

WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2009
DNR Science Operations Center
12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Science Council Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- Sharon Dunwoody
- Chris Kucharik
- Ken Potter
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker
- Darrell Zastrow
- George Kraft (via Internet)
- Sandra McLellan (via Internet)
- Philip Moy (via Internet)

Nonmembers

- Dave Liebl
- Pete Nowak
- Steve Pomplun
- Lewis Gilbert
- David Webb
- Steve Pomplun
- Alison Coulson
- Kevin Gibbons

ABSENT MEMBERS

- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Bud Harris
- John Kutzbach
- Jonathan Patz

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- David Hart will draft a Coastal Hazards Working Group Charter and e-mail it to the Science Council before the next meeting.
- Kevin Gibbons will send out working group contact information to the Science Council.
- All working groups will submit charters to Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, and Kevin Gibbons.
- Science Council members and working groups will forward photos and other images to Dick Lathrop and Alison Coulson so that they can create a "roadshow" PowerPoint presentation.
- Kevin Gibbons will get Lewis Gilbert's and Dan Vimont's presentations from the Advisory Committee and send them to the Science Council.

- Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, and the Outreach and Operations Unit will identify what information they would like from the working groups and request that information specifically.
- Operations and Outreach Unit will research funding opportunities for WICCI as a whole and the working groups.
- Dan Vimont will send a proposal to Lewis Gilbert to establish a pot of money that the Climate Working Group could use for data requests.
- Pete Nowak will organize an investigative committee to consider an Agriculture Working Group involving Chris Kucharik, Bill Walker, and others.
- Steve Pomplun will draft a note of appreciation to send to Sarah Shapiro-Hurley.
- Pete Nowak will contact the Science Council asking for criteria towards developing criteria for nominating new Science Council members. They will compile the information that is gained from those communications.
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- Pete Nowak will invite Mike, Steve, and Dave from CCR to the next Science Council Meeting.

MEETING PROPER

[12:08] Meeting called to order by Dick Lathrop.

This is the first meeting in which LiveMeeting conferencing software was used.

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

David Liebl, Co-chair of the Stormwater Working Group, introduced himself.

Minutes approved with some revisions.

Action Item Review

David Hart's action item needs follow up.

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

Kevin Gibbons needs to send out contact information for the groups to Science Council.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will send out working group contact information to the Science Council.

Working groups need to submit charters to people.

Action Item: All working groups will submit charters to Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, and Kevin Gibbons.

Seminar Series

Many Science Council and working group members have been asked to give talks. Dick Lathrop said that this is an important time to get a presentation ready for these presentations. He said that he, Alison, and Steve will send out specific requests for photos to different Science Council members.

Action Item: Science Council members and working groups will forward photos and other images to Dick Lathrop and Alison Coulson so that they can create a "roadshow" PowerPoint presentation.

First seminar series meeting is on the 26th of February, and there may be many future requests for presentations, so we will use this first deadline to create an interesting presentation about WICCI in the future.

Advisory Committee Meeting

Pete Nowak discussed the WICCI Primer that was created for the Advisory Committee Meeting. The primer was released to Advisory Committee members.

Pete said that the challenge is to keep this Advisory Committee active and involved, instead of having them fizzle out. The Science Council and the Outreach and Operations Unit must communicate with them and continue to provide them with information. Members of the Advisory Committee must also be invited to different events so that information can be relayed to the Science Council and others.

Lewis Gilbert said that Dan Vimont pitched the science of climate change at a perfect level.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will get Lewis Gilbert's and Dan Vimont's presentations from the Advisory Committee and send them to the Science Council.

Pete discussed the flow of the Advisory Committee meeting and went through the sheet of highlights that was distributed to the Science Council.

Forming an Agriculture Working Group was a main concern of the Advisory Committee.

Lauren Azar raised many interesting issues. Pete Nowak noted that issues related to the current working groups did not come up very much.

Pete said that it was a good start, but the relationship will need nurturing.

