



WICCI Science Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 30, 2007
DNR Science Operations Center
12:12 PM

ATTENDANCE

- Jack Sullivan (JS)
- David Webb (DW)
- Bud Harris (BH)
- Dick Lathrop (DL)
- George Kraft (GK)
- Sandra McLellan (SM)
- Scott Craven (SC)
- Chris Kucharik (CK)
- Ken Potter (KP)
- John Kutzbach (JK)
- Dan Vimont (DV)
- Sarah Shapiro-Hurley (SSH)
- Steve Pomplun (SP)
- Darrell Zastrow (DZ)
- Pete Nowak (PN)
- Sharon Dunwoody [arrived 12:30] (SD)
- Lewis Gilbert [arrived 1:43] (LG)
- Jonathan Patz [arrived 2:08] (JP)

ABSENT MEMBERS

- John Magnuson
- Philip Moy

MEETING PROPER

Introductions

12:16 Jack Sullivan commences meeting and introductions

JS: Our mission in the DNR is to protect our natural resources for generations to come. The mission of the Science Council is a monumental one. People have come up to me asking "What do I do with my land, in the pending light of climate change?" Helping in developing answers to that question should be a primary focus of WICCI.

When she arrives, Sharon Dunwoody, who is new to the group, is introduced.

Presentation of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

PN introduces handouts: Agenda, Meeting Minutes, Advisory Committee Suggestions, Working Group Suggestions, and draft website layout.

PN: I, like Jack, have been to conferences focusing on the topic of biofuels. These issues often become political. One of the important responsibilities of the Science Council is to attempt to be above the politics and special interests. "I need you to represent the scientific process of examining global climate change and how we, the state of Wisconsin, can adapt to climate changes." Our focus will be on adaptation rather than mitigation. It will be important that WICCI initially address some salient issues in order to be recognized as a legitimate and relevant body regarding this larger challenge. "Which science issues are going to have the most immediate payoff to propel WICCI upwards?" The Science Council needs to answer that question. Another critical element is that the research literature shows that success, however that is defined, for a group such as this is highly dependent on involving stakeholders from the beginning. Who is going to be on the stakeholder Advisory Committee? Again, this is another question that has to be address by this group in the near future.

PN hands out reports and talks about a U of Maryland report on the economic costs associated with inaction on climate change.

PN: Do we need to approve the minutes? [No; the Science Council will operate on an informal basis for now. A more formal approach such as those based on Robert's Rules may be introduced in the future.]

SSH: Correction to last meeting minutes is that Citizen Monitoring Board should also be listed as a potential member of the Advisory Committee.

General discussion on the mission of the WICCI Science Council.

PN: Any questions on the mission of the WICCI Science Council? None.

[Meeting minutes from September 25, 2007 meeting approved.]

Advisory Committee Discussion

The suggested list of Advisory Committee members (attached) generated a significant amount of discussion.

DL brought up the point that the list that is being developed is a long one, and that WICCI should make sure that the group would not be too unwieldy. PN noted that the limit should be set at approximately 24 participants (based on studies of small group dynamics), and that it could serve two functions:

1. It would prevent the Science Council from being blind-sided (i.e., surprises) by any social or political issue.
2. The advisory committee participants could also be charged with approving working group topics before they were addressed, which would add legitimacy to WICCI and assure that there is stakeholder participation.

SP noted that the Advisory Committee would be important in addressing political aspects of the project. The ability to separate impact assessment from carbon source mitigation is important. Advisory Committee members could do some education.

DZ noted that due to the small size of the group, the participants would need to represent their particular sectors (e.g. agriculture, natural resource management, tourism, etc.)

Some Science Council members felt that it would be best to identify critical issues and working group topics before deciding on whom should be on the Advisory Committee.

DV posed the question: "How do you see this (advisory committee) group interacting with itself?"

PN: They would have to clearly understand their function and their mission. That would take a couple meetings for this understanding to develop. They would need to understand what the Science Council is, so that may involve a joint meeting. After that, they would be more involved with the individual working groups, and outcomes from that interaction would be relayed back to you.

DZ noted that he envisions the Advisory Committee as being an active, dynamic group, with members coming in and out.

DV: The Advisory Group could send information out to the different small groups, asking them what their priorities/interests are.

DL noted that, concerning guests who have worked on climate change issues in other states that WICCI could fly those individuals in to present those topics in these meetings or in others.

PN suggested that the Science Council could put together a 3-5 page summary/position paper about what WICCI is all about and then send it to the resource persons who are interested in the issue to get their feedback. It would be a way to inform them and to receive feedback and help direct WICCI in the right direction. I'd like to have a working group proposed before we bring this speaker in.

