

WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2009
DNR Science Operations Center
12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Sharon Dunwoody
- Lewis Gilbert
- Bud Harris
- Signe Holtz
- George Kraft
- Chris Kucharik
- John Kutzbach
- David Liebl
- Kristen Malecki
- Sandra McLellan
- Philip Moy
- Jonathan Patz
- Ken Potter
- Jack Sullivan
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker

Staff and Guests

- Tim Asplund
- Alison Coulson
- Avery Dorland
- Kevin Gibbons
- Steve Pomplun
- David Webb

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Barry Johnson
- Jim LaGro
- Pat Leavenworth
- Darrell Zastrow

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- Steve Pomplun will contact the new organization addressing climate change in Wisconsin and see how WICCI could work with them.
- Lewis Gilbert will consult with people with a lawyer and discuss the legal ramifications of releasing climate findings at the next Science Council meeting.
- Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, David Liebl, Chris Kucharik, Sharon Dunwoody, Lewis Gilbert Steve Pomplun, and Pete Nowak will meet with others to come up with an agenda for the Advisory Committee Meeting.
- Dick Lathrop and others will meet to draft an agenda for the September 21 Working Group Workshop.
- Each chair of a working group will send a slide to Dan Vimont that shows vulnerabilities of their sectors and how they relate to climate.

- Kevin Gibbons and Alison Coulson will send out the dates of the Science Council meetings over the next year.
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MINUTES

[12:03] Meeting called to order by Dick Lathrop.

Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Everyone around the table introduced themselves.

Members discussed the new organization working on climate change in Wisconsin.

Jack Sullivan said that he is trying to figure out what mitigation measures are being taken within the DNR.

Action Item: Steve Pomplun will contact the new organization addressing climate change in Wisconsin and see how WICCI could work with them.

Jonathan Patz discussed the idea of having WICCI or WICCI scientists endorse a petition to national Wisconsin representatives to support the climate change bill that is on the floor. John Magnuson and others said that they think the information should be distributed to WICCI members, but that the organization should not take a specific position at this time.

Minutes from the June 8 meeting were approved unanimously.

The Science of WICCI

Sharon Dunwoody discussed the article that she distributed to the group on communication to change behaviors. She discussed how communication studies, psychology, behavioral economics, and other social studies disciplines can help devise and implement heuristic devices to change people's behaviors. She and others have been exploring how media messages about climate change and the volume of those messages are interpreted by people and how those interpretations translate into action. She mentioned an experiment involving hotel towels to highlight how social norms affect people's behaviors.

Social Science Working Group

Bill Walker discussed the possibility of a Social Science Working Group. He said that social science should be taken as seriously as natural science and should have a research agenda. He said that he has drafted a charter, but it still needs to be reviewed and discussed by people who would be a part of the group.

Sharon Dunwoody agreed and said social scientists who are working with WICCI should explore questions related to their disciplines the same way that other working groups are.

Bill Walker listed some questions that he had come up with, and Science Council members discussed them.

Jack Sullivan and Jonathan Patz both agreed that the working group and improving messaging are both important to WICCI.

Rotation of Science Council Chairs

Dick Lathrop said that John Magnuson has agreed to serve for another three-year term, and he called for a vote to approve his second term. His second term was approved unanimously.

Water Resources Working Group

Tim Asplund presented the draft charter of the Water Resources Working Group, which was compiled after a few meetings with the people who would be a part of the group. They have devised the charge of the group to help encourage communication and collaboration among working groups that are working on water issues. He also said that they group could identify gaps in research and monitoring that current working groups are not addressing and looking for funding sources to start these groups. They see the group also helping managers of water resources in the DNR and other places to make decisions on how to issue permits, manage water, build infrastructure, etc.

Kristen Malecki added that clean drinking water and human health should be on the list of critical dependencies of the Water Resources Working Group.

David Liebl mentioned that private sector and municipal sector people should probably be involved in the group so that their message can be spread.

Jonathan Patz said that someone from Kristen Malecki's group could be a part of the working group to add an epidemiological perspective.

The Water Resources Working Group charter was accepted unanimously.

