

WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, November 3, 2008
DNR Science Operations Center
12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Science Council Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Bud Harris
- George Kraft
- Chris Kucharik
- John Kutzbach [arrived at 12:53]
- Philip Moy
- Jonathan Patz [arrived at 12:30, left at 1:40]
- Ken Potter
- Sarah Shapiro-Hurley
- Darrell Zastrow

Nonmembers

- Steve Greb (DNR, Water Quality and Hydrology)
- David Hart (Sea Grant)
- Jen Hauxwell (DNR, Fisheries and Habitat)
- Karl Martin (DNR, Wildlife and Forestry)
- Matthew Mitro (DNR, Coldwater Fisheries)
- Lewis Gilbert
- Jack Sullivan
- David Webb
- Steve Pomplun
- Kevin Gibbons

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Sharon Dunwoody
- Sandra McLellan
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- Science Council members will forward names of suggested participants for the Human Health Working Group to Jonathan Patz.
- The WICCI Workshop Steering Committee (John Magnuson, Chris Kucharik, George Kraft, Steve Pomplun, and Pete Nowak) will produce a hard agenda for the all-day WICCI workshop before December.

- Jack Sullivan will find out if there is combined sewer overflow data through the DNR and will send an e-mail to Science Council members as soon as he knows more.
- Kevin Gibbons will send out the Working Group Grid again and ask point people to update their working groups to be published.
- Kevin Gibbons will e-mail the working groups asking them to send Web materials that they would like to publish, giving them the deadline of the Monday before Thanksgiving.
- David Hart will draft a Coastal Hazards Working Group Charter and e-mail it to the Science Council before January.
- Kevin Gibbons will compile a list of a general WICCI contact list that will include people associated with working groups.
- Kevin Gibbons will add Stormwater Working Group to the grid.
- All official working groups will release charters and draft papers identifying risks before the January 12 meeting.

MEETING PROPER

[Meeting called to order at 12:02]

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Dick Lathrop opened the floor for new business, and adjustments to the agenda were made due to members' schedules. (Revised agenda can be found in appendix.)

Progress on Action Items

Meeting with Jonathan Patz

John Magnuson talked with Jonathan Patz, and he affirmed that he is willing to lead a Human Health Working Group and planned to show up to the meeting. John Magnuson noted that Dr. Patz has a journal paper recently published and also has an article published in the Washington Post. Members mentioned names that they suggested for the group and resolved to send them to Patz.

Action Item: Science Council members will forward names of suggested participants for the Human Health Working Group to Jonathan Patz.

All other action items were completed or at least discussed and progress has been made.

Outreach Update

Steve Pomplun presented a packet of four handouts and said that WICCI is entering a new phase in which members will start producing papers and products.

White Papers

He started by presenting the outline of the white papers. The outline is to serve as a guide, not as strict limitations. These papers serve as a starting point for the best state of the knowledge that working groups have at this time. He proposed to have the first of these by the end of this year so that Outreach can release an annual report by early February.

Jack Sullivan noted that Wildlife and Coldwater Fisheries Working Groups could probably just present a document that expanded just a bit on the groups' charters. Steve Pomplun said that would be fine; it should be a statement of what the risks are in that particular area.

All-day WICCI Workshop

Instead of the Science Council meeting, it would be an all-day workshop to set up some cross pollination among the groups. Pete Nowak and Steve Pomplun have drawn up a draft agenda.

SP sees it as a way to get everyone associated with WICCI together. The venue may be a large room in the Memorial Union or another room that can accommodate many people. For convenience, he proposed that it be in Madison this year, but in future years it should rotate to other areas.

Since some working groups rarely meet with everyone together, John Magnuson proposed setting aside time for the working groups to meet amongst themselves, and others agreed. Darrell Zastrow proposed that it would also be a good opportunity for some groups to meet between each other, so there could be plenty of interaction, including with the climate group. Chris Kucharik said that it would be a good opportunity to have members of the climate group to have serious interaction with the other working groups. All members agreed and thought that it was a good idea to increase the amount of time for people to interact with the climate folks.

John Magnuson proposed doing an overview and then having Climate Working Group members to have separate one-on-one interactions with the other working groups. Other members thought that Dr. Magnuson's model was a good idea. He also proposed having a steering committee for the meeting so that they could draft a hard agenda, get the schedule out, and help arrange venue and accommodations. Other members thought that would be a good idea.

The WICCI Workshop Steering Committee was formed, made up of John Magnuson (Chair), Chris Kucharik, George Kraft, Steve Pomplun, and Pete Nowak.