Action Item: develop 3-6 page summary of WICCI for recruiting advisory committee members

DV said that he, CK and JK had met concerning the issue of climate change modeling and that they would have the first working group proposed by the next meeting.

Categories for Advisory Committee

The participants began a discussion concerning dividing the Advisory Committee into sectors. Everyone agreed that this would be the best idea, but choosing the sectors was uncertain. It was also posed that there may be a few people or agencies who could participate in the meetings for various sectors.

The suggestions were noted on a dry erase board by DW with the following results:

Suggested Advisory Group Categories
Ecosystem Services
*Recreation
Tourism
Agriculture
Education
Municipal Management
*Transportation
*Human Health
Development
Economy
Industry and Manufacturing
Energy and Utilities
Natural Resources
*Water
*Forests
Land Use
Wildlife
*Fish
Air
Environmental NGOs

Since the Advisory Committee sectors ended up being quite complicated, SC suggested and others agreed that the Science Council might benefit from utilizing the sectors that were outlined in the reports of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS).

Categories from UCS
Lakes
Streams and Wetlands
Forests
Agriculture
Economic, Social, and Health Impacts

Action Item: The UCS categories will be used to create a revised categorical list. All existing names, groups, and other suggestions for the advisory committee will be organized within these revised categories. This will be sent to science council members prior to the next meeting so revisions and or additions can be made.

The Role of WICCI

KP: I think a salient short-term issue is related to storm water management for extreme weather events. Adaptation of current approaches can have big impacts. Due to the heavy dependence on ground water for drinking here in Wisconsin, if we keep ground water protected, we can be okay. This might be a way to get a tougher ground water law to protect the water in relation to climate change.

DV: It is a question of "long term" and "short term." We should address factors that are going to be affected soonest.

DZ: Forests are big and will be affected seriously.

SM: I like DV's comment on who's got the most at stake, and who is got the most invested.

DV: I would maintain that agriculture shouldn't be on our initial focus or short list. I see them as one that will be influenced at some point, but they adjust well.

CK: Are we picking ones that are more effective, or are we also going to try to identify ones that are more relatable. Ski race? Going out on the frozen lake.

SSH: There is another one in natural resources. Plants and invasives?

PN: You were selected to be on the science council because you can differentiate between strategy versus tactics. We have to be careful to make sure that the selection of issues is not a popularity contest, but is based on a fundamental adaptation strategy.

DL: Cold water streams is easy and that we can start it right away. Forests are changing. No snow. Certain species are coming up and some are leaving. We should get going on a couple of working about topics that people feel passionate about.

BH: There are short-term sectors and longer-term sectors. We need to address both so that we won't neglect both. To me, there are the hydrologic issues that have immediate and very long lag time issues.

JK: We could build some resilience in those systems.

SP: I like what Chris said. He has a future in public relations. The first issues to come up in the next 6 months. We need to come up with them to generate good media coverage and identify which are most important.

SD: I am new to this, but this has fascinated me. I see people who are focused on different pieces. Some of the best stories that are told often have a solid geographic foundation, e.g., the story of the changes in the Northern Forest. It would be a fascinating to generate and reproduce those stories.

GK: I like the idea. We have some of these regional stories ready to go.

JK: I agree. Part of what we would be doing is to tell people what is going on now, and I think that will grab people's attention.

1:45pm – 2:00pm Break

Climate Change Scenarios

PN introduced the four topics that he believed the members had agreed were important:

- Updating of Storm Frequency and Intensity Data
- Future Climate Models and Scenarios for Wisconsin
- Changing Climate and Potential Implication on Public Health
- Mean Annual Temperature Change and Effects on Coldwater Fisheries (?)

JK and CK agreed that the name of the modeling and scenarios topic should be thought about in detail. It should encompass present and future climate.

DV expounded on the tasks of the climate group:

1. Assessment of what we know now. It would be a short term undertaking, possibly a year.
2. Providing services to give climatic expertise to other working groups.

He noted that impact assessments are always very iterative. We need to communicate to get these needs. We will not be able to come up with all the effects. We need to set up the resources and people to interact with these other working groups, like ecosystem services, streams vs. lakes, etc. The climate change group should have an interaction set up with the other working groups. DV suggested that there be three different communities within WICCI:

1. Decision-making Community
2. Impact Community
3. Climate Community

Participants considered the climate group key to what any of the other groups would undertake, and DV noted that other working groups need to be started because the climate change data will take a long time to acquire and the other groups will inform the climate group of what it should be investigating. Some members felt that working groups could not draw any conclusions without having future climate change data to work with.

SSH noted that if WICCI is going to take on issues of public health, that it must involve the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) so that there would not overlap with their initiatives and possibly upset people working in that Department. In response, others noted that the Science Council only informs the direction of the working groups and that individuals from DHFS may be involved in the Advisory Committee or in another capacity.

