

**NOAA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SERVICES WORKING GROUP
JUSTIFICATION MEMORANDUM**

TO: John Kreider, Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB)

FROM: Scott Glenn, Co-chair, EISWG

CC: Brad Colman, Co-chair, EISWG
Casey Stewart, NOAA SAB, Executive Director
Cindy Elsenheimer, NOAA/NWS Liaison
Carl Gouldman, NOAA/NOS Liaison
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Carmen Davila, NOAA/OAR Liaison
Zhaoxia Pu, SAB Liaison
David Grimes, SAB Liaison

DATE: 30 April 2024

SUBJECT: Request to extend EISWG Co-Chair Brad Colman's term

The Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) is requesting the review and approval of a 1-year extension for Dr. Brad Colman, EISWG's Co-Chair.

Background: Dr. Brad Colman was originally recruited to join EISWG as a Co-Chair starting in February 2018. His second three-year term will expire on June 30, 2024. The EISWG requests a 1-year extension for Brad's membership and his role as Co-Chair.

Brad is EISWG's longest serving Co-Chair. Since the signing of the original Weather Act in 2017, Brad has led, co-authored or facilitated the development of every set of EISWG recommendations (10 reports), and every annual EISWG Report to Congress (7 reports), all of which required approval by the SAB. Furthermore, in 2021, at the request of the SAB, Brad Co-Chaired the development and delivery of the highly-cited Priorities for Weather Research (PWR) report. As such, Brad has significant experience leading teams that develop recommendations for NOAA, and then successfully navigating those recommendations through the SAB approval process. Based on the NOAA responses to our recommendations, EISWG clearly has had a positive impact on NOAA and its mission.

Furthermore, Brad's leadership has been critical to broadening EISWG membership and maintaining a positive Working Group dynamic and timeline. His stature within the community, including serving as an AMS President, has enabled EISWG to recruit a broad range of new WG members with expertise that matches evolving needs. His experience as a mentor has helped EISWG spin-up new members into active positions including a new Co-Chair to replace a retiring John Snow.

Justification for Co-Chair Member Extension: During this extension, Brad will participate in the 2024 search for new members including a new Co-Chair, and will leverage his unequaled EISWG expertise to help mentor the new Co-Chair as EISWG develops its 8th annual Report to Congress targeted for Spring of 2025.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can offer any additional information that will help facilitate this process.

Appendix A: Background on the Environmental Information Services Working Group

- The purpose of the EISWG, in partnership with the SAB and through engagement with NOAA and the weather enterprise, is to provide advice, recommendations and broad direction to NOAA regarding its environmental information services activities.
- The EISWG provides advice on prioritizing weather research initiatives at NOAA, existing or emerging technologies found in private industry or research communities that could be incorporated into NWS forecasting, and improving communications between relevant stakeholders.
- The EISWG currently consists of 18 members. The full member list can be found on the [Science Advisory Board website](#). These members represent the government, academia, and private sectors.
- The EISWG's current and future activities include continuing to respond to NOAA reports released under the Weather Act, identifying and providing advice on topics of importance identified by the working group members, and, as required by The Weather Act, producing an annual Report to Congress on NOAA progress towards adopting EISWG recommendations.

Appendix B: Weather Act of 2017 Guidance on EISWG membership

In terms of the composition of the EISWG, the Weather Act of 2017 states the following:
Sec. 401(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.

Appendix C: Terms of Reference on EISWG Membership

Per the EISWG Terms of Reference. 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, remote sensing, meteorology, hydrology, social and behavioral sciences (including risk communication), electrical engineering, and computer sciences. In carrying out its charge, the Working Group may organize into subpanels. 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. EISWG members will be appointed for one three-year term renewable for one additional three-year term.