Action Item: The WICCI Workshop Steering Committee (John Magnuson, Chris Kucharik, George Kraft, Steve Pomplun, and Pete Nowak) will produce a hard agenda for the all-day WICCI workshop before December.

The workshop was initially proposed for **Monday, January 12**, and after some deliberation, this has been confirmed as the date.

[12:30] Jonathan Patz introduced himself and his work on the health effects of climate change.

Annual Report

Steve Pomplun presented the sheet and said that the white papers will make up a key part of the annual report.

He also discussed the meeting arranged in the middle of November in which Steve Vavrus will present climate information to Wisconsin Emergency Management. They will likely be most concerned with discussing extreme events and how that will affect their work.

Jonathan Patz discussed his work with Sharon Long at the State Lab of Hygiene and noted that there are data available of reports of contaminated wells and other sources. He said that Sharon Long is a great source to be tapped

John Magnuson asked if the DNR has any data on the preparation for floods, overflows, and sewage bypasses, and Jack Sullivan said that he thinks that there may be data available through the DNR of combined sewer overflow (CSO).

Action Item: Jack Sullivan will find out if there is combined sewer overflow data through the DNR and will send an e-mail to Science Council members as soon as he knows more.

Working Group Grid

Dick Lathrop brought up the grid of working group status. He said that the working group grid will be interesting to put on the website.

Steve Pomplun noted that the Outreach Committee has been working with the website and will continue to develop the site as staff time becomes available.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will send out the Working Group Grid again and ask point people to update their working groups to be published.

Working Group Grid will take out funding information for the Web version, but maintain the updates for internal use.

David Webb and others noted that groups should be on the Web grid after they present their charters and are approved by the Science Council.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will e-mail the working groups asking them to send Web materials that they would like to publish, giving them the deadline of the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Ken Potter said that state climatologists are having difficulty determining a statistically significant increase in occurrences of extreme events.

John Kutzbach confirmed Ken Potter's claim that the phenomena are difficult to analyze because of the increase in sensors over time.

Ken Potter posed, "What is a working group, and where should we be focusing on?" He suggested that they should focus on getting funding.

John Magnuson said that the definition of a working group should be flexible.

Human Health Working Group

Jonathan Patz discussed his research and said that he is in favor of a flexible amorphous type of group. He said that they have an EPA grant that has two more years of funding to study heat wave morbidity as well as other issues. He noted that the EPA should have regional opportunities available for people doing research in the Midwest. He feels that it is a good opportunity to make health experts available to working groups and other interested parties.

Dick Lathrop posed that the working group is a great opportunity to bring people together and discuss the issues related to the particular sector, and working on the side should be done by people volunteering, rather than that being the major part.

Jonathan Patz noted that he would like the working group structure to be more fluid and open to members getting involved with other groups.

John Magnuson said that since Jonathan Patz is interested in forming a group, he and the other group members should be allowed to structure the group as they would like. Other members agreed that membership and key players of working groups may be flexible and adaptive so that the people who are involved in the discussion may attend meetings when the science and topic concern them.

Coastal Hazards Working Group

David Hart presented that there is a preexisting Coastal Hazards Group at Sea Grant and asked members whether or not they think there should be a new group formed. He handed out a packet outlining the group and identifying many of the significant products and progress of the Sea Grant group on working with coastal hazards. He asked that the extant group be allowed to be a part of WICCI as a working group.

Many Science Council members said that they supported using the preexisting group and tacking on a climate change component to their work, making WICCI and the Coastal Hazards group stronger.

David Hart said that he will propose the addition to other group members and see if they can prepare a draft charter.

He also presented a paper on how the group would try to address climate change. After a brief discussion, Jonathan Patz suggested that he involve Sandra McLellan's work and address Milwaukee specifically.

David Hart noted that the Oregon Coastal Atlas has been set up, and he would like to model Wisconsin's program on that map, which would provide a toolbox to scientists and policy makers.

Action Item: David Hart will draft a Coastal Hazards Working Group Charter and e-mail it to the Science Council before January.

David Hart fielded questions from Science Council members. John Kutzbach mentioned that the proposal that he sent around mentions utilizing a global climate model, which helps the Climate Working Group work with them to develop a future climate simulation.

Presentation of Coldwater Fisheries Working Group

Matt Mitro sent around the draft charter of the Coldwater Fisheries Working Group. He discussed it a bit and how much of it is based on John Lyons' work on linking air temperature and precipitation to temperature in streams.

Steve Greb introduced himself and noted that there are many opportunities for collaboration among different scientists.

