

## WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2009  
DNR Science Operations Center  
12:00 PM

### ATTENDANCE

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#### Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Bud Harris
- George Kraft
- Philip Moy
- Ken Potter

#### Nonmembers

- Bill Bland
- Alison Coulson
- Avery Dorland (in place of Darrell Zastrow)
- Kevin Gibbons
- Lewis Gilbert
- David Liebl
- Pete Nowak
- Steve Pomplun
- Jack Sullivan
- David Webb

### ABSENT MEMBERS

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- Sharon Dunwoody
- Chris Kucharik
- John Kutzbach
- Sandra McLellan
- Jonathan Patz
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker
- Darrell Zastrow (sent Avery Dorland)

### SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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- Steve Pomplun will draft a fact sheet on the changing climate to discuss with John Magnuson.
- John Magnuson and Pete Nowak will send a memo to all working group chairs asking them to send out a ranked list of climate variables important to their groups to the climate working group.
- Alison Coulson will talk with Tim Asplund about involving social scientists into the Water Resources Working Group.

- Pete Nowak will work on a draft of the Advisory Committee agenda and will prepare to discuss the content of the meeting on May 4.
- Kevin Gibbons will send out the link to the member resources page to Science Council members and working group chairs.
- Alison Coulson will send an e-mail to the Science Council and working group chairs requesting that they send information about talks they have given and will be giving, as well as requesting copies of their presentations.
- Bud Harris will work with Pete Nowak and Steve Pomplun to e-mail the Climate Working Group to request that one of the members attend the conference the Green Bay Working Group has been planning for the summer.
- Kevin Gibbons will forward Philip Moy the copies of other working group charters.
- Pete Nowak will work on and distribute a new draft of the Policy for Election of WICCI Co-Chairs.
- Kevin Gibbons will send out an online calendar poll to Science Council members to schedule two meetings for the summer.
- Pete Nowak will draft language that will discuss how Science Council members can rotate in and out and minimum attendance requirements can be established.

## **MINUTES**

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[12:05] Meeting called to order by Dick Lathrop.

### ***Introductions and Approval of Minutes***

Everyone introduced themselves to the guests.

Dick Lathrop welcomed the working group participation in the Science Council and encouraged further involvement.

John noted that there should be standard answers to climate change skeptics on the website. Some place to refer people to the answers to the typical questions that some people can get.

***Action Item: Steve Pomplun will draft a fact sheet on the changing climate to discuss with John Magnuson.***

John Magnuson also suggested that WICCI scientists talk to local media to discuss climate change because local practitioners have requested their involvement.

Dave Liebl noted that UW-Extension sends out a monthly update to agents, and information like this could be made available through that avenue.

Jack Sullivan discussed an invitation that he received to attend a conference regarding Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat and climate change adaptation. He suggested that people from WICCI go, especially from the Coastal Fish and Fisheries and Wildlife Working Groups.

Minutes with revisions were approved unanimously.

## ***Soil Conservation Working Group***

Bill Bland introduced himself. He is a faculty member of the UW-Madison Department of Soil Science and an affiliate of the Nelson Institute. He will be Chair of the Department of Soil Science next year.

Bill Bland distributed a draft of the proposal for the Soil Conservation Working Group. Bill introduced a brief history of various problems related to soil erosion and agriculture within Wisconsin. Changes in agricultural practices have been causing more soil erosion. There is a good understanding of the changing hydroclimate and soil conservation practices. He said the group would investigate various systems and investigate how resources could be allocated most effectively in terms of cost and success.

He mentioned different members who could be involved in the group. He said that resources from the Department of Soil Science could be allocated to the group. He also noted that he thinks that focusing the working group specifically on soil conservation would be more useful than expanding the scope.

Dick Lathrop noted that an Agriculture Working Group has been identified as a priority of the Science Council and the Advisory Committee, so he asked what the Soil Conservation Working Group would offer that the Agriculture Working Group could not. Bill Bland noted that an Agriculture Working Group would be very broad and take into account things from heat stresses on cows to soil moisture levels. He said that a Soils Working Group would also be a larger working group and would take in quite a bit to investigate.

Dick Lathrop asked what issues could be added to the group. George Kraft supported the idea of the Soil Conservation Working Group as it is posed and bounded, rather than expanding the group to be very large and having the important issue stand on the sideline.

Avery Dorland asked whether soils would include forest and other types of soils. He said people in the DNR are interested in soil erosion and severity of forest fires. Bill Bland said that he would be most interested in agronomic systems, but he could look at stream bank erosion. Pete Nowak agreed that the working group as it has been proposed is a good idea because there are so many issues related to climate change in agriculture.

Ken Potter agreed that the scope of the group should be controlled, but he would also like to include impacts of the soil erosion and conservation, which would include hydrological impacts. Bud Harris said that he likes the idea of the group and looks forward to enlisting that expertise for the Green Bay Working Group and for other groups.

