

The Future of EISWG

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Co-Chairs**

Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)

**Presentation to the NOAA Science Advisory Board
November 15, 2012**



EISWG Membership

Co-Chairs:

Ms. Nancy Colleton, IGES

Dr. Walter F. Dabberdt, Vaisala

Members:

Dr. Phil Ardanuy, Raytheon

Dr. Anne Bostrom, U of WA

Dr. Eric Gritit, 3Tier, Inc.

Mr. Eddie Hicks, Morgan County, Alabama

Dr. Ronald McPherson, AMS (Executive Director Emeritus)

Mr. Barry L. Myers, AccuWeather, Inc.

Dr. Peter P. Neilley, The Weather Channel

Companies

Mr. Warren Qualley, Harris Corp.

Dr. Kelly T. Redmond, Desert Research Institute, Western Regional Climate Center

Mr. John Toohey-Morales, ClimaData Corp.

Mr. Joel M. Widder, The Oldaker Group

Dr. Julie Ann Winkler, Michigan State University

Mr. Robert Winokur, Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy

SAB Liaison:

Mr. Ray Ban, Ban & Associates, LLC

Terms of Reference

- ◆ To provide advice on improving communication among the sectors
- ◆ To provide advice on incorporating scientific and technical capabilities to enhance NOAA products and services
- ◆ Provide a sounding board on NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information
- ◆ Evaluate NOAA effectiveness in responding to advice received from EISWG, and the environmental information enterprise as a whole;
- ◆ **Evaluate after two years, whether the working group is an effective mechanism for working with external partners or whether other mechanisms should be considered**

Effectiveness

- ◆ Seven formal meetings and one ad hoc meeting (First meeting was held November, 2009).
- ◆ Numerous AMS briefings and engagements
- ◆ Outreach to other organizations
- ◆ NOAA and NWS Strategic Plan Reviews
- ◆ Climate Partnership Task Force (CPTF) Organization and Implementation
- ◆ Open Weather and Climate Services (OWCS) Concept
- ◆ Outreach to NOAA Offices and other Federal activities

NWS Director Perspective

Laura Furgione, Acting NWS Director, recently stated that EISWG has been highly instrumental in lowering a level of friction (that previously existed among NOAA and the academic and private sectors), encouraging open and collegial dialog that better supports NOAA, NWS, and the weather and climate enterprise as a whole.

Future Role—Process

- ◆ Discussion paper circulated to the EISWG
- ◆ Teleconference amongst EISWG Members
- ◆ Letter to SAB prepared and reviewed by all EISWG members

Future Role—Options

- ◆ Continue as SAB WG
- ◆ Establish a FACA directly advising the NWS
- ◆ Consider another mechanism
- ◆ Desist in all manners and forms

Future Role—EISWG's Conclusion

The EISWG should continue as a SAB WG

- ◆ Current approach proves efficient and effective and allows EISWG to be nimble and responsive
- ◆ Broad view of the weather and climate enterprise is represented
- ◆ Via SAB informs NOAA leadership
- ◆ Concern the FACA structure could be far too limiting and cumbersome

Future Role—EISWG's Focus

Expand the EISWG's focus beyond the NWS

- ◆ Examine a wide spectrum of topics
- ◆ Unique cross-cutting focus
- ◆ Ability to look at issues in-depth
- ◆ Address a wide range of issues—atmospheric, oceanographic, observing systems, data management issues, etc.
- ◆ Not well constituted to address fisheries issues

Future Role—A Member's View

“For an agency with such a broad mandate, I feel there is still too much stove-piping and a need for more cross-disciplinary and cross-line-office communication and collaboration. It’s in these boundary crossings that there is much to be gained, both internally among the parts of NOAA, and in how those parts interact with a myriad of non-agency interests”

Kelly Redmond, EISWG Member, Desert Research Institute

Observations & Recommendations

- ◆ SAB's "science" focus is inclusive of applications and operations
- ◆ EISWG will need to broaden expertise of the membership
- ◆ Future EISWG Work Plan should include NOAA-directed and EISWG-initiated elements
- ◆ Will engage other line offices (OAR, NOS, NESDIS)
- ◆ With expanded role, need for broader operational and resource support

Next Steps

- ◆ EISWG Meeting scheduled for December 12-13, 2012 in Silver Spring, Maryland
- ◆ Membership recommendations to the SAB
- ◆ Development of Post-2012 Work Plan

Summary

The words “environmental” and “information” and “services” in EISWG all carry broad connotations, and this is what I find attractive about this WG.

Kelly Redmond, EISWG Member, Desert Research Institute

Membership Terms

2012	2013	2014	2015
Nancy Colleton – PS <i>Co-Chair</i> Inst for Global Env Strategies Earth Observations	Phil Ardanuy – PS Raytheon Intelligence & Information Systems	Eric Gruit- PS 3Tier Inc. Wind Energy	Ann Bostrom – AS University of Washington Social Scientist
Peter Neilley – PS The Weather Channel Companies Meteorology, Global Forecasting	Walt Dabberdt – PS <i>Co-Chair</i> Vaisala Meteorology and Urban	Ron McPherson--PS Formerly AMS Meteorology	Eddie Hicks- GS Morgan County Alabama Emergency Management
Warren Qualley – PS Harris Corporation Aviation Weather	Barry Meyers – PS AccuWeather, Inc. Meteorology	Kelly Redmond – AS Desert Research Institute Weather and Climate	
John Toohey-Morales – PS ClimaData Corp Weather and Climate	Julie Ann Winkler – AS Michigan State University Meteorology	Joel Widder – PS The Oldaker Group Policy	
		Robert Winokur – GS Navy Office Oceanographer Earth Observations	