

**NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB)
Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)
November 18 – 20, 2009**

MEETING SUMMARY

The SAB EISWG met on November 18 - 20, 2009. The meeting was led by co-chairs, Walter Dabberdt and Nancy Colleton at the Hilton Silver Spring.

Attendance: Philip Ardanuy (Raytheon), Bruce Baughman (Innovative Emergency Management, Inc.), Helen Brohl (Dept. of Transportation), Eric Gruit (3TIER), Jeffrey Lazo (NCAR SIP), Ronald McPherson (AMS), Barry Myers (AccuWeather), Peter Neilley (The Weather Channel), Warren Qualley (Harris Corporation), John Toohey-Morales (ClimaData Corp.), Julie Ann Winkler (Michigan State University), Robert Winokur (Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy), Raymond Ban (The Weather Channel), Craig McLean (NOAA OAR), Chuck Wooldridge (NOAA NESDIS), Michael Babcock (OFCM), Edward Johnson (NOAA NWS) and Jennifer Sprague (NOAA NWS). Sharon LeDuc (NOAA NCDC) and Maureen Wylie (NOAA CIO) attended portions of the meeting as well.

Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19

The EISWG received the following presentations (*in order*):

November 18, 2009

Welcome

Jack Hayes, Assistant Administrator, National Weather Service

EISWG Introductions

EISWG Members

History of NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information

Edward Johnson, NWS Director, Strategic Planning and Policy

NOAA and Administration Priorities

Margaret Spring, NOAA Chief of Staff

Vision for an Evolving Partnership

Mary Glackin, Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere

NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan/Overview of NWS Strategic Plan

Paul Doremus, NOAA Strategic Planning Director

Jack Hayes, NWS Strategic Planning

November 19, 2009

NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) and SAB Working Groups: Role in Providing Advice to NOAA; and Working Group Charge (Discussion on relations between EISWG and the Climate Working Group (CWG) and the Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG))

Michael Uhart, Executive Director of the OAR Office of Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes

NOAA's Weather & Water Portfolio

Edward Johnson, Acting Weather and Water Goal Team Lead

Overview of Environmental Information Services

Ray Ban, NOAA SAB and The Weather Channel

Sectoral Perspectives:

- **NOAA's Role:** Sharon Leduc, NOAA
- **Other Agencies Roles:** Mike Babcock, OFCM
- **Commercial Weather Suppliers:** Barry Myers, AccuWeather
- **Systems:** Walt Dabberdt, Vaisala & Phil Ardanuy, Raytheon
- **Academic:** Julie Ann Winkler, Michigan State University

Impressions of Highest Priority Needs for NOAA

Craig McLean, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

NOAA Budget Overview and Priorities (Dinner)

Maureen Wylie, NOAA Chief Financial Officer

Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20:

The EISWG begin Working Group Discussions on EISWG Work Plan Formulation and Priorities.

The EISWG discussed the Terms of Reference and its Charge "*The EISWG is charged to: 1) provide advice on improving communication among the sectors, 2) provide advice on incorporating scientific and technical capabilities to enhance NOAA products and services, 3) provide a sounding board regarding implementation of NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information, 4) evaluate NOAA effectiveness in responding to advice received from the EISWG, and the environmental information enterprise as a whole, and 5) evaluate after two years whether this working group is an effective mechanism for working with external partners or whether other mechanisms should be considered.*" The EISWG determined they would address Charges 1-3 in the near term and Charges 4-5 at a later time. It was further decided that three subgroups of the EISWG would be formed to focus on Charges 1-3.

Of note, the EISWG interpreted Charge 2 to include, but is not limited to, *mechanisms for and effectiveness of* incorporating scientific and technical capabilities to enhance NOAA products and services *for the entire weather enterprise.*

In the EISWG discussion over "how do we evaluate the partnership policy?" and "what is the most important thing for NOAA to do to improve this enterprise," it was determined the EISWG needed to collect various information and set a goals to accomplish over the next 6 months. The list of information to collect and set of goals to accomplish, are attached to these minutes.

It was requested that a website be established for the EISWG to post information, agenda, and minutes. The EISWG website was created and is ready for members use.

Next Meeting:

April 2010

Information Needed

- **SAB**
 - Final report of the Partnership Working Group
 - Information (including reports/recommendations/NOAA Response) from SAB Climate Working Group (CWG) and Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG) and Social Science Working Group (SSWG) and their relevance/overlap with EISWG.
- **NOAA**
 - Organization chart
 - Including functional organization of major NOAA offices, labs and NOAA Councils.
 - More detailed NOAA budget allocations consistent with the organization chart.
 - Information on an emerging “National Climate Service”
 - Presentation from NOAA lead on Climate
 - Mutual exchange of info between CWG & EISWG
 - Roles and responsibilities of NOAA Climate Services
 - Role of NWS in NOAA Climate Service
 - NOAA Partnership Implementation Status/Activities
 - NWS Implementation Guidelines, etc.
 - Any information on how NOAA plans to implement NOAA Policy (successes, failures, opportunities for improvement).
 - Include examples of interactions with the private sector and academic sector – examples of how this process has worked and not worked.
 - Information on current practices on “communicat[ing] among the sectors” – what is being done formally and informally - are the identifiable gaps or weak links.
 - Intergovernmental partnerships, etc.
 - NOAA’s view of their core missions vs. context
- **NWS**
 - NWS Organization Chart
 - NWS Steering Committees
 - Information on where NWS thinks there is some concern or conflict among sectors that have an impact on NWS activities
 - For example: NCEP Reviews (NCEP-EMC)
 - Information on how does NWS “sunset” products and services with regard to its stakeholder.
 - Information on how is NOAA addressing the culture changes and human factors that will result from programs such as NEXTGEN
 - Information on how does NWS transition from products to services/decision assistance.
 - Information on environmental information service (EIS) notification and policy change process
 - Info on Experimental Products, etc.
 - List of major new EISs planned in the next 2-3 years, particularly those on atmospheric sides.

