



Science Advisory Board

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

The EISWG 2021 Annual Report to Congress as required by the Weather Act of 2017

Presented by: Brad Colman and Scott Glenn, EISWG Co-Chairs
NOAA Science Advisory Board

8 December 2021

Overview

- The EISWG
- Brief background on the EISWG Report to Congress
- Overview of the content of the 2021 Report
- Challenges and Summary
- Questions?

The EISWG Membership....



Brad Colman



Scott Glenn



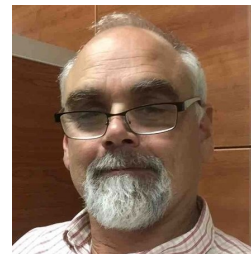
Tom Altshuler



Julie Demuth



Melissa Finucane



David Fisher



Bill Gail



Ilse Gayl



Bill Hooke



Jon Linker



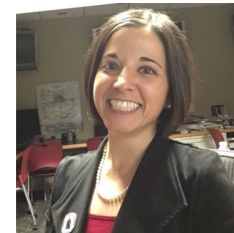
Jon Porter



Marty Ralph



M. Ramamurthy



Jillian Rodgrigue



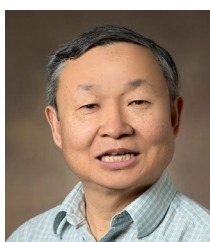
Justin Sharp



Jon White



May Yuan



Xubin Zeng



Zhaoxia Pu



Jason Hickey



Cynthia Decker



Courtney Edwards

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.

Review Approach



The Weather Act of 2017 requires NOAA produce many (~40) reports



EISWG convenes small task groups to review selected reports to assess NOAA performance and to develop a set of recommendations



EISWG reviews and adopts the task groups' reports, and then submits it and the recommendations to NOAA (through the SAB)



NOAA is then required to respond to EISWG recommendations



EISWG prepares, annually, a Report to Congress that includes EISWG reports and NOAA responses, and submits it to the SAB for approval



EISWG Annual Reports are then submitted to Congress by NOAA Leadership

Outline for this year's 2021 report

- Overview of past year (2020)
- Commonalities of past reports
 - Need for increased investment
 - All-sciences approach - Earth system plus social and behavioral sciences
 - Broader collaborations across NOAA line offices, government agencies, industry and academia
- 2020 - Hurricane Forecast Improvement Plan (HFIP)
- 2021 preview
 - Priorities of Weather Research (PWR)
 - New reports (S2S, radar gaps, others)
 - Transition year to a more proactive approach

Report to Congress - general comments

- Timing this year is a casualty of the PWR report process
- Challenges continue around formal vs. informal information gathering and the ability to review and submit recommendations (and receive responses) in a timely fashion to impact NOAA actions
- The EISWG would like to focus on more frequent and informal dialogue with NOAA liaisons and LOs 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?**

Timeline History

- 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 recommendation
- 2020
 - July - EISWG submits 3rd report
 - includes EPIC and NOAA responses

Timeline of Reporting Process (cont.)

- 2020 (cont.)
 - October - EISWG HFIP review approved by SAB
- 2021
 - June - EISWG Data Dissemination statement approved by SAB
 - December - NOAA briefs SAB on HFIP and Data Dissemination recommendation responses
 - **December - EISWG submits 4th Report to SAB for approval (HFIP report attached)**
- 2022
 - April - EISWG submits 5th Report, includes
 - Includes EISWG Data Dissemination statement, NOAA responses to HFIP and Data Dissemination recommendation
 - EISWG submits S2S and Radar Gap reports through SAB to NOAA