



Science Advisory Board

**Environmental Information Services Working Group  
(EISWG)**

# **The EISWG Annual Report to the Congress as required by the Weather Act of 2017**

Presented by: Brad Colman and John Snow, EISWG Co-Chairs  
NOAA Science Advisory Board - Summer 2020 Meeting

22 July 2020

# Overview

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- The EISWG
- Brief background of the EISWG Report to Congress
- Getting up to speed - a maturing process
- Overview of the content of the 2020 Report
- Challenges and Summary
- Questions?

# The EISWG Membership....



John Snow



Brad Colman



Tom Altshuler



Ron Birk



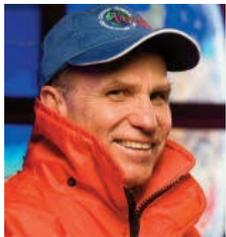
Ann Bostrom



Ilse Gayl



Mark Ghilarducci



Scott Glenn



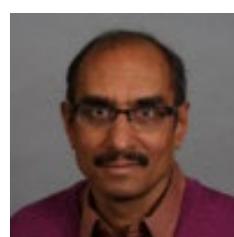
Bill Hooke



Kevin Petty



Jon Porter



M. Ramamurthy



Jillian Rodrigue



Justin Sharp



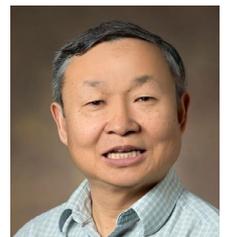
Jean Vieux



Bob Weller



May Yuan



Xubin Zeng



Bob Winokur



Cynthia Decker



Courtney Edwards



# Environmental Information Services Working Group SAB July 2020 Meeting



## Working Group Overview

**Co-Chairs:** John Snow and Brad Colman

**NOAA SAB liaisons:** Bob Winokur and Everette Joseph

**Membership (vacancies, expertise, timing of approval):**

- Eight candidates nominated as new members. Nomination package sent to SAB for approval – only comments received were approvals. Currently on consent calendar.
- Discussion is underway on replacing John Snow as co-chair (who's term runs through 2020)

## Activities since April 2020 SAB meeting

- Multiple virtual meetings to discuss new membership
- Formation and first meeting of HFIP task team
- Discussion and formation of subcommittee to formalize membership process for the future
- Drafted 2020 Report to Congress
- Presented at CWG May meeting on collaboration efforts

## Scope and Focus of Current Efforts

**SAB Work Plan Activities:**

- Identification of topic - FY20-21 SAB work plan
- Weather Act of 2017 (PL 115-25) Topic Areas of Interest:
  - Sec 104(c) - Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program – tiger team to work on report
  - Sec 201(3) - Improving Sub-seasonal And Seasonal Forecasts
  - EPIC- monitoring evolution and awaiting results of RFP and final strategic plan
- Collaboration with SAB's CWG on assessing NOAA's Precipitation Prediction Grand Challenge strategy

## Future

- Continue EPIC conversation and communicate when deemed valuable
- Continue collaboration efforts between EISWG and CWG
- Expecting to get the final S2S report from NOAA
- Continue review of NOAA report on Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program - goal to present report at October SAB meeting
- Onboard new members and replace co-chair

# Background of the EISWG Report to Congress

131 STAT. 106

PUBLIC LAW 115-25—APR. 18, 2017

**The Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017** (Public Law 115-25, signed 18 April 2017), in Title IV, Sec. 401(c) of the Act, assigns to the EISWG the responsibility of transmitting a report on progress made by NOAA **in adopting recommendations made by the EISWG.**

(A) communications between weather forecasters, Federal, State, local, tribal, and other emergency management personnel, and the public; and

(B) communications and partnerships among the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the private and academic sectors; and

(4) to address such other matters as the Science Advisory Board requests of the Working Group.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall be composed of leading experts and innovators from all relevant fields of science and engineering including atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric physics, meteorology, hydrology, social science, risk communications, electrical engineering, and computer sciences. In carrying out this section, the Working Group may organize into subpanels.

(2) NUMBER.—The Working Group shall be composed of no fewer than 15 members. Nominees for the Working Group may be forwarded by the Working Group for approval by the Science Advisory Board. Members of the Working Group may choose a chair (or co-chairs) from among their number with approval by the Science Advisory Board.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Working Group shall transmit to the Science Advisory Board for submission to the Under Secretary a report on progress made by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in adopting the Working Group's recommendations. The Science Advisory Board shall transmit this report to the Under Secretary. Within 30 days of receipt of such report, the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a copy of such report.

# Timeline of Reporting Process

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- 2017
  - EISWG written into the Weather Act
- 2018
  - APRIL - EISWG submits 1st Report to The Congress (no recommendations)
- 2019
  - JUNE - EISWG submits 2nd Report
    - Observing System Simulation Experiments (OSSE)
    - Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program (TWIEP) Plan
  - SEPTEMBER – EPIC recommendations through SAB to NOAA
  - DECEMBER - NOAA response on 2019 report and EPIC recommendations
- 2020
  - JULY - EISWG submits 3rd report
    - EPIC and NOAA responses

# Review Approach

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Review: The Weather Act of 2017 required reports; briefings of draft report efforts; and other priority content coordinated with liaisons;



Convene small task groups to review material and develop a set of recommendations for task group and SME discussion;



Discuss recommendations with EISWG members via teleconference, email, and/or meetings;



Review: NOAA responses and maintain an open dialogue with NOAA LT



Draft EISWG Report to Congress and circulate report among EISWG members for review and comment; and



Finalize EISWG Report to Congress through SAB

# 2020 Report Content

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## 1. Background and Overview

Discussion on the maturation of the report writing process. State purpose of this (2<sup>nd</sup>) report. Challenges faced by NOAA in producing the required reports.

Update on OSSE report and AMS BAMS publication

## 2. New reports received from NOAA

Hurricane Forecast Improvement Plan (HFIP)

Task Group is working hard on recommendations report; we expect letter report for Fall SAB meeting

# 2020 Report Content (cont.)

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## **3. Additional opportunities**

Primarily focuses on a new NOAA priority - Earth Prediction Innovation Center (EPIC), which was formalized in the NIDIS reauthorization act in Started in 2019. EPIC is a top EISWG priority.

## **4. NOAA responses to EISWG findings and recommendations**

NOAA Leadership provided the SAB and EISWG a response with recommendation-by-recommendation feedback and identified actions. The individual responses were understandably high level but insightful and very helpful.

# 2020 Report Content (cont.)

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## 5. Summary

The NOAA responses were very helpful and appreciated by the Working Group. It provided additional insight into the priorities and motivation of the NOAA in responding to the Weather Act

Most importantly, ***the EISWG is generally satisfied with NOAA's attention to, and progress toward, achieving the objectives of the Weather Act (and the NIDIS reauthorization).***

# Challenges and summary

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- Challenges continue around formal vs. informal information gathering and the ability to review and submit recommendations in a timely fashion to impact NOAA actions
- A remedy that has been discussed, and we encourage action on, is to transition EISWG members to the status of Special Government Employee (SGE)
- The EISWG would like to focus on more frequent and informal dialogue with NOAA liaisons and LT to ensure alignment on priorities and optimization of process
- Finally, there is an ongoing balancing between EISWG resources and opportunities



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**DISCUSSION &  
QUESTIONS?**