John Magnuson noted that he likes the idea of the working group and says that there is no perfect solution to choosing a scope for the group. He said that having people like Bill Bland with expertise who are willing to champion the group is the most important part, and that there will not be competition among the groups, but rather collaboration. Lewis Gilbert agreed with the point that collaboration and synergy will be seen between the groups. He said that the role of the Science Council is to provide a forum for people like Bill Bland to bring proposals of these groups to the table, as well as to identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration that groups may not see.

Dick Lathrop noted that there seems to be unanimous approval of the working group, and he asked Bill Bland to just submit a draft charter.

### ***Progress on Action Items***

All working groups except for the Human Health Working Group have submitted their charters.

Michael Notaro has distributed the list of climate variables.

***Action Item: John Magnuson and Pete Nowak will send a memo to all working group chairs asking them to send out a ranked list of climate variables important to their groups to the climate working group.***

Dick Lathrop and Jack Sullivan said that they have discussed the possibility of having a Water Resources Working Group to different members of the Water Division of DNR. There has been a lot of interest, and Jim Hurley and Tim Asplund are willing to take key roles and are hoping to hold a kickoff meeting in the early summer.

Jack Sullivan noted that he thinks the group submitted a working group charter is the next step. Dick Lathrop noted that the working group would be more of a coordinating working group that would start with some science and then coordinate science from different working groups.

Pete Nowak noted that he thinks that a social component should be added to these working groups and encouraged the Water Resources Working Group to bring in some social sciences. Dick Lathrop said that he likes the idea and asked Alison Coulson to talk with Tim Asplund about involving social scientists into the group.

***Action Item: Alison Coulson with talk with Tim Asplund about involving social scientists into the Water Resources Working Group.***

Dick Lathrop brought up the issue of inviting Advisory Committee members to future Science Council meetings and whether or not people should be actively sought out. John Magnuson noted that the Science Council will probably not be ready until fall to invite a member of the Advisory Committee.

Pete Nowak noted that the agenda for the fall Advisory Committee should involve getting members to interact with the scientists, rather than focusing on introductions and briefing, which was the focus of the first meeting. John Magnuson would like Science Council members to go to the Advisory Committee meeting. Pete Nowak will bring some ideas forward and start a discussion during the May Science Council meeting.

***Action Item: Pete Nowak will work on a draft of the Advisory Committee agenda and will prepare to discuss the content of the meeting on May 4.***

***Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will send out the link to the member resources page to Science Council members and working group chairs.***

## **Updates from Working Groups**

### *Stormwater*

Ken Potter said that he and David Liebl have made some presentations recently. He has also been working on incorporating uncertainty into models using Bayesian methods. His goal is to establish methods that managers can actually use.

He has been looking at the hydrologic data for the state and worries that some of the most recent data have not been incorporated or reviewed. Ken Potter also indicated that the first white paper from the Stormwater Working Group will be completed by the end of the year.

Dick Lathrop noted that Ken Potter and others are making presentations, but people from Outreach and other areas do not know when these events are happening. Steve Pomplun said that he would like information about these presentations and asked how the groups could systematically let Outreach and Operations know when people are speaking, where, to whom, and about what. There could be an online form, or individuals could just be requested to let Outreach and Operations know. Alison Coulson said that she could request the working group chairs to send information about their talks and also the PowerPoint presentations that they have given.

***Action Item: Alison Coulson will send an e-mail to the Science Council and working group chairs requesting that they send information about talks they have given and will be giving, as well as requesting copies of their presentations.***

### *Green Bay*

Bud Harris said that the Green Bay Working Group is planning a conference for the summer that would involve the Nature Conservancy and would like someone from the Climate Working Group to present at the conference.

***Action Item: Bud Harris will work with Pete Nowak and Steve Pomplun to e-mail the Climate Working Group to request that one of the members attend the conference the Green Bay Working Group has been planning for the summer.***

### *Forestry*

Avery Dorland and the other members of the Forestry Working Group have been preparing to gather scientists and stakeholders together for a risk assessment workshop related to the forests of Wisconsin. He has also been working on preparations for Earth Day.

### *Coastal Communities*

Philip Moy distributed the draft charter of the Coastal Communities Working Group and discussed its content.

***Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will forward Philip Moy the copies of other working group charters.***

Philip said that he foresees a lot of collaboration with Green Bay and Milwaukee to coordinate activities.

The charter was approved unanimously.

### *Central Sands Hydrology*

The group is currently made up of Steve Krebs, Chris Kucharik, and George Kraft. George Kraft said that they have met together and approved the charter and will be working on pushing forward with the science.

### *Wildlife*

Jack Sullivan said that the Wildlife Working Group has been working on developing its first white paper and should be able to release it soon.

### ***Election of Science Council Co-Chairs***

Pete Nowak distributed the draft policy and discussed some highlights, which include Science Council nominees and a staggered 3-year rotating terms without term limits. John Magnuson said that he would like to end his term in September 2009, which would mean that Dick Lathrop would finish in March 2011.

