

WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2008
DNR Science Operations Center
12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Science Council Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Scott Craven
- Sharon Dunwoody
- Bud Harris
- George Kraft
- Philip Moy
- Ken Potter
- Darrell Zastrow
- Sandra McLellan [by phone]

Nonmembers

- Robert Wenger (Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, UW-Green Bay)
- Sally Kefer (DNR Land Use Planning Team)
- Adam Mednik (DNR Land Use Planning Team)
- Lewis Gilbert
- Jack Sullivan
- Pete Nowak
- David Webb
- Kevin Gibbons

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Scott Craven
- Chris Kucharik
- John Kutzbach
- Jonathan Patz
- Sarah Shapiro-Hurley
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- The Outreach Committee will look up State Association of Science Teachers, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Library Association, and other organizations to try to add an education component to the Advisory Committee.
- Outreach Committee will contact Kurt Thiede and identify an Advisory Committee nominee from the Conservation Congress.

- George Kraft will follow up with climate scientists to construct a statement that will outline assumptions about the changing climate in Wisconsin so that working groups have a starting point.
- Kevin will work with Dick Lathrop to develop working group matrix.
- Dick Lathrop will make phone calls to people to encourage the development of a Northern Highlands Working Group.

MEETING PROPER

Presentation of Agenda, and Meeting Minutes

12:00 – Dick Lathrop calls the meeting to order.

Changes were made to the original agenda due to absentees [updated agenda attached in Appendix].

Reviews of Action Items from Previous Meeting

Pete Nowak spoke for Outreach and addressed some of the action items, including the redesign of the website, which they have been working on, but staff hours have been difficult to put together.

All action items were addressed.

Scott Craven's Resignation

Scott Craven noted that his colleague Tim Van Deelen may be a better fit for the position on the Science Council. He noted that he has continued to work with Sarah Shapiro-Hurley and others on proposal and that he would like to stay involved in outreach, communication, and other activities. He praised the WICCI Science Council for their good work and emphasized that he would like to stay involved but that he has many responsibilities coming up.

Science Council members discussed Dr. Craven's replacement. Some points raised:

- Many members recognized that Dr. Deelan's has expertise and history working with species in Wisconsin and working with DNR, and researching population dynamics.
- Scott's replacement should play an active role in the Wildlife Working Group and other working group involving wildlife.
- Dr. Deelan may have difficulty playing a large role in the Wildlife Working Group because he is very busy as an assistant professor.
- The Science Council should consider its original composition when choosing a new member.
- Involving a member of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is a good idea because there are competent scientists there, and the presence of one their members assures that at least some of the interest of the local tribes is being represented.
- Jonathan Gilbert from GLIFWC was identified as a good candidate.

- The Science Council is free to nominate two new members rather than just one.

Guest Introductions

Sally Kefer and Adam Mednik introduced themselves as members from the Land Use Planning team from DNR towards updating community plans and are interested in learning more about climate change adaptation, and that they would like to incorporate more of climate issues into the new plans.

Bob Wenger is an emeritus professor of mathematics from UW-Green Bay who many times has paired up with Bud Harris in ecological risk assessment research.

Update from Outreach Committee

Pete Nowak updated the members on the progress of action items and other items that concern the Outreach Committee.

Advisory Committee Membership

Outreach Committee hopes to call, make arrangements, and send letters to nominees within the next month and have the first meeting of the Advisory Committee in October or November.

Concerning the nominee for the “Insurance” category, George Kraft suggested contacting Century or Wausau Insurance, and Bud Harris suggested Jerry Murphy in Green Bay.

Dr. Nowak described how the first Advisory Committee meetings would progress:

- 1) Overview of Climate Change
- 2) Summary of Output of Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change
- 3) Outline of the Roles of Advisory Committee in Informing the Science Council

Lewis Gilbert and others noted that engaging the Advisory Committee nominees would also be a good way to help policy-makers distinguish between mitigation and adaptation.

It was suggested that Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, Lewis Gilbert, Jack Sullivan, Pete Nowak, and Steve Pomplun meet over coffee to decide how the first meetings should go.

John Magnuson suggested involving the education sector in the group. Members agreed, and the following groups were proposed:

- UW-System
- State Association of Science Teachers
- Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Library Association

Action Item: The Outreach Committee will look up State Association of Science Teachers, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, the Wisconsin Library Association, and other organizations to try to add an education component to the Advisory Committee.

Darrell Zastrow noted that the Conservation Congress has yet to be determined. Kurt Thiede is a liaison from the DNR to the Conservation Congress, so he should be contacted to find the best fit for that.

Action Item: Outreach Committee will contact Kurt Thiede and identify an Advisory Committee nominee from the Conservation Congress.