Jack Sullivan said that once the \$100K is received, which may be at the first of the year, they can start working on climate change issues with coldwater fisheries, specifically sport fish. He said that they were looking to start with lake trout and streams because of their genetic uniqueness and vulnerability.

George Kraft noted that the Coldwater group could work well with the Central Sands Working Group.

Presentation of Wildlife Working Group

Karl Martin handed out a draft charter and noted that this group will be closely aligned with Forestry. He said that they are still in the fledgling stage until the funds are received, but many key players have signed on. He listed and described the qualifications of the different members.

They would like to work with WICCI, the Forestry Working Group, and others to cross pollinate and help each other search for more funding.

He sees the group meeting once every two months and having managers and liaisons doing work in between different people working on activities.

The four working groups (Human Health, Coastal Hazards, Coldwater Fisheries, and Wildlife) were accepted unanimously as parts of WICCI.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will compile a list of a general WICCI contact list that will include people associated with working groups.

Stormwater Working Group

Ken Potter said that he started the Stormwater Working Group because it deals with precipitation, rather than groundwater. He has convened workshops, and he would like to look at factors related to stormwater and addressing management issues. As it has been, they have just been bringing people together as needed, and he does not see any need to add more people.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will add Stormwater Working Group to the grid.

Concerning a hydrology working group, Ken Potter had reservations to starting a group on such a broad, complex issue, because the answers are context-specific to the different climates and watersheds. He has submitted a proposal to study a certain area, because that is what they know how to study, since the topic is difficult to tackle. Ken Potter believes that the primary goal should find funding.

Sarah Shapiro-Hurley suggested that the group choose an area and try to address its issues, and Ken Potter was not sure where their resource and questions should be allocated.

Ken Potter said that if he were able to engage more people, they could affect changes in the codes and practices, giving managers the ability to undertake preemptive change.

Water Working Group

John Magnuson and others discussed developing a general Water Working Group and asked whether large overarching group should be created or if it would be better to focus on a specific topic like drinking water. Members and guests had a variety of opinions.

Steve Greb noted that having some kind of network in the form of a Water Working Group could be very useful in connecting scientists doing related work.

David Webb said that he does not see an advantage in having a Water Working Group over all of the groups doing water-related research. It is a complicated issue and would lead to more difficulty.

John Kutzbach noted that something between climate and hydrology and modeling that part of the system is important. He also noted that there are some crude hydrologic data in the future climate models, including information on soil saturation and other water variable, even though they do not do an adequate job of addressing hydrology issues. His reason for saying this was to tell people that there are models that have some of this information in them.

Bud Harris noted that there has been some modeling around the Green Bay area. It has been informative, but to a certain extent it is difficult to use it because of its projection.

Chris Kucharik warned people that these models are not very reliable because they do not take into account land use changes. He suggested working together among groups to exchange information.

Other Working Group Updates

Dick Lathrop brought up the Agriculture Working Group and asked Chris Kucharik what the progress has been. Chris Kucharik said that he has been hesitant to get involved with this working group because he is not sure if he will be moving away from UW-Madison within the next year.

Forestry

Darrell Zastrow said that they are still defining their group, but that they have had a lot of positive momentum. They are currently building their major group and will be able to compete for funding in the near future. They have been working on proposals.

Green Bay

Bud said that the final report will be finished within the next month and available.

Milwaukee Working Group

Ken Potter said that they have put in a NOAA SARP project, but he is not aware of other activities of the group.

Advisory Committee

The draft letter and recipient list was sent to the Governor's office, and that there should be a response in the next two weeks.

Action Item: All official working groups will release charters and draft papers identifying risks before the January 12 meeting.

[Meeting adjourned 3:02 PM]

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Monday, January 12
- Monday, February 9 (All-day WICCI Meeting)
- 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 – Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2008 Meeting |
| 12:20 | 4 – Progress on Action Items from Previous Meeting |
| 12:40 | 5 – Update from Outreach and Operations Committee – White Papers, Collaboration Workshop, Website Improvements, and Advisory Committee (Pete Nowak) |
| 1:00 | 6 – Update from the Coastal Working Group (Philip Moy and David Hart) |
| 1:20 | 7 – Presentation of Charters and Progress of Cold Water Fisheries Working Group (Matt Mitro, DNR) and Terrestrial Habitats Working Group (Karl Martin, DNR) |
| 2:10 | 8 – Update on the Status of Forming a Hydrology Working Group and Associated Activities (Ken Potter and others) |
| 2:25 | 9 – Updates from Other Working Groups |
| 2:45 | 10 – Agenda Items for January 12 All-Day Science Council Meeting |
| 3:00 | 11 – Adjourn |