

Environmental Information Services Working Group

of the NOAA Science Advisory Board

Seventh Meeting of the NOAA Science Advisory Board's Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)

May 1-2, 2012
Washington, DC

MEETING SUMMARY

The seventh meeting of the SAB EISWG was held May 1-2, 2012, at the Harris Corporation, 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 850 E, Washington, DC. Co-Chairs, Walter Dabberdt and Nancy Colleton, led the discussions.

Meeting attendees included:

EISWG Members:

- Philip Ardanuy, Raytheon
- Ann Bostrom [Need affiliation]
- Nancy Colleton, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Co-Chair)
- Walter Dabberdt, Vaisala (Co-Chair)
- Eric Grimit, 3TIER
- Barry Myers, AccuWeather
- Peter Neilley, The Weather Channel Companies
- Warren Qualley, Harris Corporation
- Kelly Redmond, Desert Research Institute, Western Regional Climate Center
- John Toohey-Morales [need affiliation]
- Joel Widder, Oldaker, Belair and Wittie, LLP
- Julie Winkler, Michigan State University
- Robert Winokur, Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy

Other Participants:

- Raymond Ban, The Weather Channel Companies (SAB Chair and Liaison)
- Andrea Bliestein, NOAA
- Other person with Kathy
- Peter Challen, Harris Corporation, Government Relations
- Cynthia Decker, NOAA
- Laura Delgado Lopez, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

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- Mary Glackin, NWS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise
- Jack Hayes, Director, National Weather Service
- David Hermreck, NOAA NESDIS
- Edward Johnson, NOAA NWS
- Tom Karl, NOAA National Climatic Data Center
- Mary Kicza, NOAA NESDIS
- Kate LaBelle, NOAA NWS
- Gary Matlock, NOAA OAR, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation
- Alexander (Sandy) McDonald, Earth System Research Laboratory
- Len Pietrefesa, AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise
- Shannon Privett, NOAA Policy and Planning
- Brandon Sitson, NOAA NOS
- Jennifer Sprague, NOAA NWS
- Chris Strager, NOAA NWS
- Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA
- Jason Tool, NOAA NWS
- Louis Uccellini, NOAA NWS

EISWG Members not present:

- Ron McPherson

The agenda for the two-day meeting is included in *Appendix A*. Actions are included in *Appendix B*. Presentations are available at noaa.gov. *Attachment C* includes a list of EISWG Meetings.

Next Steps on Weather & Climate Services

Participants took part in an extended session or workshop to address next steps regarding the Open Weather and Climate Services (OWCS) concept. Peter Neilley of the Weather Channel Companies facilitated the session, which included representation from the NOAA line offices. NOAA senior representatives and the former Chair of the AMS Commission on Weather and Climate Enterprise participated in the workshop and included:

Jack Hayes, Director, NWS

Tom Karl, Director, NCDC

Mary Kicza, Director, NESDIS

Alexander E. (Sandy) McDonald, Director, Earth System

Research Laboratory, OAR

Gary Matlock, OAR

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*Len Pietrefesa, Associate Dean, Emeritus and Professor
Emeritus, North Carolina State University; and Commissioner,
AMS Weather and Climate Enterprise
Brandon Sitzman, NOS
Louis Uccellini, Director, National Center for Environmental
Prediction (NCEP)*

The workshop recognized that OWCS report and recommendations were transmitted to NOAA by the SAB in October and that NOAA's response is expected in approximately six months with the NWS has been given ownership in drafting the NOAA response.

As noted by Neilley, the EISWG is interested in helping move the OWCS along, both at a policy and implementation level. All indications are that NOAA endorses (most of) the concepts of the paradigm. NWS Director, Jack Hayes added that he is anxious to find specific projects (pilots) to implement. This will not only result in tangible benefits but will help inform a more comprehensive implementation across NOAA. Therefore, the panel discussed long-term adoption as well as short-term specific pilot projects.

