





An Update on the Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) Activities



Presented by
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EISWG Co-Chair
(w/ John Snow)





EISWG

SAB November 2018 Meeting



Working Group Overview

Chair/Co-Chairs: John Snow and Brad Colman
NOAA SAB liaison(s): Bob Winokur and Everette Joseph

Membership (vacancies, expertise, timing of approval):

Membership renewal of four EISWG members (Bill Hooke, Justin Sharp, May Yuan, and Xubin Zeng).

We will seek future approval of two new members with expertise in emergency management.

Activities since July 2018 SAB meeting

- July EISWG In-person Meeting.
- Two meetings with Neil Jacobs and EISWG co-chairs to better explore ways that the EISWG can help with the Weather Act of 2017; and invitation extended to attend January 2019 in-person EISWG meeting.
- Development and submission of the SAB Work Plan Topic 2 implementation plan.
- Planning for upcoming January 2019 in-person meeting.

Scope and Focus of Current Efforts

• **Weather Act of 2017 Topic Areas of Interest:**

- PL 115-25 Section 107(d) - Observing System Simulation Experiment (OSSE)
- PL 115-25 Section 104(c) - Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program
- PL 115-25 Section 406(b)(1)(B) - Hazards Simplification Project
- PL 115-25 Section 201(3) - Improving Subseasonal And Seasonal Forecasts

• **SAB Work Plan Activities:**

- Addressing SAB Work Plan Topic 2: Review the Use of Observing System Simulation Experiments (OSSEs)

Future

January 2019 EISWG in-person meeting:

- OSSE interim report update.
- Continued engagement with the other three Weather Act areas of interest.
- Neil Jacobs presentation to the EISWG
- New topics of engagement raised from discussions with Neil Jacobs:
 - Unified cloud technology and services for NOAA
 - Prioritization of Weather Act activities for NOAA
 - Access to more exhaustive model output data

SAB Work Plan Topic 1: Oversight of the
Development and Implementation of the
EISWG work as stated in the Weather
Research and Forecasting Improvement Act
of 2017

Brad Colman, EISWG Co-Chair
Everette Joseph, State University of
New York at Albany and SAB
Member

Bob Winokur, Consultant, SAB Member
and EISWG Liaison

EISWG's approach to The Weather Act Responsibilities as Reported Last Spring

- The EISWG seeks to develop a collaborative, consultative annual process to:
 - Review NOAA line offices' efforts to comply with the Weather Act of 2017
 - The EISWG proposes to review the **43 reports** required of OAR, NWS, NESDIS, and other NOAA line offices by the Weather Act of 2017; and
 - Working with NOAA, the EISWG proposes to convene small groups of three or four Working Group members, supplemented as deemed necessary by outside expertise, for informal telephone discussions with NOAA staff on relatively narrow topics of immediate interest.
 - Evaluate NOAA line offices' efforts to determine if they have the potential to significantly improve the monitoring and forecasting of High Impact Events (HIE) or addressing other matters as called out in the Act;
 - The EISWG proposes to set aside one-third of each EISWG face-to-face meeting for review and discussion with the following individuals:
 - NOAA senior management; OAR, NWS, NESDIS, and other line office leadership; members of the NOAA SAB and other SAB Working Groups; and outside expertise from academia and the private sector.
 - Provide advice and make appropriate recommendations through the SAB to NOAA leadership; and
 - Report to the SAB on NOAA's response to EISWG advice and recommendations.

Update on The Weather Act Activities

- Core Plan to use NOAA Reports to guide assessment and review process has stalled waiting for reports
 - Of 43 anticipated reports we have received two:
 - Title IV, Section 403: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and National Weather Service exchange program
 - Title I, Section 107: Requirement on executing Observing System Simulation Experiments (OSSE) before acquiring any system (or data) in excess of \$500M
 - And have been asked for input into a draft outline for Title II, Section 201 (sub-seasonal to seasonal)
- As reported in July, we shifted our focus to briefings from various groups as a way to get insight into Weather Act Activities; we jointly selected three topics for discussion:
 - Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program – Fred Toepfer, NWS, and Frank Marks, AOML
 - Hazards Simplification Project – Eli Jacks, NWS
 - Improving Sub-seasonal and Seasonal Forecasts – David DeWitt, NWS
- We are starting our next steps in analysis and recommendations associated with these three topics

Two meetings with Assistant Secretary Neil Jacobs

We have been very fortunate in that Assistant Secretary Jacobs recently visited the home cities of each of the co-chairs. Working with Cynthia Decker and Liz Akede, visits were arranged at each of our respective offices for general discussion around priorities and steps forward.

Through these discussions we have identified three areas of ongoing engagement

- Prioritizing Weather Act Activities
- Unified Cloud Technology and Services for NOAA
- Access to More Exhaustive Model Output Data
- We are also hoping to have Dr. Jacobs join us at our next face to face meeting
- Discussion on alternate ways for the EISWG members to access Weather Act reports.

Discussion