

WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2009
DNR Science Operations Center
12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Lewis Gilbert
- Bud Harris (via Live Meeting)
- Signe Holtz
- George Kraft
- Chris Kucharik
- Pat Leavenworth
- David Liebl
- Philip Moy (via Live Meeting)
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker
- Darrell Zastrow

Staff and Guests

- Alison Coulson
- Kevin Gibbons
- Olivia LeDee
- Karl Martin
- Pete Nowak
- Steve Pomplun
- Ken Potter
- Jack Sullivan
- David Webb
- Chris Welch

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Sharon Dunwoody
- Barry Johnson
- John Kutzbach
- Jim LaGro
- Kristen Malecki
- Sandra McLellan
- Jonathan Patz

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- Kevin Gibbons will send link to Member Resources Page to the new Science Council members.
- Lewis Gilbert, Ken Potter, and Jack Sullivan will meet with others to discuss the publication review process, define the categories of publications, and present a draft of the new guidelines at the July 20 Science Council meeting.
- Karl Martin will e-mail the Wildlife Working Group questions to Kevin Gibbons, Dick Lathrop, Lewis Gilbert, Ken Potter, and Jack Sullivan.
- Alison Coulson will work with the other members of the Outreach and Operations Unit to form a listserv and decide on which groups of people should be included.
- Pat Leavenworth will send Science Council members an estimate of the economic damages that occurred during the recent floods.
- Steve Pomplun will draft letters of appreciation to Michael Notaro and all of the speakers of the WICCI Seminar Series.
- Bill Walker, Pete Nowak, and Lewis Gilbert will begin to prepare a charter for a working group in the social sciences.

MINUTES

[12:00] Meeting called to order by Dick Lathrop.

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Since there were a few new members and guests, everyone introduced themselves and their backgrounds.

Announcements

Dick Latrop noted that announcements in the future should be forwarded to Kevin Gibbons rather than just being brought forward at the beginning of the meeting.

John Magnuson discussed highlights of the articles that were distributed to the Science Council. He said that there has been quite a bit of activity regarding climate change in Wisconsin and would like such communications to be made more public. He also brought forward the conclusions of a paper that said that it was likely that the mean average global temperature would rise 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. The paper also mentions that adaptation will be an important undertaking.

The other paper, "The Last Experiment," discusses the role of social scientists in discussing climate change and the number of "publics" that should be addressed. John Magnuson mentioned that there should be more social scientists on the table of the Science Council and said that he worries that the severity of these predictions may intimidate the public.

Pete Nowak mentioned the importance of behavioral economics. Bill Walker discussed an article that he read about England and the US in 1940 preparing for a serious war while recovering from the previous war and compared it to the challenges of undertaking climate change reform.

Progress on Action Items

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will send link to Member Resources Page to the new Science Council members.

John Magnuson said that the *BioScience* article that he sent out was important because it details a restoration project that was affected by a climate forecasts.

All May 4 action items have been followed through on.

Discussion of Publications and Peer Review

Pete Nowak discussed the products that may come out from members of the working groups and the Science Council. He reviewed the draft of the bylaws that he developed and the desire to manage the process of publication to both review quality and to avoid making

the process too restrictive. The draft he developed depended on the Co-Chairs to decide if publication drafts needed to be reviewed by the Science Council.

Members asked what the group would do if a product were not approved by the Science Council and wondered if it such a process and potential rejections could offend people or deter them from submitting products. Members stated that the Science Council should consider what kind of products that they have in mind. Lewis Gilbert said that people considering developing publications could first present a concept paper of what they want to produce before writing everything up.

George Kraft said that he and others are developing a white paper about the work that they are doing and asked whether or not such a product should be submitted to the Science Council. Other members discussed potential products and how they could be distributed and posted on the website.

Dick Lathrop read a list of questions the Wildlife Working Group submitted about the nature of working group publications and the process of review. Ken Potter mentioned that there should be consistency and guidelines. Jack Sullivan agreed and noted that DNR requires publications to monitor the progress of WICCI.

Lewis Gilbert suggested that a small group of Science Council members gather to discuss the review process.

Action Item: Lewis Gilbert, Ken Potter, and Jack Sullivan will meet with others to discuss the publication review process, define the categories of publications, and present a draft of the new guidelines at the July 20 Science Council meeting.

Action Item: Karl Martin will e-mail the Wildlife Working Group questions to Kevin Gibbons, Dick Lathrop, Lewis Gilbert, Ken Potter, and Jack Sullivan.

