

Report from the Joint USDA/DOI Stakeholder Committee for Regional Climate Centers in the North Central U.S.

Objectives: A one-day joint stakeholder committee meeting to provide an update, feedback, and exchange on the USDA Northern Great Plains Region Climate Hub and the DOI North Central Climate Science Center; as well as get information and updates on other activities in the region.

Webex/phone connections was available for those interested in joining remotely (please see below)

Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:30 Introduction and overview of meeting objectives (Jeff Morisette)
- 9:30 – 10:00 EPA update on Executive Order 13693 section 10 (Amy Shields)
- 10:00 – 10:30 Update on the DOI North Central Climate Science Center (Jeff Morisette)
- 10:30 – 10:45 *Break*
- 10:45 – 12:15 Using Scenario Planning to guide the future direction of regional climate centers (Brian Miller and Erika Rowland)
- 12:00 – 1:00 *Lunch*
- 1:30 – 2:00 Update on the USDA Northern Great Plains Regional Climate Hub (Justin Derner)
- 2:00 – 2:30 USGS North Central Climate Science Center Liaisons with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Fish and Wildlife agencies (Geneva Chong)
- 2:30 – 3:00 Draft survey to solicit user-requests of NC CSC resources.
- 3:00- 3:30 Review of actions and wrap-up.
- 3:30 Adjourn

In attendance in person:

Dana Blumenthal (Co-chair and USDA ARS)
Theresa Boyle (USDA APHIS)
Amanda Cravens (Mendenhall with the USGS Fort Collins Science Center)
Justin Derner (USDA NPRCH director, USDA ARS)
Bob Flynn (CSU with the NC CSC)
Margaret Herzog (BIA)
Tom Hilinski (CSU with the NC CSC)
Kevin Johnson (Southern Rockies LCC)

Jill Lackett (CSU with the NC CSC)
Shannon McNeeley (CSU with the NC CSC)
Brian Miller (CSU with the NC CSC)
Jeff Morisette (USGS Director, NC CSC)
Erika Rowland (guest speaker, Wildlife Conservation Soc.)
Amy Shields (EPA)

Joining via WEBEX:

Geneva Chong (USGS with the NC CSC)
Lisa Dilling (Western Water Assessment)
Sean Finn (Great Northern LCC)
Michele Schoeneberger (USDA, Lincoln, NE)
Allison Shipp (Co-chair and USGS Southwest Region)
Bill Travis (CU Boulder, WWA)

Amy Shields started the meeting with a report from USEPA region 7 focusing on how the JSC and related members can contribute to the Executive Order 13693 section 10 with emphasis on...(b) water resources management and drought response...(c) climate change preparedness and resilience planning... Contact: Shields.amy@epa.gov 913-551-7396

Jeff Morisette provided an update on the NC CSC.

The meeting took advantage of attendance by **Margaret Herzog**, BIA to give an overview of BIA.GOV – climate change area. Margaret mentioned that Rachel Novak is the new science coordinator and pointed out the BIA solicitation released that day: "Program to Identify and Address Climate Science Needs for Improved Climate Change Adaptation- Tribal Climate Science Liaisons" available on grants.gov under the grant announcement # BIA-climate-16-0001.

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=BIA-climate-16-0001>.

Erika Rowland gave a presentation on Scenario Planning Overview for land management. Scenarios can help planners/managers develop common visions and embrace uncertainty and deal with it the best that they can.

Brian Miller gave a summary of Southwest CSC's Scenario Planning Exercise¹, with an overview of their process and some discussion about how such an exercise could be done for the NC CSC. Discussion followed and part of the discussion included the possibility of LCCs

¹ <http://www.swcsc.arizona.edu/strategic-documents>

converging with CSCs, and how a conversation is needed on how to differentiate the two groups.

Justin Derner presented an update on the USDA Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub.

Geneva Chong presented an overview of the USGS North Central Climate Science Center liaison concept that will be studied in FY 2016 (white paper attached as appendix A). Based on Jeff's interactions with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) we will add other state NHPs to our contact list.

Jeff Morisette presented the NC CSC Potential Client Questionnaire (pilot). This would be used as a tool to better solicit and track client requests in the region. The concept would initially be piloted just for the NC CSC and a group of collaborating "beta testers."

Action items:

1. Jeff Morisette and Doug Kluck to check with Amy Shields, EPA and GSA working group for HPRCC update.
2. Amy Shields and Jeff Morisette to iterate on how to share with the JSC EPA's bi-weekly posting of grants and actions.
3. Amy Shields to get EPA DC person connected to Brian Miller and monthly Indigenous Geography Phenology Network calls.
4. Amy Shields suggested FEMA rep, Joe Chandler. Jeff Morisette will work on invitation to Chandler.
5. Jeff Morisette and NC CSC staff to develop web version of questionnaire, and, once an acceptable draft is complete and forwarded to them, JSC to provide feedback. Ideas for modification include questions about the phase the proposed project is in, moving what you are specifically asking for to the beginning, and using the 5 endstates from the scenario planning as choices up front.
6. Jeff Morisette, Windy Kelley (USDA), Amy Shields to work on white paper on Executive Order 13693 connection with the JSC (and invite Laura Farris to co-author).
7. NC CSC to post presentations on web site, with actions and notes.
8. Consider conducting a strategic planning exercise using scenario planning (Brian Miller with Erika Rowland) for the next JSC (looking to coincide with new hires coming on board to Hub, April or after).
9. Jill Lockett to set up a list serve for the JSC.
10. When listserv is established, Jeff Morisette and/or Justin Derner to solicit comments from the JSC on the +/- of this Joint Stakeholder Committee after being up and running for a year.

Appendix A

North Central Climate Science Center

Landscape Conservation Cooperative Liaison Plan

Update September 16, 2015

Here at the North Central Climate Science Center (NC CSC) we continue to explore ways to facilitate the integration of climate science into management decision making. One model we are developing is focused on improving communication between managers and scientists to: recognize managers' needs; work with scientists to develop the information to meet those needs; and then connect the information with the manager's decision making process. During the coming fiscal year (FY16) we will be in an active planning stage to lay the groundwork for having USGS scientists serve as liaisons with managers via the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) and state resource management agencies in the NC CSC area. This planning is also part of our larger evolution of how we identify client needs, fund climate science to meet those needs, and evaluate the effectiveness of our work.

As we enter FY16 our Capacity Building Co-Lead, Geneva Chong – USGS Ecologist, will be contacting the four main LCC overlapping the NC CSC (GN, NR, PPP, and GP) as well as the representatives from the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) to initiate conversations and solicit thoughts on how NC CSC resources (such as staff time, computing facilities, data analysis and visualization capacity, and university subject matter expertise) can assist ongoing projects sponsored by the LCC or provide climate-related information needs of state wildlife agencies. The main objective for a liaison model is to better understand how the LCCs and AFWAs can work with the NC CSC so that:

- 1) NC CSC resources are known to land managers in the region.
- 2) Land management needs are brought to NC CSC staff and affiliated researchers.
- 3) A framework is developed to guide NC CSC resource application to meet key management information needs.

During the second and third quarters of FY16 we will develop an initial liaison model based on our conversations with state, LCC and USGS Science Center leadership. Our intent is to have the model in place by FY17.