Collaborative Vulnerability Assessment

Avery Dorland presented his proposals for a collaborative vulnerability assessment that would encourage linkages among working groups. He sees the assessment and collaboration as bringing groups together to talk about the starting points for working group assessments and levels of analysis. Working group members would then take those initial ideas and develop discipline or sector-specific science behind those agreed upon details.

Jack Sullivan said that he likes the idea of cross-pollination, and he would like to see groups develop and communicate adaptation strategies within a year.

John Magnuson agreed that there should be some coordination and gave an example of using same or similar probabilistic thresholds (95%, 50%, etc.) to make decisions within working groups.

Avery Dorland asked what role the Science Council and the Nelson Institute should play in having a “working group supergroup” that would encourage collaboration and coordinate working group activities. Dan Vimont said that he sees the Science Council fulfilling this role and said that more working group members should come to Science Council meetings and present. Dick Lathrop said that this topic should be taken up at the Working Group Workshop. Avery Dorland said that he worries that if each working group has to follow the activities of the others that they may not be as effective.

John Kutzbach asked whether Avery Dorland was looking to have an algorithm that all working groups would use and to figure out how risk assessment results would compound one another. Avery Dorland said that those are two things he is looking for.

Dan Vimont mentioned his experience with Sandra McLellan and the Milwaukee Working Group. He said that they were unable to make a risk assessment for the entire area because that scale is not feasible, and he sees that same problem with trying to unify the activities of all of the working groups. Avery Dorland agreed and said that he was thinking of starting with working with a common data set.

Jack Sullivan added that the assessments from different working groups should use the same or similar scenarios so that assessments and disseminated information are consistent.

Members discussed at length what they mean by coordinating the use of models and scenarios.

Dick Lathrop said that this would be a great topic to put on the Working Group Workshop agenda.

Working Group Products

Jack Sullivan discussed the outline for the WICCI Adaptive Assessment that was drafted after researching some assessments that had been done in different states and areas throughout the US. He said that he would like to see WICCI put out a statewide climate change impacts assessment, and he would like for people to discuss what that would look like and how that would be produced.

John Magnuson said that someone from the Climate Working Group should be on the Adaptation Assessment planning.

Lewis Gilbert said that he thinks the audience for the assessment should be decision makers at various levels throughout the state.

Chris Kucharik mentioned a large report that has been put out by the NIPCC which is skeptical to climate change. He said that 46 legislators have subscribed to this report, and that WICCI needs to consider this when producing materials and deciding how and what to communicate.

Tim Asplund posed that the document that WICCI may produce within a year should target climate-change-skeptic legislators specifically.

Kristen Malecki suggested that the initial report should reflect the most up-to-date science, and then other documents and communications would target other audiences based on that initial report of results and conclusions.

Various members discussed who the audience should be for the assessment.

John Magnuson mentioned the book *Poles Apart* about a study in which “alarmists” and “skeptics” were studied and interacted.

Bill Walker mentioned that WICCI is in a sense trying to sell a product. He said that the discussion has centered on who would be interested in the product, but that people should consider what the organization is good at producing (science) and focus on that before moving into policy recommendations.

[2:05] Break

September 14 Advisory Committee Meeting

Dick Lathrop said that there is a tentative agenda, and the meeting will be held in the DATCP Board Room. He asked Chris Kucharik and Dan Vimont if they would be able to present recent findings and the ideas of risk assessment at the meeting.

Dan Vimont said that 1:30 would be too much time for this group, and that there should instead be 45 minutes, including some discussion during and after the presentation.

Jack Sullivan mentioned that he understood that there would be a press release near the time of the Advisory Committee meeting. Lewis Gilbert affirmed that and said that he hopes there would be a larger unveiling of all of WICCI’s activities and recent findings around that time. He would like the historical trends and future projections to be rolled out together and make a statement that WICCI is functioning.

Dan Vimont asked if anyone had talked to lawyers about liability and intellectual property regarding the release of these results. He worries about damages happening to people because of the release of these results.

Action Item: Lewis Gilbert will consult with people with a lawyer and discuss the legal ramifications of releasing climate findings at the next Science Council meeting.

John Magnuson said that he would like the climate group to present and facilitate a discussion for an hour and a half, and he would like people to discuss this issue offline. He would like people to plan that hour and a half and see what that would look like.

