

March 31, 2011

Terms of Reference for a CWG/EISWG Climate Partnership Task Force

GOAL:

Create a 10-member CWG/EISWG Task Force (the “Climate Partnership Task Force”) that provides input to the SAB on the proposed NOAA climate services from the perspective of the private climate information provider community.

TIMELINE:

January 24, 2011: Conference call to identify co-chairs and agree on charge

January 31, 2011: Ray provided status update to SAB during conference call.

Early February: CWG and EISWG each identified and confirmed a Task Force co-chair.

February 14-15, 2011: CWG discussed and selects 4 members of Task Force.

Mid-February: EISWG discussed and selected 4 members of Task Force.

March 2011: formally invite candidates

March 9-10, 2011: Ray/Heidi provide brief update at SAB meeting

Late April or early-mid June 2011: Work of Task Force, including face-to-face meeting

Late June 2011: CWG and EISWG review the findings and recommendations from the Task Force

July 2011: Task Force findings and recommendations are presented to the full SAB as a PowerPoint presentation

September 2011: Findings and recommendations submitted to the SAB in report format.

SUMMARY:

The US Department of Commerce estimates that, of America's \$11 trillion economy, a significant portion is directly affected by weather and climate. Depending on how we choose to manage the risks associated with climate variability (i.e., ENSO, NAO, PDO) and change (anthropogenic global warming), our overall weather risk can either grow or shrink. With this in mind, NOAA has established the framework for NOAA climate services that will assemble the data, tools, and expertise needed to proactively manage the risks on seasonal to decadal timescales.

Engagement with the private sector is key to ensuring the success of NOAA climate services. At the December 2010 SAB meeting, the topic of how best to secure private sector input received considerable attention. Out of this discussion, Ray Ban and Heidi Cullen took the action to work with CWG and EISWG to form an *ad hoc* sub-working group or Task Force that would, through CWG and EISWG, provide the SAB with input on the proposed NOAA climate services from the private climate provider community.

TASK FORCE CONSTRUCT AND CHARGE:

EISWG has been charged to provide input to NOAA on effective collaborations with the entire weather and climate enterprise in the context of environmental information services. The CWG has been engaged in strategic planning for NOAA climate services. It seemed logical to have a subgroup of both Working Groups to provide input that represents the collective voice of the private sector. This group of about ten members could also include individuals outside the WGs, i.e. non-members. It is expected that the task force will have one in-person meeting and several teleconferences. The task force will report its findings and recommendations to the CWG and EISWG, which will present them at the July 20-21, 2011, meeting of the SAB. A final report will be submitted to the SAB in September 2011.

The charge of this new Climate Partnership Task Force is as follows:

1. Propose a vision and a model for how NOAA climate services could interact with industry.
2. Identify potential private sector contributions to creating effective partnerships for providing the nation with effective and efficient climate services.
3. Identify possible mechanisms through which the private sector might engage with the development and implementation of new approaches to NOAA climate services.
4. Compile a starter list of US companies providing climate observations, products, and services.
5. Identify the lessons learned from private sector engagement on the weather time scale that would apply to climate and identify ways in the approach for climate should be different from that for weather.