Several observations or recommendations emerged as a result of the discussion:

1. The leaders generally embrace OWCS and are anxious to implement its concepts. Many pointed out ways in which their organizations already are aligned with the OWCS ideals.
2. Resources for implementing OWCS are scarce, at best.
3. A number of short-term interesting projects were put forward. Many or most consisted of investing resources to create a new data service. There were no proposals that specifically called for improved access to existing NOAA data, which is a key principal of the OWCS concept.
4. The EISWG stated that the Working Group may have extracted most of the value from the current means of engaging NOAA on OWCS at this point and a new process may be needed to move OWCS forward most effectively.
5. The EISWG also noted that further development of a NOAA implementation strategy should be independent of the EISWG (given it is the originator of the request).
6. It was also noted that NOAA should seek to engage a broader representation of the community in formulating a response to the OWCS prospectus and encouraged NOAA to engage the AMS to help with this outreach. This may involve:

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- Organizing a session at the annual AMS Summer Community Meeting in August to reach out to the AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise (Mary Glackin is incoming commissioner and stated that she stands ready to assist).
- EISWG engaging, informing, and advising the Commission on OWCS;
- Creating a small technical/policy action groups that can dig deeper into a select few OWCS pilots, such as expanding the NOAA Operational Model Archive and Distribution System (NOMADS) use, including placing Enterprise computing servers inside of NCEP, identifying a business or funding model for 1 km, 5 minute climate re-analyses, and/or establishing a GFS Users Group.

These observations and recommendations were later reported to Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, who supported with the approach. She noted the important of richer dissemination of NOAA data and information is needed and asked where to being that dissemination. She also challenged to group to consider what could be done over the next five years.

Action: Organize a NOAA Legislative Affairs briefing for the next EISWG meeting.

NWS Employees Organization

Addressing the EISWG via teleconference, Mr. Dan Sobien, NWS Employees Organization President, provided background on the labor union:

- The NWSEO has five bargaining units within NOAA, with the NWS being the largest;
- The NWSEO represent bargaining employees regarding such topics as working conditions changes, management rights, and lobbying Congress
- NWSEO has a political action committee

One of the concerned voiced by Sobien is that given the budget constraints, the NWS is not filling positions around the country, which could be problematic. In addition, he noted that communications and negotiations between management and the bargaining units could be improved.

Sobien also noted that is imperative that NOAA maintains the most state-of-the-art capabilities to get warnings out and questioned NWS ban on phone application development, given only 3% of people use NOAA Weather Radio.

SAB Update

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Ray Ban reported that since November five new members have been added to the SAB:

Susan Avery
Jean May Britt
Marshall Shepard
David Titley
Dawn Wright

Ban also discussed the NOAA R&D Portfolio Review Task Force noting that it is looking at how R&D is organized and whether the cooperative institute structure works.

It was questioned whether a comprehensive R&D assessment could be done without looking at the operational activities.

Ban also discussed the Satellite Task Force. Bob Winokur added that the group should have an interim report for the SAB's July meeting.

NWS Roadmaps

Chris Strager provided an update on the NWS Roadmaps. This involved three key messages: 1) impact-based decision assistance; 2) quantifying uncertainty; and 3) communicating warnings.

Partnership Policy

Ed Johnson reported that NOAA is broadcasting a call for input regarding the NOAA Partnership Policy. The results of the call will be presented at the next meeting.

Warnings (Myers & Neilley)

Social Science Integration into NOAA Environmental Information

Membership

This portion of the agenda was closed.

Summary

Following a review of the actions, the meeting was adjourned.