Funding Opportunities

Pete Nowak informed the members that he will be going to the Corn and Climate Conference in Iowa to see the conference and to meet the Director of the NOAA Climate Programs Office and invite him to speak in Wisconsin to hear what he has to say and see if there is potential for WICCI to get a RISA grant.

Pete Nowak noted the Governor's Task Force Report came up with recommendations that included WICCI and suggested that it continue to look for funding.

He also distributed a sheet on funding possibilities for the Advisory Committee. He said that a problem for funding committees is that organizations do not want to solely fund logistical activities (meals and transportation), so they need to come up with a way to make the Advisory Committee's activities more attractive to funders. He added that two grant applications have been sent out and two more are in the works.

John Magnuson commented that working group activities like the one conducted in Green Bay would be good candidates for project grants that are more than infrastructure.

Dr. Nowak noted that he has only pursued funding proposals for WICCI admin, so if working groups would like assistance in finding funding, they should contact Outreach and sit down together. Dr. Magnuson suggested a general Working Groups proposal that would not necessarily specify exactly what the group is going to do and allow WICCI to distribute the money as it sees fit.

Pete Nowak said that he is actively pursuing funding and will keep Science Council informed

Sandra McLellan noted that she and Ken Potter have submitted separate proposals to the NOAA SARP program, so there are different people submitting grants, including some people from Milwaukee who are submitting an internship-type grant to the Joyce Foundation, but everyone in WICCI should be informing others and the group, so that there is no overlap. Pete Nowak noted that he would like to stay in contact with her.

DL noted that video conferencing is being set up in different rooms in the DNR while logging into the meeting but some kinks need to be worked out, so hopefully this will be ready by next meeting.

Green Bay Workshop Presentation

Bud Harris and Bob Wenger made a presentation "Ecosystem Risk Assessment of the Bay of Green Bay with an Evaluation of Climate Change Impacts."

Two goals:

- 1) Go over the methodology of risk assessment
- 2) Review the results themselves

Some important talking points:

- One question to pose is: "Does it have any possibility for replication in the future?"
- Sea Grant funding the workshop proceedings.
- The expert assessment must use people who have been engaged with the system and can help identify opportunities of adaptation and contribute towards identifying stressors.
- One was completed in 1991, so they wanted to take that assessment into account and compare perceived stressors today to the ones from 1991.
- Objectives of the report:
 - 1) Compare results with 1991 assessment
 - 2) Evaluate impacts of stressors on the Green Bay ecosystem when considering climate change
 - 3) Identify stressor-ecosystem interactions
- 20 scientists split into groups of 4-5 and assigned values to different stressors, and then results are analyzed to see if there are consensus regarding the identification and ranking of stressors.

After the presentation Bud Harris said that this process is a good first step and could be applied to people in different areas and social science methods should be used to find different applications for the results and the methodology itself.

2:00 – Break

Utility of Green Bay Workshop

Dick Lathrop said that Working Groups should have more accountability of who these groups are and what they intend to accomplish. He posed two questions:

- "What constitutes a working group?"
- "What relevance does this process have to other working groups?" – because working groups would be putting together the best minds of the state towards answering different questions and providing their advice.

Jack Sullivan said that there might be some value for the working groups to bring together experts to undertake these studies to gain recommendations and compare the acquired values over time.

Ken Potter said that he has brought together managers, researchers, and engineers to discuss regulations and stormwater issues and to address the cost of changes. He believes they will have recommendations from people inside the government agencies and out about how regulations can be changed.

Dick Lathrop and John Magnuson suggested mandating that working groups come up with a report or other short-term product within maybe the first three years of their formation.

George Kraft noted that it may be a good idea to work with a climate scientist or two to give the people of the working group a document that starts, "Assume that..." and see what they think.

Action Item: George Kraft will follow up with climate scientists to construct a statement that will outline assumptions about the changing climate in Wisconsin so that working groups have a starting point.

Bud Harris said that he appreciates Ken Potter's method of involving the people who will be impacted, and that that is an important direction for WICCI and working groups to take.

DL would like a matrix developed of the working groups outlining the following:

- What are they?
- Who is leading?
- What is their status?
- Where are they?
- Which have been endorsed?

Action Item: Kevin will work with Dick Lathrop to develop working group matrix.

Sharon Dunwoody said that the risk assessment analysis is fascinating and manageable for other communities and geographical areas. She would like to start thinking about how other parts of the state and agencies can learn about this, because it could be a viable first product out of the whole enterprise.

Dick Lathrop suggested that the Milwaukee Working Group could try something like this.

Urban Development and Climate

Sally Kefer noted that people continue to expand urban areas, cut down trees, and fill in wetlands and other sensitive ecosystems and asked Science Council members how those important issues are relevant to WICCI and climate change adaptation. She posed the consideration of ecosystem services and added that the pace of development is high so managing the land is both a difficult and important undertaking.