Approval of the Minutes

[12:37] The May 4, 2009 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Funding Partnerships

Lewis Gilbert said that the USGS has been instructed to give information on climate change to interested stakeholders throughout the country. There will be regional science hubs that will likely be based at universities. Wisconsin is in the Midwestern Area of the Eastern Region by the divisions established by USGS. The purpose is to match downscaling of climate data to natural resource (fish and wildlife) management. Lewis feels this is right in line with what WICCI is doing.

Lewis Gilbert also reviewed the potential to apply for a RISA grant through NOAA that funds multi-state partnerships to work on climate change adaptation. He said that they are working on a proposal to partner the state of Wisconsin with Minnesota and Michigan. He

said that the money from this grant, if it is approved, could help support the Science Council, working groups, and other functions of WICCI.

Dan Vimont noted that both opportunities require the bounds of the projects to extend outside of the state. He asked how WICCI, which focuses only on Wisconsin, would fit into these initiatives. Lewis Gilbert agreed and said that it is important to consider how they will take this proposal on.

Karl Martin mentioned that the RFPs for these grants ask for multi-state collaborations, so the Wildlife Working Group is attempting to develop a project that focuses on species that cross boundaries so that their research will be regional. He said that there is a USGS grant pot that totals \$5 million per year for three years. It must focus on downscaling climate models and wildlife vulnerability. He estimated that the final amount used would be \$250,000 per year for an approved project. He said that other people from DNR are also submitting a proposal.

Lewis Gilbert discussed organizing a regional workshop that would help to build regional partnerships towards working closer with USGS. He asked for advice or guidance from Science Council members.

John Magnuson asked about potential partners in Minnesota and Michigan, and Lewis Gilbert identified a few names.

Darrell Zastrow asked how Lewis and others would address the issue of climate change adaptation and WICCI from a regional standpoint. Lewis Gilbert said that he had been thinking of just scaling the model of WICCI, but it seems that this is too complex to do this simply. Darrell Zastrow and Dan Vimont mentioned different ideas for crossing boundaries. Dan Vimont said that he thinks it makes sense to replicate WICCI at different state levels and work to collaborate those organizations. He said that WICCI's focus on policy is a good one and contrasts with other RISA organizations that are focused on top-down climate science.

Dick Lathrop agreed that WICCI should stay **in tact** at the state level while collaborating with others. Pete Nowak agreed with many of the comments made and noted that a supra organization to oversee the activities of WICCI-type organizations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan is a good idea and that representatives from WICCI could help establish corresponding organizations in Michigan and Minnesota. Lewis Gilbert also noted that it is a good idea for working groups, such as Wildlife, to expand their scope to other areas.

Dick Lathrop noted that all of these grants also mention downscaling the models, and WICCI has the advantage of already having these products available.

Darrell Zastrow mentioned that the governors have mentioned climate change recently and that this is a good opportunity to bring this up with them. He also said that expanding research and activities into Canada is also a good idea. Lewis Gilbert agreed and said that

he and Steve Pomplun will review how to bring this up at the meeting of the Midwestern Governors Association.

[1:10] Short Break

Climate WG Presentation of Recent Findings

Dan Vimont presented the recent findings from the downscaled climate data for Wisconsin.

He discussed the methodology, what stage the Climate Working Group is at, where they would like to move forward, and some results of their work.

During his presentation, Dan Vimont fielded questions from Science Council members about their methodology and how the data and results can be accurately presented to the public to help people to understand and understand implications on risk and uncertainty.

Members discussed that some people have been using the “Climate Wizard,” a climate projection program that some scientists are using to understand how the climate will change and plan. Members talked about the importance of these data and that the Climate Wizard projections use only monthly data, rather than daily, and could not be relied upon to model extreme events.

Steve Pomplun said that the Outreach and Operations Unit has been considering how to release the results to the press and the public. He would like to present the recent results and the results of Chris Kucharik’s historical data.

Fall Working Group Workshop

Pete Nowak reviewed his handout of the proposed agenda of the 2nd Annual Working Group Workshop.

Members mentioned that the organization of this meeting could be organized as it was last time, which was to form a small group to review the details. Pete Nowak suggested that the date of the meeting should be before the Advisory Committee so that a presentation could be made at the Advisory Committee meeting.

Members mentioned and agreed that people from different states should be invited to the workshop and be recognized since various regional efforts are being planned.

Ken Potter posed that the agenda as it has been proposed, especially the morning sessions, may not interest all working groups since many of their members have seen a presentation from the Climate Working Group. He suggested having a poster presentation or some other activity to make sure that the information is pertinent and interesting to all attendees.