Lewis Gilbert agreed that the Advisory Committee said that agriculture must have a working group. He also highlighted that the Advisory Committee did ask for scenarios so that they could work through risk and planning. He noted that they requested more the narrative scenarios than the data-based ones that have been the norm so far. After some questions, Lewis noted that Dan Vimont did a good job of taking the graphs and charts and telling stories, such as "What this means is that the winter will be two months shorter."

Pete Nowak noted that “scenarios plural” is what is needed, since the science does not allow for must certainty now.

Dick Lathrop read some of his notes from the meeting that focus on the various interests and concerns of the members involved in the Advisory Committee.

Sharon Dunwoody asked whether or not Advisory Committee members were thinking far into the future about these impacts or not. Steve Pomplun said that there were some people who were interested, and there were some who had not thought about these issues a lot. He noted that many people were still thinking of mitigation rather than adaptation. Bill Walker noted that many people just talked about their specific interests and how those would be affected if rain or drought or whatever other factor would be affected.

Pete Nowak said that having Chris Kucharik’s presentation that describes the change that has already happened. He also noted that there was little focus on opportunities; they were mostly concerned with problems.

Darrell Zastrow noted that since there were many energy concerns that maybe there should be an Energy Working Group.

Working Group Workshop

Dick Lathrop opened the floor for people to comment on how they perceived the workshop.

Pete Nowak said that all groups of WICCI have now met. The Advisory Committee serves to influence the working groups and the Science Council. He asked how the working groups and the Science Council will be affected by what has come from the Advisory Committee meeting.

He said that we need to post more information on the website, and Kevin Gibbons noted that few working groups have submitted information on related risks, threats, and adaptation strategies. Pete Nowak would like to work on those web materials and the annual report if we had more complete information from the working groups.

Dick Lathrop noted that working groups may not been ready to provide those impacts, risks, and threats. Ken Potter said that he expects to produce a white paper from the Stormwater Working Group by the end of the year, but it will not be ready very soon.

Pete Nowak said that he would like some more information related to members, risks, and potential impacts. He said that information must be passed from the working groups on to Kevin Gibbons.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, and the Outreach and Operations Unit will identify what information they would like from the working groups and request that information specifically.

Lewis Gilbert said that he was very impressed with the turnout of the Working Group Workshop and that there was a lot of enthusiasm. He said that it is a good idea to hold it annually. Sharon Dunwoody said that this was a nice way to build momentum in the

organization and agreed that conducting the workshop annually may be a good idea if participants are interested. Philip Moy said that the Coastal Working Group really enjoyed the workshop.

Pete Nowak said that there is a serious attempt to move forward, and he said that the Operations and Outreach Unit will have to look for funding opportunities in the future.

Action Item: Operations and Outreach Unit will research funding opportunities for WICCI as a whole and the working groups.

Working Group Updates

Stormwater

Ken Potter said that the Stormwater Working Group has been meeting with various stakeholders in workshops and in other venues, and there has been a request for a white paper that describes risks and threats around the state.

David Liebl said that he has described scenarios to decision makers in which places are flooded for 3-4 days and how multiple factors would be affected in those communities. He came up with a strong representation from this group of people who are involved and how they can develop management tools and strategies. He said that directing the communication as the climate is currently changing has been very effective.

Ken Potter noted that there may be a need to do more thorough cost-benefit analyses with risk and design related to stormwater, rather than basing estimates on 10-year storm events. He would like to incorporate uncertainties, which they have mathematics of, but they do not have the quantification of damages, costs, and benefits.

David Liebl also noted that there are some opportunities to think about biodiversity and many other types of protection. There are many ideas relating protecting more than just urban and stormwater, but also with watersheds.

Climate

Dan Vimont said that they are ahead of time in compiling and working on the data. Concerning Outreach, Dan Vimont would like to work on funding mechanisms to put grant money into a pot that the Climate Working Group can use for their analyses.

