna Grossman Minerva Silicon Valley
- o Dan Sullivan USGS/ACWI
- o Jan Surface USDA/NRCS
- o Doug Curtis DOI, BLM
- o Stan Bronson Florida Earth Foundation
- o David Berry SWRR
- o Bob Wilkinson UC Santa Barbara
- o Michael Eberle USDA USFS
- o Ron McCormick DOI, BLM
- o Rich Juricich Cal. Dept. Water Resources
- o John Wells, AWRA

### **1. Check in on current activities**

Marianna Grossman shared that the Santa Clara Valley Water District has a new program for community members to become water ambassadors. The SCVWD is launching a brand new Water 101 Academy, a water ambassador program that is open to all community members in Santa Clara County who want to gain an understanding of local water issues and learn about water projects in their communities. All interested county residents have been invited to apply to the inaugural Water 101 Academy. Graduates of the program will act as neighborhood liaisons by sharing water related information, key issues, projects and new opportunities with their own communities. At the Water 101 Academy participants will learn about where the county water comes from and how safe, clean water, flood protection, and environmental stewardship is provided. The application period for the spring 2019 academy is open through Dec. 21. The twice-a-month sessions will kick off on Feb. 6, 2019 and will conclude on March 26, 2019. Through this new program, the water district hopes to build and sustain a diverse network of influencers who are willing to serve as community water ambassadors on local water issues and refer others to future academy sessions. For more information on how to get involved, visit our website [www.valleywater.org/learning-center/water-101-academy](http://www.valleywater.org/learning-center/water-101-academy).

### **2. Status of federal budget and funding for SWRR**

- a) Ron McCormick reported that as of the time of the SWRR call, BLM was funded by continuing resolution through early February and funding for SWRR was probable. The main issue for funding SWRR was how to proceed on a contract rather than a collaborative agreement.
- b) Michael Eberle said that the USFS budget for FY 2019 is not clear and that funding for SWRR was uncertain. He said there was still hope.
- c) Dan Sullivan added that USGS expected a continuing resolution through Feb. 8, 2019. Offices were advised to spend below last year's levels. No one knows final numbers yet.

### **3. Global Resilience Summit recap from December 11-13 at the Breakers Hotel**

Stan Bronson said the meeting was very successful. The Breakers were a partner as well as being the venue. Very large engineering companies: Wood, Aberdeen, Jacobs (acquired CH2MHill), Rambol (Denmark). Banking: Index Invest (Sweden) and E and E.

In the insurance sector, Jones Day law firm works with large Reinsurers – insurance companies are raising rates on flood plains and in some places declining insurance. This will increase cost of ownership of commercial properties and will lead to decline in demand. Values will decline. Banks will be holding mortgages which are underwater. This suggests a gradual adaptation to ownership of property in flood plains. We will consider how the federal administration will work with insurance companies as they contend with impacts of climate change, such as new flooding maps, frequency and severity. Sherman Antitrust Law prohibits the sharing of data among insurance companies. There needs to be a mechanism to share data across sectors. The new Center for Global Climate Resilience can create such a mechanism.

- a) It was a successful meeting - 75 registered attendees

- b) The new Global Center on Climate Resilience will plan 5-6 pilot projects, the first of which are
  - i. New Orleans company will use a 3d printer for to make reefs for shoreline protection.
  - ii. Dr. Timmerlan from TU Delft in the Netherlands spoke of working on A smart city \$B euros. Include Global center
- c) Present at the meeting were several US universities (represented 300K Students)

#### **4. Summary of briefing of December 13 SWRR meeting**

David Berry reported that after the main meeting concluded, about 15 people participated in a SWRR briefing at the Breakers Hotel, including the Vice Chair of Breakers Hotel (a member of the owning family). The hotel sits on the ocean and has a large sea wall. The width of the beach is fraction of what it used to be so the hotel owners understand the risk from hurricanes and changing climate.

David shared with those present how resilience could be an interesting theme for SWRR meetings in Washington and on the road. This could increase the partnerships for SWRR and the Global Center for Resilience and identify challenges and possible solutions in various regions of the country. Stan's initial suggestion was to hold meetings in the Great Lakes Regions, in Tidewater (Norfolk, Chesapeake, etc.) and in Washington DC.

Questions: participants asked what else does SWRR do? David told them that SWRR is primarily a forum to share information and to report back to federal agencies once or twice per year. USGS maintains the secretariat. Stan will let us know when more work is done. We need science and information to grapple with climate impacts.

#### **5. Other Business**

Dan Sullivan mentioned that the permanent position of ACWI coordinator is open and Dan Sullivan has applied. The person filling the position need not move to Reston. They can opt to stay where they are currently located.

#### **6. Next Call**

The participants agreed the next SWRR call will be 1/15/2019 at 1 pm EST/ 10 am PST