

A Presentation
on the
EISWG Memo Responding to
NOAA Assistant Administrators (AA)
and the
EISWG Annual Report to Congress
Required by the Weather Act of 2017

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Presentation Overview

- Background EISWG Memo Responding to NOAA Assistant Administrators (AA)
 - Approach to Memo Development
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 - Questions?

Background of the EISWG Memo Responding to Requests from NOAA Assistant Administrators (AA)

At the August 28-29 2017 EISWG meeting, the Assistant Administrators for NOAA OAR and NWS requested the assistance and advice of EISWG in addressing the requirements of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Weather Act of 2017). Their requests can be paraphrased as follows:

- **Mr. McLean:** EISWG needs to characterize the nature of research investments that OAR must make to move ahead. The Weather Act designates less funding for weather research than currently provided: how does OAR invest properly?
- **Dr. Uccellini:** We have a wide range of research that is needed and the whole community can contribute. EISWG needs to help by calling it out and helping in setting priorities. It's time for support for U.S. weather research programs.

These requests were explored in depth by EISWG and the AAs during the following seven months

Approach to Memo Development



Review relevant materials including:

- Weather Act of 2017
- Documents produced by the Forecast Improvement Group (FIG);
- Reports relaying the on-going efforts of The University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Community Advisory Committee for NCEP (UCACN) Model Advisory Committee (UMAC); and
- Sequence of NRC reports on improving observations, modeling, and services.



Convene a small group (including Bill Hooke, and Xubin Zeng) to generate an initial draft response based on relevant materials.



Clarify request by having multiple discussions with Mr. Craig McLean, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Director of the National Weather Service (NWS), and EISWG members via teleconference.



Discuss and finalize EISWG response to NOAA AAs request.

Response to Request

- 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.

Questions?

Background of the EISWG Report to Congress

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*.

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(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.

Approach



Review The Weather Act of 2017;



Convene a small group (including Ann Bostrom, and Xubin Zeng) to develop a brief list of topics for discussion;



Discuss topics and possible content with EISWG members via teleconference and email;



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



Finalize EISWG Report to Congress.

Main Points of EISWG Report

- **The NOAA SAB EISWG did not make recommendations to NOAA regarding the elements of the Weather Act of 2017 this past year.**
- The EISWG spent the first year developing a process for carrying out its assigned role in the Weather Act of 2017.
- The EISWG noted challenges affecting its ability to effectively carry out its role including:
 - FACA rules and regulations;
 - Small size of the working group;
 - Limited amount of staff support; and
 - Infrequent face-to-face meetings.

Questions?