Action Item: Dan Vimont will send a proposal to Lewis Gilbert to establish a pot of money that the Climate Working Group could use for data requests.

Lewis Gilbert noted that having this pot of money would be good for responding to these data requests and keeping track of time that the climate group needs to spend on different outreach activities. He said that the Nelson Institute can help with administrative support for these groups.

Pete Nowak asked Dan Vimont and Chris Kucharik about the congruency between the models and the acquired data. Dan Vimont said that the model is not ready to talk about that, but they have hired a graduate student to compile and analyze the data.

Chris Kucharik said that they cannot release this data right away until it undergoes peer review, but he feels very good about their progress.

Milwaukee

Sandra McLellan said that she and Jonathan Patz have been working on a CDC grant and analyzing health risks that relate to climate change and extreme precipitation events. The grant involves the work of Steve Vavrus, the water overflow interests of the Milwaukee Working Group, and the Human Health research of Jonathan Patz.

Sandra McLellan also noted that they are working on grants related to air quality that may involve Tracey Holloway and others to identify risks and start writing grants.

Coastal Community

Philip Moy noted that it might be a good idea to have a workshop with Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Stormwater. He said that David Hart is also looking to develop a gallery of coastal maps and also some impacts on tourism.

He said they have changed their name to the Coastal Community Working Group and that they are working on completing their charter.

David Liebl noted that the Stormwater Working Group and the Coastal Community Working Group will be presenting on television in May.

Forestry

There was a meeting that took place in January. Darrell Zastrow noted that they are trying to increase participation across different groups. He said that the charter is still in draft and will likely be completed in April. Their membership is up to 16 now. They are working on identifying risk. He noted that Bob Rogers is a key member of the working group, and he has been identified to be a part of the Advisory Committee.

Darrell Zastrow noted that there are opportunities to link to energy and wildlife interests. They are working on these collaborations, but he said that work on risk assessments can be started right away. There are some scientists who have funding opportunities, but there are many who do not, and there may be problems with that. He expects these linkages to come about in one to two years.

Darrell Zastrow described a strategy of growing trees with more genetic diversity to make the populations more resilient, and they can do this by working with foresters and geneticists in Canada.

Wildlife

Dick Lathrop said that the Wildlife Working Group has been making progress on analyzing species in forest, wetland, and grassland habitats. He thinks that they will be able to be showcased in the near future.

David Webb noted that it is interesting that Avery Dorland of the Forestry Working Group and Karin Fassnacht of the Wildlife Working Group are collaborating close together and are having very interesting discussions.

New Working Groups

Agriculture

Dick Lathrop said that there was a serious call for an agriculture working group to be starting as part of WICCI. He opened up the conversation to the Science Council. He also noted that the Secretary of DATCP observed the entire meeting.

Pete Nowak noted that Rod Nilsestuen and Shelly Mayer were both at the meeting and understand the issues that are available at the state. He said that the working group needs a champion for the Agriculture Working Group. He said that since Scott Craven has left, there is not a strong connection with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Dick Lathrop asked Bill Walker about DATCP and whether or not they were any champions available in DATCP. Bill Walker said that DATCP does not work on regulation. He said that because of the short-term focus of DATCP, it would be difficult to find anyone working on long-term issues.

Chris Kucharik said that he would like to meet with Bill Walker and someone else in the industry to discuss opportunities and potential champions.

Lewis Gilbert said that the Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems (CIAS) has a well-functioning committee and a citizens advisory group. He posed the question whether or not involving someone from that group in the Science Council would be a good idea.

George Kraft said that talking about agriculture is as broad as talking about water. He said that they should identify issues that people should talk about and look for champions for people to take control of those issues.

Pete Nowak introduced the question that was posed by Gary Radloff of DATCP on how to build the resiliency of our agricultural systems and habitats. He listed Bill Bland in Soil Science, Tom Cox from Ag and Applied Economics, and others.