John Magnuson started a discussion of the role of the Co-Chairs and the roles people would have in the future. The participants at the table all approved of the co-chair model and the design that the two chairs are from different organizations.

The group discussed term limits, and everyone agreed that a two consecutive term limit would be best.

***Action Item: Pete Nowak will work on and distribute a new draft of the Policy for Election of WICCI Co-Chairs.***

### ***WICCI Annual Report***

Steve Pomplun distributed a draft outline of the annual report and said the he would like the report to be ready for release by July. The language will be more narrative and accessible to a general audience. Steve Pomplun expects the annual report to take WICCI into the next phase of its public profile. He plans to print at least 2,000 for distribution. He anticipates that there will be a great deal of interest in WICCI once this report is distributed.

Ken Potter raised a question regarding the importance of an annual report, rather than just sending people to the website, which can be kept up to date. He noted that the Stormwater group will have a white paper out in the near future, but he will not be able to come up with a summary in time for release in July. Pete Nowak noted that Science Council members agreed in the past that they would like to send out reports to mirror the activities of the IPCC.

Bud Harris said that an annual report at this stage in the development of WICCI is useful. He sees the utility of giving people something that they can hold in their hand. Lewis Gilbert agreed and said that since WICCI has been very prolific recently, it is important that the organization inform a broader audience around the state about WICCI's activities.

Steve Pomplun noted that the website redesign will be important to the goals of public relations, but having the report as a reference for local and state legislators is also quite useful. Philip Moy and John Magnuson agreed; they also noted that the report should not necessarily be released annually since that would be constricting.

Pete Nowak noted that the political function is important, but so is establishing the legitimacy of the organization and distinguishing between mitigation and adaptation.

John Magnuson and others said that they like the outline.

Pete Nowak said that they will send initial drafts for review by Science Council members.

### ***Summer Meeting Schedule***

Members discussed how often they should meet in the summer. Everyone agreed that scheduling two summer meetings would be useful. John Magnuson proposed an early June meeting and an early August meeting (August 3), with late July (July 20) as a backup.

***Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will send out an online calendar poll to Science Council members to schedule two meetings for the summer.***

Jack Sullivan said that he would like recommendations from the Science Council and others of what they would like to see in the white papers.

### ***May 4 Agenda Items***

- Draft outline of the Stormwater Working Group white paper
- Draft outline of the Wildlife Working Group white paper

### ***Filling Science Council Vacancies***

Pete Nowak reviewed the revised policy for selecting Science Council members. Members also discussed the options for member rotation and possible minimum attendance requirements. Ken Potter and others noted that there should be a way to rotate members in and out to make room for new members coming in.

***Action Item: Pete Nowak will draft language that will discuss how Science Council members can rotate in and out and minimum attendance requirements can be established.***

John Magnuson moved that Pete Nowak and Steve Pomplun be allowed to take part in the executive session, and the motion was approved unanimously.

[2:30] Meeting went into executive session.

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

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- Monday, May 4

## APPENDIX

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### *Meeting Agenda*

- 12:00 | 1 – Welcome and Announcements
- 12:10 | 2 – Approval of Minutes from the March 9 Meeting
- 12:15 | 3 – Proposed Soil Erosion Working Group  
– Discuss possibility with Bill Bland
- 12:45 | 4 – Progress on Action Items from Previous Meeting
- **Kevin Gibbons** will contact working groups who have not submitted charters.
  - **Chris Kucharik** will supply a table of the available variables that they can investigate, and **Kevin Gibbons** will circulate that to the working group heads who have not submitted their requests.
  - **All working groups** will send requests of data needs to the Climate Working Group.
  - **Jack Sullivan** will give an update on the engagement with the DNR Water Division and what are the opportunities.
  - **Kevin Gibbons** will send the WICCI logo to Michael Notaro and the rest of the Science Council.
  - **Pete Nowak** will forward a new draft of the proposal for the nomination of new members to the Science Council.
  - **Members** should pose suggestions to bring in Advisory Committee members to the next meeting, but unless they are posed, people will not actively seek them out.
  - **Kevin Gibbons** will set up a closed access page on the WICCI site to disperse documents and drafts internally.
- 1:00 | 5 – Updates from Working Groups
- 1:15 | 6 – Rotation of Science Council Chairs and Members  
– Discuss proposed process and possible replacement(s)
- 1:35 | 7 – Short Break
- 1:40 | 8 – WICCI Annual Report  
– Possible topics  
– Audience  
– Format / Organization of the Materials
- 2:05 | 9 – Summer Meeting Schedule  
– The only meeting currently scheduled is the next one on May 4.
- 2:10 | 10 – Agenda Items for May 4
- 2:15 | 11 – Filling Science Council Vacancies  
– Discuss final draft of the proposed process  
– Discuss four proposed candidates (closed session)
- 3:00 | 12 – Adjourn