

## WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, May 5, 2008  
DNR Science Operations Center  
12:00 PM

### ATTENDANCE

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#### Science Council Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Scott Craven
- John Kutzbach
- Dan Vimont
- Bud Harris
- Ken Potter
- Darrell Zastrow
- Philip Moy
- Bill Walker
- George Kraft [on phone]

#### Nonmembers

- Lewis Gilbert
- David Webb
- Pete Nowak
- Steve Pomplun
- Kevin Gibbons

### ABSENT MEMBERS

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- Sharon Dunwoody
- Chris Kucharik
- Sandra McLellan
- Jonathan Patz
- Sarah Shapiro-Hurley

### SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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- Kevin Gibbons will contact with the Bipartisan Policy Center to see if copies can be obtained (n = 20) for all members of the WICCI Science Council.
- Dick Lathrop and others will discuss ways to present Dan Vimont's Wisconsin climate data so that it can be published and made available to the public.
- David Webb will send out link to Jon Foley presentation to the Science Council members so that it could be used in informational campaigns in the future.
- Bill Walker will make PowerPoint available to Science Council members and Kevin Gibbons will post it on the web.

- Pete Nowak, Steve Pomplun, and Kevin Gibbons will draft a mission statement for the Advisory Committee.

## **MEETING PROPER**

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### ***Presentation of Agenda and Meeting Minutes***

12:00 – Meeting called to order.

No new items added to agenda.

Meeting minutes from April 7, 2008 meeting presented and approved by members with some revisions.

### ***Review of Action Items***

Scott Craven gave an update on a recent report from the Bipartisan Policy Center that analyzed the impact of climate change on fish and wildlife. He passed out the executive summary that is available on the web site, and he passed around a copy of the full report.

***Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will contact with the Bipartisan Policy Center to see if copies can be obtained (n = 20) for all members of the WICCI Science Council.***

Steve Pomplun noted that he has been making progress looking up grants and requests that other Science Council members suggested. Over the next month he, Kevin Gibbons and other Outreach staff will expand this list.

Dan Vimont and Climate group submitted grant to Focus on Energy and are waiting for a response.

Concerning the Milwaukee working group, Sandra McLellan has had her baby, and Ann Beier will take over for now.

George Kraft was asked to speak about DNR Water Division Monitoring Strategy report that he sent out. He was on the committee regarding groundwater change, and he suggested that members look over that section.

### ***Earth Day Conference***

Steve Pomplun gave a brief summary of the events and feedback of the Conference, noting that the websites are up and have recordings and information.

John Magnuson noted that the final panel members did not make any comments regarding adaptation, so this may have been the first time that even the speakers started thinking about adaptation to climate change.

Dick Lathrop and other lauded the presentations of Dan Vimont and John Magnuson. They discussed how effective Dan Vimont's grafts and data were and that he should publish them if he has the time. Dr. Vimont noted that the way that these grafts were presented is

important, since the quality of the communication of the data assure that the public will be able to understand the findings.

John Kutzbach asked the members where this type of data could be fast-tracked and published, even just within Wisconsin. Philip Moy said that Sea Grant does have a journal. Dr. Kutzbach and others think that the Council should really try to do this, because of how grave the results are.

***Action Item: Dick Lathrop and others will discuss ways to present Dan Vimont's Wisconsin climate data so that it can be published and made available to the public.***

Steve Pomplun and others published editorials in Milwaukee and Madison newspapers, and he urges people to use newspaper articles to get more information out in the future. Steve offered his assistance to other Science Council members to help them draft articles in the future.

John Magnuson mentioned about Anita Weier, environmental editor of the Capital Times. She has been listening to Dr. Magnuson and others, and he gave her references of some of the other Science Council members, so she may contact them.

### ***Natural Resources Board Meeting***

David Webb talked about meeting that was after the Earth Day Conference. It was a one and a half day conference; the first half day of which was informational. That informational session involved Jon Foley, Lewis Gilbert, Jack Sullivan, Tia Nelson and others who presented on the themes of climate change and the Wisconsin environment, as well as WICCI. In his view, there are many people talking about these issues that would not ordinarily be talking to one another.

***Action Item: David Webb will send out link to Jon Foley presentation to the Science Council members so that it could be used in informational campaigns in the future.***

### ***Milwaukee Meeting***

John Magnuson went to meeting in Milwaukee that was conducted to give various UW-Milwaukee faculty members an opportunity to meet together and discuss issues. He spoke for 20 minutes. It was different from other meetings about climate change in that it involved information on engineering and architecture, and Dr. Magnuson was impressed with this aspect. There were some people from Sea Grant who made presentations about Green Bay and how wind directions have changed and how these changes affect sediment rate and other factors.

### ***Climate Variable Specifications***

DV discussed grant concerning Focus on Energy. The basic proposal is to de-bias the IPCC reports and downscale them to the level that researchers need. He discussed his methods for de-biasing these and how massive the data set is. Using this analysis, he and other researchers could present the information in a way that is more useful.