David Liebl played off that proposal and noted that they should start with a brainstorming session and see how an Agriculture Working Group comes from that session.

Dick Lathrop posed that Pete Nowak, George Kraft, Bill Walker, and Chris Kucharik together to undertake this brainstorming session.

Action Item: Pete Nowak will organize an investigative committee to consider an Agriculture Working Group involving Chris Kucharik, Bill Walker, and others.

Bill Walker noted that there should be some science behind the group's topic and whether or not there are any core scientific questions that a group like this could investigate. What benefit would there be to having this group?

Ken Potter noted that since decisions are usually made on short-term bases, they may just adapt gradually and not have a need for a specific working group. Land use, on the other hand, works on very long time scales.

Pete Nowak noted that there are many possible links through genetics and other avenues.

Ken Potter noted that people should consider what a white paper would look like one year from now concerning agriculture. What will we be able to present to the state?

Dick Lathrop asked them to involve Gary Radloff and Shelly Mayer to join the conversation and see what emerges.

Central Sands Hydrology

George Kraft said that they have submitted a charter for review by the Science Council. They are concerned with groundwater, surface water, and agriculture. They are concerned with streams going dry and other hydrologic issues. He thinks that the next step is to take the three group members and figure out how to involve additional expertise. He would like to come up with conceptual scenarios that would relate how different factors related to water and climate are related. He has some hydrologic watershed models already, so they can use that information to work on “what if scenarios.”

Dick Lathrop praised George Kraft’s and other working group members’ initiative and encouraged them to proceed ahead. Pete Nowak asked George about human health effects and nitrogen levels, and George said that he cannot work on that link.

Habitats

Dick Lathrop said that there may be a need for a Habitats Working Group, and he will talk with Joy Zedler and Arthur Kitchen about starting that group. David Liebl posed that state natural areas are not managed intensively like urban areas are, so he asked how those would be affected by adaptation strategies.

Darrell Zastrow and Chris Kucharik gave examples of how adaptation would be important.

Others

Darrell Zastrow said that an Energy Working Group should arise in the long term, but not right away.

Dick Lathrop asked Bill Walker whether there should be an economics working group. Bill said that they should involve many people from different social sciences, such as communication and sociology. David Webb noted that there may be an advantage to having a social science working group that would help work with other working groups. Bill Walker noted that using quantitative economic analyses and helping working groups develop narratives would be important contributions to working groups.

Pete Nowak noted that various questions about systems and posing interesting questions and commonalities among the group will arise, and that after these come up in the annual report that maybe there will be a need for a Social Science Working Group.

Sharon Dunwoody noted that understanding human impacts in these groups may be better integrated within the groups rather than separating it. She advocated for “embedding” people into the other working groups, rather than having a group of social scientists.

Bill Walker noted that having a group is not a bad thing, but they do not have to look like a very separate group.

Makeup of the Science Council

Dick Lathrop noted that Sarah Shapiro-Hurley has retired and is moving to Montana. He noted that there is now a dearth of people with a specialty in wildlife on the Science Council.

Action Item: Steve Pomplun will draft a note of appreciation to send to Sarah Shapiro-Hurley.

Dick Lathrop asked how new members should be added and what the process should be to add them on. He posed that maybe Science Council members should send e-mails to Dick and John nominating new potential members, and they could then work on contacting people from the list and coming up with recommendations to present to the Science Council.

Darrell Zastrow posed that there should be some criteria for members. Some examples he noted were that there is a science focus in their expertise and that it should be people who are involved at the state level.

Dick Lathrop said that criteria from the beginning were that there should be diverse representation from people from throughout the state and from gender and other different sectors.

Darrell Zastrow said that they should focus on developing that criteria rather than searching for specific people.

Dick Lathrop opened up the question of criteria. Lewis Gilbert noted that there should be criteria involved with the set (the Science Council as a whole) and different criteria involved with the individual (what we expect each member to bring). You would weigh the choice of the individual against the criteria for the set.