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Appendix A

Seventh Meeting of the NOAA Science Advisory Board's Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)

May 1-2, 2012

Harris Corporation
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 850E
Washington, DC

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

8:00 Meet and Greet

8:30 Welcome and Introductory Remarks Nancy Colleton & Walt Dabberdt

- *Introduction of attendees*
- *Membership changes and introduction of new members*
- *EISWG brief background*
- *Review of agenda and meeting objectives*

8:45 Next Steps on Open Weather & Climate Services Peter Neilley, Moderator

This extended portion of the agenda will serve as a workshop to discuss next steps and considerations related to NOAA implementation of the proposed Open Weather and Climate Services concept. Invited participants include:

Jack Hayes, Director, NWS (Accepted)
Tom Karl, Director, NCDC (Accepted)
Brandon Sitzman, NOS (Accepted)
Mary Kicza, Director, NESDIS (Accepted)
*Alexander E. (Sandy) McDonald, Director, Earth System
Research Laboratory (Accepted)*
Gary Matlock, OAR (Accepted)
*Len Pietrefesa, Associate Dean, Emeritus and Professor
Emeritus, North Carolina State University; and*

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*Commissioner, AMS Weather and Climate Enterprise
(Accepted)*

*Louis Uccellini, Director, National Center for Environmental
Prediction (Accepted)*

12:30 Working Lunch

1:30 SAB Update Ray Ban

2:00 NWS Employees Organization
Dan Sobien, National President (Accepted)

3:00 Break

3:15 R&D Portfolio Task Force Request Colleton & Dabberdt

4:15 Summary and Review of Action Items Colleton

4:30 Adjourn

6:00 Group Dinner: District Commons (2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington,
D.C. 20037)

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

8:00 Meet and Greet

8:25 Introductory Remarks Colleton & Dabberdt

8:30 NWS Roadmaps
Chris Strager, NWS Advisor for Science and Service Integration (Accepted)

9:15 OWCS within the Context of NOAA Observations and Prediction

*Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of
Commerce for Environmental Observation and
Prediction and Deputy Administrator, NOAA
(Accepted)*

10:15 Break

10:30 NWS Update—Apps, Budget, and a Weather Ready Nation

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*Dr. Jack Hayes, NOAA Assistant Administrator and
Director, National Weather Service (Accepted)*

11:00 EISWG Membership Discussion (Closed Session) Dabberdt & Colleton

11:45 Partnership Policy

*Mr. Ed Johnson, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy, NWS
(Accepted)*

12:15 Lunch

1:15 Warnings—Private Sector Participation Myers & Neilley

2:00 Social Science Integration in NOAA Environmental Information

*Jennifer Sprague, Policy Analyst, National Weather Service
(Accepted)*

2:30 EISWG Discussion Items
Colleton

- 2012 Workplan
- Summary and Review of Actions

3:30 Adjourn

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Appendix B

EISWG Actions Working Group Meeting May 1-2, 2011

1. EISWG Future—Colleton and Dabberdt to discuss next steps and provide a way forward to the EISWG.
2. *NWS Roadmaps*—NOAA/NWS to provide to EISWG for review in December;
3. *Partnership Policy*—*Partnership Policy*—Ed Johnson to summarize public comments and provide initial review at next EISWG meeting
4. *OWCS*—Dabberdt and Neilley to facilitate AMS organization of workshop at the Summer Community Meeting.
5. *Membership*—Ray Ban to report back from SAB regarding Dabberdt request to allow EISWG to move forward with two pending nominations, which were pursued prior to the change in process
6. *Membership*—Colleton and Dabberdt to assess EISWG diversity and determine possible guidance
7. *Membership*—Colleton and Dabberdt to prepare submission to SAB
8. *Weather Ready Nation*—Determine if EISWG can provide any added value to this effort
9. *NESDIS Data Set Availability*—Neilley to provide a paragraph describing consideration of distribution of primary data sets via the Internet
10. *Next Meeting*—Determine joint session with CWG and/or DAARWG

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Attachment C

EISWG Schedule of Meetings

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
8	December 12-13, 2012	TBD
7	May 1-2, 2012	Washington, DC
6	November 16-17, 2011	Silver Spring, Maryland
5	August 11, 2011	Louisville, Colorado
4	April 19-20, 2011	Silver Spring, Maryland
3	November 3-4, 2010	Sausalito, California
<i>Ad hoc</i>	August 9, 2010	State College, Pennsylvania
2	April 19-20, 2010	Silver Spring, Maryland
1	November 18-20, 2009	Silver Spring, Maryland