The data would then be presented, and their group has allocated a budget to hire a web programmer to put it on the internet. He fielded questions. He noted that there is a large amount of data (250 Gigabytes) for a small amount of information.

John Kutzbach asked David Webb about when the funding would be decided upon, and he said that they would know within the month. Dr. Kutzbach mentioned that there should be a plan B for the proposal, in case the proposal to DNR is not approved. Lewis Gilbert noted that even if it is funded, it is a good idea to discuss other possible avenues for funding.

David Webb discussed his budget initiative inside of the DNR to fund WICCI activities. His submission was for an amount just shy of \$1M per year, and it would ideally go towards funding working groups, but it is hard to predict where state finances will go.

Pete Nowak noted that he liked the discussion, and that he and SP have been working on finding funding for WICCI. Having the climate working group up and running is key, and other working groups should have their science up and running so that they know which questions should be answered and how they will prepare to answer them before the climate data is released.

Darrell Zastrow asked Dan Vimont, "Best case scenario: when does this data become available?" DV responded that it would be 1 year for the best case scenario, but that is contingent upon activities being funded soon.

Dan Vimont and Darrell Zastrow noted that the forest working group and other working groups could be interacting with the climate working group to help them. John Kutzbach noted that getting funding for all of the working groups is necessary if we are to see progress.

### ***Economics and Climate Change Adaptation Presentation***

Bill Walker presented a summary of the foundations of economic analysis and related them to climate change adaptation.

There were three handouts - slides, non-market valuation, and a color diagram of methods of economic analysis.

The main goals of the presentation were to:

- 1) To enable Science Council members to use these principles in discussion
- 2) To expose Science Council members to the available data
- 3) To encourage skepticism of economic analyses

***Action Item: Bill Walker will make PowerPoint available to Science Council members and Kevin Gibbons will post it on the web.***

### ***Working Group Updates***

Bud Harris will hold a Green Bay working group workshop on June 18 and 19. Sea Grant will fund the meetings.

John Magnuson noted that since Sea Grant is funding WICCI initiatives, the body is now having an impact.

### ***Advisory Committee Update***

***Action Item: Pete Nowak, Steve Pomplun, and Kevin Gibbons will draft a mission statement for the Advisory Committee.***

With the mission statement formed, Pete Nowak noted that he, Steve Pomplun, and Kevin Gibbons would then be able to identify Committee members.

The first meetings of the Advisory Committee would be educational with members of the Science Council telling the members about the science and the direction that the climate is headed. Dr. Nowak said that he aims to conduct the first meetings over the summer, and that by October there will be a presentation by the Committee to the Science Council detailing specific questions and recommendations.

Dick Lathrop asked what the Science Council could offer Outreach to further this along. Pete Nowak said that he welcomed feedback, so this is a topic that could be discussed. Steve Pomplun noted that they still do have the list of potential members and organizations that were formed from Science Council member suggestions, and that they will use that list to form the Committee. Additionally, Dan Vimont, John Magnuson, and possibly others will be asked to present during the first meetings.

Lewis Gilbert noted that there is a lot of interest in WICCI and participating on the Advisory Committee, so he believes that it is important that we lay out these mechanics effectively and specifically.

### ***Scheduling Future Science Council Meetings***

Dick Lathrop noted that Heather Mann from the DNR who would like to make a presentation on urban forestry to the Science Council.

Between that presentation and others, Science Council members felt that there were enough issues to warrant a June meeting, and scheduling would be coordinated via e-mail.

Regarding the urban forestry presentation and possible working group, Ken Potter noted that there should be some organization or process for determining who should be allowed to be a working group and how WICCI working groups should be connected to WICCI. Lewis Gilbert agreed and said that if WICCI as a whole were interested in helping people retool, that everyone should consider how much of that role is of the Science Council and how much is the responsibility of other parts of WICCI. Science Council members should think about the process for taking on these issues.

[Meeting adjourned at 3:01.]

## APPENDIX

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### *Meeting Agenda*

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| 12:00 | 1 – Welcome and Call to Order  |
| 12:05 | 2 – Introductions and Call for New Business  |
| 12:15 | 3 – Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2008 meeting   |
| 12:20 | 4 – Progress on Action Items from previous meeting   |
| 12:30 | 5 – Updates from Climate Change activities/presentations at April 16 Earth Day conference, April 22 Natural Resources Board meeting, April 24-25 Milwaukee conference, and May 1 Chicago conference (Pete Nowak, Steve Pomplun, David Webb, John Magnuson) |
| 12:50 | 6 – Review and discussion of climate variable specifications submitted by members to the climate group (Dan Vimont)  |
| 1:15  | 7 – Discussion of economic impacts issues due to climate change (Bill Walker)  |
| 2:15  | 8 – Updates of Working Group activities and/or formation   |
| 2:30  | 9 – Discussion on forming the WICCI Advisory Committee   |
| 2:45  | 10 – Future WICCI Science Council meetings – Scheduling and Agenda Items   |
| 3:00  | 11 – Adjourn   |