



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

May 26, 2021

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad:

Subject: Transmittal of Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) 5th Annual Report to Congress

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the SAB Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) fifth annual Report to Congress as mandated by Title IV, Sec. 401(c) of the Weather Research and Forecasting Improvement Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-25, signed 18 April 2017) (Weather Act). The EISWG transmitted this report to the SAB on April 6, 2022, and the SAB approved it at its April 27-28, 2022 meeting.

The 2022 EISWG Report to Congress is divided into three sections: 1) summary and assessment of NOAA's responses to the EISWG reports on Data Dissemination and the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program Review; 2) status of new EISWG report reviews and internal focus areas; and 3) intersection between the Report on Priorities for Weather Research and the Weather Act.

During the Science Advisory Board meeting, the National Weather Service (NWS) provided updates on the Data Dissemination system that have occurred since the NOAA response to the SAB EISWG statement was provided at the December 2021 SAB meeting. The NWS received \$12M in the FY22 budget for data dissemination, which will allow it to continue moving forward with the Integrated Dissemination Plan (IDP). NWS has requested additional funds in the FY23 budget to be able to fully resource the IDP. Additionally, NWS has performed a successful test of the NWS Chat feature in the cloud. They are now moving forward with a procurement to fully transition that feature to the cloud, supporting recommendations made by the EISWG in its report. The SAB acknowledges these updates and commends NOAA for its responsiveness on this important issue.

The SAB has approved this Report to Congress, however the Board raised several points for the EISWG to consider moving forward. First, the SAB encourages the EISWG to emphasize the consequences of

inaction if recommendations are not carried out by NOAA. There is an ongoing need to define why such actions are urgent in an environment where resources are limited and choices need to be made. Second, the EISWG should consider emphasizing the need for the inclusion of social and behavioral sciences in its recommendations. This is a theme that the SAB has been emphasizing in many of its recommendations and work products. Finally, there was concern raised about the formalistic “call and response” process the EISWG undertakes in reviewing Weather Act reports. The SAB would like to further explore with EISWG when, how and whether a more direct dialogue between NOAA and the EISWG on Weather Act reports is needed moving forward. The SAB feels that more direct interchange of ideas between NOAA and EISWG on certain elements of the Priorities for Weather Research report in the future may be beneficial. The EISWG has agreed to implement these recommendations in future reports.

As stated in the Weather Act, the EISWG is to transmit its annual report to the SAB for submission to the Under Secretary who then submits it, within 30 days of receipt, to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns, or if the SAB can be of assistance in any way.

Very Respectfully,



John R. Kreider
SAB Chair

Cc:

Karen Hyun
Michael Weiss
Cisco Werner
Mary Erickson
Andrea Bleistein
Carl Gouldman
David Helms

John Ten Hoeve
Emma Kelley
Cynthia Decker
Brad Colman
Scott Glenn
Courtney Edwards
Andrew Peck

Attachment: Fifth NOAA SAB EISWG report to the US Congress