- Information on Science & Technology Infusion
 - OST Roadmap
 - OSIP Process
 - CRADAs
 - CSTAR Program & OSIP (NWS-OST, Programs and Plans Division, Science Plans Branch)
 - Tech Transfer (outreach) program for academic/private sector
 - Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) & Research and Innovation Transition Team (RITT) (NWS-OST, Meteorological Development Lab)
 - Technology Infusion Process
 - NCAR-DTC
- **Weather Enterprise Community**
 - 2 NAS Reports on Mesoscale and Decadal Survey (Dabberdt)
 - Information from AWCIA, NCIM, and AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise (CWCE) on state of the enterprise partnership
 - Information on depth and breadth of EIS “issues” of concern, and what is going well.
 - Input and thought on the future of environmental information services – e.g., 4D cube; seamless prediction systems (weather, climate, water); warn-on-forecasts, etc.
 - Information on the Weather Enterprise Community’s best practices
 - Information from renewable energy networks products and services needed from the Enterprise.

Actions to accomplish over the next 6 months

- **Present – January**
 - Info gathering & possible teleconference
 - Info from November 2009 meeting posted on website (e.g. Presentations, notes, etc.)
 - Develop briefing materials for AMS Townhall meetings.
 - Confirm meeting date in March 2010 - Doodle
- **January**
 - AMS Townhall meeting – Information Collection
 - Briefing to NCIM (John Toohey – Morales)
 - Briefing to CWCE (Ray Ban & Walt Dabberdt)
 - Briefing to AWCIA – 1/17/09 (Barry Myers)
 - Briefing to NWS Partners (Ed Johnson)
 - Briefing to AMS STAC (Phil Ardunay and Peter Neilley)
 - Set up intranet access for EISWG (provide ability to provide input)
- **Reconvene within 3-4 months – early March 2010**
 - Doodle Pad for calendar
 - Information Collection
 - Hear from representatives of SAB CWG & DAARWG (possible SSWG)
 - NAS presentation – Ciccerone
 - Information on “National Climate Service”
 - Finalize Work Plan
 - EISWG come to a general agreement over charge.
 - Pick top 2-3 topics on which to focus.
 - “Low hanging fruit” – provide a simple recommendation to agree upon and run “up the chain” to test the process. (e.g. energy)
- **Further Information Collection Meetings**
 - Meet with interested parties at various environmental society meetings (AMS, etc.)
 - AMS CWCE is considering a proposal from Kelvin Droegemeier – How can this proposal help us.
- **Develop EISWG Work Plan**
 - Develop a set of EISWG talking points/slides that summarize our charge and objectives (for use in group meetings)
 - Develop communication strategies among sectors regarding NWS/NOAA activities.
 - Formalize ways of communication with stakeholders; NCIM, AMS CWCE, AWCIA, user communities.
- **Provide input on NOAA Partnership Policy Implementation and Evaluation/Review Process**
 - Stakeholder feedback mechanisms
 - Metrics
 - Actions
- **Provide input on NWS Information Service Changes**
 - Stakeholder feedback mechanisms

- Metrics
- Actions
- Briefing on how NOAA uses the emerging policy paradigm first employed by NWS for “special events” to assist in defining sector relationships.
- Present at Summer 2010 SAB meeting

Actions to accomplish beyond 6 months:

- Tackle communication of uncertainty with heavy emphasis on social sciences, especially with regards to response to watches & warnings and hurricane bulletins
 - Briefing by AMS ACUF group
- Assess the process for proactively obtaining, prioritizing, and implementing new observational and forecast requirements to best enable NOAA’s priority to strengthen Arctic science and stewardship.
- Tackle climate & weather literacy concern
 - Develop a process to address how to improve public literacy of climate and weather
- Develop governance mechanisms and partnering philosophies that may best enable and accelerative pervasive and enterprise-wide exploitation of the new Weather Information Data Base (WIDB).
- Develop governance mechanisms and partnering philosophies that may best enable and accelerate the transition of new applications into NWS operations and the NWS AWIPS 11 decision support platform.
- Develop metrics and goals that are relevant to the Enterprise on improved forecasts.
- Develop, assist, guide, evaluate a process for NOAA to more efficiently, effectively, and equitably assess potential new products that fully and adequately assesses the full range of users and potential benefits and negative impacts. May require a trained and accessible group of processes, personnel, and resources for undertaking rapid evaluation of products and services – possible a “societal impacts” testbed
 - Evaluate major NOAA research and operation efforts with respect to interactions between partners with potential for being fully successful – e.g., HFIP has virtually no current plans for integrating with end-users, emergency managers, social scientists, etc.