LG said that he is willing to put in \$10,000 to WICCI. He said that the Science Council needs to determine what issues are most important, so people should start thinking about what they really want to work on. Members also need to decide where the money is to be allocated.

Action Item: The Science Council needs to develop a recommendation for the allocation of these funds.

The issue of storm frequency data was considered important by most of the participants, and KP suggested that a quick survey be undertaken to find out which data are currently being used by government departments around the state and that this data could be compiled in a few weeks.

Concerning the acquisition and compilation of that data, KP said that he could work with some of the scientists in the room to come up with some of it.

JK and CK noted that there is a lot of work to be done to take the data from the IPCC models and provide estimates that various scientists could use. They also noted that there is a lot of extra information needed and that WICCI has a lot hanging on these scenarios, and they are going to cost much more than \$10,000 to produce. They also feel that enough time and resources should be allocated to the issue to assure that it is addressed properly and that reliable data is acquired.

There were many questions raised about how accurate the data needs to be before it could be applied to different situations. Does the group have to wait until the data can be published in a science journal? DV, CK, and JK noted that the issue is a complicated one and depends on what issue needs to be understood (e.g. timing of spring, ice thickness, etc.). DV and others noted that issues such as coldwater fisheries could be studied to understand the vulnerability of fish ecology and the climate data could be applied when it is available.

WICCI and the Public

DL noted that the Science Council needs to convince the state of more than just that people are working on climate. We need some compelling groups that interest people. We should pick some working groups that compel the average citizen. It has to affect their sense of place and show people that we are making progress.

Members mentioned different issues, such as policy decisions based on old storm frequency curves, best management practices for runoff, personal resource investing based on a changing climate, etc. There was also concern that these issues be relevant and considered important to the public. In the end, it was agreed that the Advisory Committee would be able to identify or at least help to identify those topics.

DL suggested that WICCI identify the Advisory Committee members and have the salient issues identified before the holidays.

Chairperson

PN opened the discussion about having a Chairperson by asking expectations for this role.

DL: One characteristic is that between meetings, the person would need to be able to get things done. A lot happens in the meeting, but we need the chairperson to carry on the many responsibilities that occur between meetings.

A vote for chairperson of the WICCI Science Council will occur at the November WICCI Science Council Meeting. Individuals are free to nominate any member to serve in this role.

Action Item: Science Council members should nominate (send e-mail to Pete) individuals to serve as Chair, or come to the next meeting prepared to nominate and elect a chair of the Science Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm

NOTES

- SM requested that we send out electronic files of the reports that PN brought to the workshop.
- The name of the contact from California who has been working on climate change issues there is Terry Tamminen.
- The two climatologists that are the primary authors of the climate change in Chicago projections are Donald Wuebbles, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Katharine Hayhoe, Texas Tech University.
- The person who contacted John Magnuson to help with a review of the aquatic material is Julia Parzen.

Suggested Advisory Committee	
Organization	Type
Fire Department	Emer Mngmnt
Police Department	Emer Mngmnt
[Environmental Justice Group]	Env NGO
Aldo Leopold Foundation	Env NGO
Gathering Waters Conservancy	Env NGO
Great Lakes United	Env NGO
International Crane Foundation	Env NGO
Nature Conservancy	Env NGO
Science and Outreach Organizations	Env NGO
SEA Grant	Env NGO
Sierra Club	Env NGO
Trout Unlimited	Env NGO
WI Association of Lakes	Env NGO
WI Wildlife Conservancy	Env NGO
Wisconsin River Alliance	Env NGO
WI Public Radio	Media
WI Public Television	Media
Ducks Unlimited	NGO
Iceboaters Association	NGO
Retirement Association	NGO
Thousand Friends of Wisconsin	NGO
Urban Open Space Foundation	NGO
WI Snowmobile Association	NGO
WI Wastewater Operators Assoc	NGO
Citizen Monitoring Board	NGO
Agriculture Industry	Priv Sector
Biofuel	Priv Sector
Farm Coops	Priv Sector
Insurance Companies	Priv Sector
Paper Pulp Industry	Priv Sector
Road Builders	Priv Sector
SC Johnson	Priv Sector
Shipping Port Director	Priv Sector
Utilities	Priv Sector
WMC	Priv Sector
Chamber of Commerce	Public

Suggested Advisory Committee	
Organization	Type
Chicago Department of Environment	Public
City Engineers	Public
Conservation Congress	Public
DATCAP	Public
Department of Transportation	Public
Governor's Council on Forestry	Public
League of Municipalities	Public
Milwaukee	Public
Public Works Directors	Public
SE Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	Public
Tourism Authority	Public
USGS	Public
Association of Public Health Departments	Public
WEA	Public
Kathleen Faulk	
Tribes	