Advisory Committee Meeting

Pete Nowak discussed the functions of the different bodies within WICCI. The Climate Working Group produces models and results about how the climate is changing. The working groups take that information, analyze it in regards to their scope, and prescribe adaptation strategies. Those strategies are developed with the members of the Advisory Committee and are then developed into policy and released to the public with their input.

Members discussed the draft agenda and said that there should be a discussion on risk and uncertainty, and that the Climate Working Group's methodology should not be stressed.

Lewis Gilbert mentioned that the Advisory Committee should receive information, but it is more important that they give the Science Council and the working groups information and novel perspectives, engaging them as experts, rather than asking them to receive information.

John Magnuson agreed and said that the agenda does not reflect the expressed interests of the Advisory Committee members: agriculture and economics. Members agreed and said that they would like to have presentations on those issues at the Advisory Committee meeting.

Listserv

Alison Coulson mentioned that she was thinking of starting a listserv that would contact people in the Science Council and working group chairs. She said that people could ask questions to different members through that listserv. John Magnuson questioned whether the listserv would send too many e-mails to participants. David Liebl said that as long as e-mails were sent only infrequently and the list was kept small, the traffic could be kept to a minimum.

Pete Nowak mentioned that there should be more communication with the working groups to give direction, input, and coordination to WICCI-related activities.

Action Item: Alison Coulson will work with the other members of the Outreach and Operations Unit to form a listserv and decide on which groups of people should be included.

July 20 Agenda Items

- WICCI Publications and the Review Process (Lewis Gilbert)
- Collaboration with UW-Extension to develop Professional Development Opportunity (David Liebl)
- Progress from the Agriculture Working Group (Chris Kucharik)
- Progress on the Social Science Working Group (Bill Walker, Pete Nowak, and Lewis Gilbert)

- RISA Update (10 minutes) (Lewis Gilbert)

Dan Vimont and other members mentioned that they would like to see progress about the Agriculture Working Group and the Economic or Social Science Working Group. Some would like to see progress on these issues so that the Science Council is seen as taking their suggestions seriously.

John Magnuson mentioned that Dan Anderson from the UW-Madison Business School should become involved. Members also mentioned that it would be a good idea to have an estimate of the economic impacts of the recent flooding.

Action Item: Pat Leavenworth will send Science Council members an estimate of the economic damages that occurred during the recent floods.

Bill Walker said that the terms being thrown around (Economics, Business, Social Science, etc.) should be defined clearly to define further discussions.

Action Item: Bill Walker, Pete Nowak, and Lewis Gilbert will begin to prepare a charter for a working group in the social sciences.

Perspectives from New Members

Pat Leavenworth, Signe Holtz, Lewis Gilbert, and David Liebl expressed appreciation on being involved with WICCI and how important of a project they are undertaking to get climate change information out to the general public.

Action Item: Steve Pomplun will draft letters of appreciation to Michael Notaro and all of the speakers of the WICCI Seminar Series.

Steve Pomplun mentioned that another seminar series is currently being planned for the fall that will stress social impacts and will involve the Advisory Committee.

[2:55] Meeting went into closed session.

Science Council Nomination

Jack Sullivan was nominated to become a member of the Science Council.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Monday, July 20

APPENDIX

Meeting Agenda - June 8, 2009

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| 12:00 | 1 – Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements |
| 12:15 | 2 – Approval of Minutes from the May 4 Meeting |
| 12:20 | 3 – Progress on Action Items from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Gibbons will send a specific e-mail with a link to the member resources page.• Alison Coulson will send members the procedures and links necessary for uploading their presentations.• John Magnuson will forward Erin O'Brien, Tom Bernthal, and the Science Council the article in <i>BioScience</i> that analyzes the effects of climate change on wetland restoration and establishment.• Pete Nowak will develop a draft of the process for vetting working group products. |
| 12:25 | 4 – Discussion of Process for Vetting Working Group Products (Pete Nowak) |
| 12:35 | 5 – Regional Partnerships (Lewis Gilbert) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RISA• USGS Regional Science Hubs |
| 1:05 | 6 – Climate Working Group Discussion of Recent Findings (Dan Vimont) |
| 1:45 | 7 – Break |
| 1:55 | 8 – Discussion of the Proposed Plans for the Fall Working Group Workshop (Steve Pomplun and Pete Nowak) |
| 2:15 | 9 – Discussion of Agenda Items for the September 14 Advisory Committee Meeting (Steve Pomplun and Pete Nowak) |
| 2:35 | 10 – Request for Agenda Items for July 20 Meeting |
| 2:45 | 11 – Closed Session: Vetting Nomination for Science Council Membership |
| 3:00 | 12 – Adjourn |