John Magnuson pointed out that there is no working group addressing development and climate change.

Pete Nowak suggested that Sally Kefer and others talk to Bill Walker about not just forecasting, but moving forward.

Hydrology Working Group Update

Ken Potter said that they have had a workshop and that people are engaged and that they are interested in participating. He is compiling the notes and has another proposal under works to see if they can change policy in the state, because the climate already seems to be changing. He would like to run 2-3 more workshops and would like to continue to push these things and apply for more funds. The goal of the workshops is to bring together people with expertise and responsibility issues related to water management. He thinks that getting everybody there and getting the report written will gain respect from many parties, and that their report can help change policy at the state schedule.

George Kraft asked more about rural areas, and Ken Potter noted that he is more concerned with the built environment, but that there is room for expansion, especially since there will be a lot of talk about a watershed approach that can be applied to reducing urban and agricultural runoff and finding the relationship between groundwater and surface water under a changing climate.

Ken Potter noted that people will not have time to produce these models unless there is financial support from a grant, so he continues to look for money to support these activities and push the issues forward.

Forestry Working Group Update

Darrell Zastrow passed out a draft charter that was drafted leading up to and following the first meeting of the Forestry Working Group and went over the different ideas and deliverables of the group.

Mr. Zastrow noted that top DNR officials that meet quarterly will be meeting soon, and WICCI's progress will be presented to the group, which includes, working groups, Focus on Energy grant, the Advisory Committee invitations being sent out, etc. to gain interest from DNR.

Darrell Zastrow said that there are a lot of connections being made and that WICCI should endorse the formation of the Working Group to move forward with their work.

Dick Lathrop made a motion to endorse the formation of the Forestry Working Group, and the motion carries unanimously.

George Kraft and other Science Council members noted that the format of the draft charter is good and should be used as a model by other working groups.

Cold Water and Terrestrial Working Group

Jack Sullivan noted that he wanted a piece on climate change to the DNR's priorities, and that his group has had success in doing some modeling, convincing people that cold water and warm water fisheries will be a priority, and acquiring funding for the group. He said that there are people working on it even though there is no specific unit within the DNR working on it.

Concerning the terrestrial habitat, he noted that it would be useful to use paleoecology to model and forecast the results that human expansion and development will have on terrestrial ecosystems. He noted that these groups should be taken on by WICCI as Working Groups to put them underneath the umbrella of WICCI.

Jack Sullivan said that there are three staff members under DNR fisheries that are working on these issues in cold water, but people have not been specifically identified for the terrestrial group.

Members discussed ways to involve these groups more.

Lewis Gilbert said that one way to move these things forward might be to bring the people working on this to the Science Council meeting to see how to move forward.

PN noted that it might be best for the Nelson Institute to take the leadership into making a terrestrial working group. John Magnuson said that concerning fisheries, John Lyons and others at the University should participate. Pete Nowak said that the Nelson Institute would sponsor the workshops.

Members asked about the status of the Northern Highlands Working Group, and Dick Lathrop and Jack Sullivan said that people are very busy, and it would be difficult to find someone who has enough time to lead a working group. Dick Lathrop suggested a couple of telephone calls to encourage it.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop will make phone calls to people to encourage the development of a Northern Highlands Working Group.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Wisconsin Wetlands Association Presentation
- Status of Working Groups
- Terrestrial and Cold Water Fishery Presentation on the work that they are doing
- How do we design and establish an annual report of climate change adaptation progress of the state of Wisconsin.

[Meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.]

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Monday, October 6
- Monday, November 3
- *(no December meeting)*
- Monday, January 12
- Monday, February 9
- Monday, March 9
- Monday, April 6
- Monday, May 4

APPENDIX

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 – Review of Minutes from July 1, 2008 meeting |
| 12:20 | 4 – Progress on Action Items from Previous Meeting |
| 12:30 | 5 – Scott Craven's Resignation and Possible Replacement |
| 12:45 | 6 – Updates from the Outreach Committee – Funding Opportunities, Advisory Committee, and Website and Outreach Communication (Pete Nowak) |
| 1:00 | 7 – Results of Green Bay Workshop (Bud Harris and Bob Wenger) |
| 1:30 | 8 – Discussion of utility of Green Bay's "Expert Scientific Judgment" approach for all other working groups |
| 1:50 | 10 – Hydrology Working Group Update (Ken Potter) |
| 2:10 | 11 – Forestry Working Group Update (Darrell Zastrow) |
| 2:30 | 12 – Cold Water/Terrestrial Working Group Update (Jack Sullivan) |
| 2:50 | 13 – Agenda Items for October 6 Science Council Meeting |
| 3:00 | 14 – Adjourn |