Dan Vimont noted that it should be someone who is well integrated into the field and has developed collaborative efforts and possibly well integrated beyond the field and other disciplines.

Lewis proposed looking through previous minutes, and that outreach can make some specific recommendations that can be discussed.

Chris Kucharik discussed expectations. Are there specific expectations that we would ask of different members and nominees? Lewis posed examples: turn up to Science Council meetings, work on projects, etc.

Pete Nowak would like the group to consider political reasons to involve people as well as technical knowledge.

Darrell Zastrow noted that the group should look back into DNR to replace Sarah.

Action Item: Pete Nowak will contact the Science Council asking for criteria towards developing criteria for nominating new Science Council members. They will compile the information that is gained from those communications.

Emerging Funding Opportunities

Pete Nowak noted that there are going to be immediate funding opportunities that may come up from the state or federal agencies. He said that the working groups have identified gaps in the information, but there needs to be funding to investigate those gaps. He said that the Outreach and Operations Unit does not apply for funding and disperse it; they help identify those funding opportunities and help facilitate the working groups to apply for those funds. He said that the Operations and Outreach Unit can identify outreach activities that can be involved in grants and give advantages to the grant applications.

Dan Vimont asked whether or not WICCI could apply to an NSF IGERT grant. Sharon Dunwoody said that the university is developing 3-4 proposals now, but that WICCI could possibly apply to these in future years. Sandra McLellan noted that in the future, these could be UW System-wide grants, rather than just Madison. Members liked the idea of involving the UW System.

Website and Communications

Steve Pomplun noted that there has been a call to create the annual report and flesh out the website and the working group presence. He said that they will make a big push to get information from the working groups at whatever level they are at. Getting the status and the membership is important for the report and the website.

He said that there is an informational map on the site, but the information needs to be checked by the working groups before it can be made public.

Alison Coulson said that we now have access to Basecamp which WICCI members can use, post PowerPoint slides, and conferencing. Avery Dorland and Karin Fassnacht have taken the lead in working on this software.

Pete Nowak noted that for the website and annual report that they need the progress on these issues, rather than the final science. He would like to report on this progress and the processes, so he hopes that there is less hesitancy to provide this critical information. He sees this going out to the state government and other stakeholders.

David Webb noted that it may help to push things along to have Dick, John, or Alison at working group meetings to bring in information and pass information from the working groups onto the Operations and Outreach Unit and the Science Council.

Future Agenda Items

- Social Science Working Group
- Representation on the Science Council

Action Item: Pete Nowak will invite Mike, Steve, and Dave from CCR to the next Science Council Meeting.

[Meeting adjourned 2:50 PM]

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Monday, March 9
- Monday, April 6
- Monday, May 4

APPENDIX

Meeting Agenda

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| 12:00 | 1 – Welcome and Announcements |
| 12:10 | 2 – Approval of Minutes from the November 3 Meeting |
| 12:15 | 3 – Progress on Action Items from Previous Meeting |
| 12:25 | 4 – Announcement of Upcoming WICCI Seminar Series and the Development of WICCI Overview Slide Show for First Seminar and Later Uses |
| 12:35 | 5 – Discussion of February 2 WICCI Advisory Committee Meeting |
| 12:55 | 6 – Discussion of January 12 WICCI Working Group Workshop |
| 1:15 | 7 – Short Break |
| 1:20 | 8 – Updates from Working Groups |
| 1:50 | 9 – Discussion of New Working Groups that are a Priority to Form |
| 2:10 | 10 – Discussion of the Membership of Science Council and the Inclusion of Underrepresented Expertise |
| 2:30 | 11 – Emerging Funding Opportunities (Pete Nowak) |
| 2:45 | 12 – Website and Communications (Steve Pomplun) |
| 2:55 | 13 – Agenda Items for March 9 All-Day Science Council Meeting |
| 3:00 | 14 – Adjourn |