Lewis Gilbert noted that people are being convened to give us advice, and he does not see a lot of time in the agenda for advice giving. He would like to know when they will be giving advice and what kind of advice, input, and information we would like them to give.

Many members agreed. Sharon Dunwoody said that there could be a whole set of things that could inform the assessment report that was discussed earlier in the meeting. Dick Lathrop asked Sharon Dunwoody to be involved in the planning of the meeting and the agenda of the Advisory Committee Meeting.

Ken Potter said that in the next year he thinks the WICCI members will be dealing with uncertainty in the data.

John Magnuson mentioned that during the last Advisory Committee Meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the difference between adaptation and mitigation. Members also requested more information about agriculture and dollar assessments of these changes.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, David Liebl, Chris Kucharik, Sharon Dunwoody, Lewis Gilbert Steve Pomplun, and Pete Nowak will meet with others to come up with an agenda for the Advisory Committee Meeting.

Jack Sullivan suggested that the Science Council meet before to have a dry run of the presentation. David Liebl said that a presentation could be made online.

September 21 Working Group Workshop

Dick Lathrop opened the Working Group Workshop up for discussion. He said that there will be a climate change presentation, and he would also like Sharon Dunwoody to make a presentation similar to the one she made earlier in the current meeting.

David Liebl told the Dan Vimont and Chris Kucharik that he would like to talk with them about what information should be presented and how it should be presented at the meeting to incite discussion.

Jack Sullivan said that at least one working group would like more guidance from the Science Council so that scientists can make a concerted message about what they would like Wisconsin to do about adapting to climate change.

John Magnuson said that he would like people to produce a two-page guidance document that would outline how working groups can use the climate data and develop risk assessments from that data.

Lewis Gilbert said that presenters should be ready to encourage the working groups at the next meeting. Kristen Malecki agreed and said that deadlines should be set so that products can be produced in time to compile a comprehensive report. Bill Walker agreed and said that a process for gathering that information should also be identified and communicated. Sharon Dunwoody also agreed and said that there should be some model working groups that could serve as examples for other working groups.

Action Item: Dick Lathrop and others will meet to draft an agenda for the September 21 Working Group Workshop.

NOAA RISA Proposal

Lewis Gilbert said that proposals are being drafted to ask for funds from RISA for the fall. These proposals will reflect what is it that people want to do about climate change adaptation.

Jack Sullivan said that he would like to see a USGS climate science hub set up at UW-Madison. He said that there are a lot of politics behind these decisions, and the Secretary of DNR is trying to advocate for the hub coming to Madison.

Lewis Gilbert listed the partners that he has made in Minnesota and Michigan and discussed how much funding is available and how that would be allocated. He also discussed the scope of the RISA proposal with other members. He sees the grant focusing on the great lakes because that scope is of great interest to funders and neighboring states.

Action Item: Each chair of a working group will send a slide to Dan Vimont that shows vulnerabilities of their sectors and how they relate to climate.

Future Meetings

Dick Lathrop asked if anyone had conflicts with having meetings the first Monday of every month of next year. Attendees said they were mostly available at that time.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons and Alison Coulson will send out the dates of the Science Council meetings over the next year.

[3:01] Meeting adjourned.

APPENDIX

Meeting Agenda - July 20, 2009

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| 12:00 | 1 – Welcome |
| 12:05 | 2 – The Science of WICCI (Sharon Dunwoody)
★ See chapter: “The challenge of trying to make a difference using media messages” (Dunwoody 2007.pdf) |
| 12:15 | 3 – Approval of Minutes from the June 8 Meeting |
| 12:20 | 4 – Progress on Action Items from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
| 12:35 | 5 – Rotation of Science Council Chairs |
| 12:40 | 6 – Water Resources Working Group Request for Approval (Tim Asplund)
★ See Water Resources WG Charter draft01.doc |
| 12:50 | 7 – Collaborative Vulnerability Assessment Proposal (Darrell Zastrow and Avery Dorland) |
| 1:05 | 8 – WICCI Assessment Report/WG Chapter Outlines/Other WG products (Lewis Gilbert, Ken Potter, Jack Sullivan)
★ See WICCI Adaptive Assessment Outline draft01.doc
★ See Questions for the WICCI Science Council 6.8.09.doc |
| 1:45 | 9 – Break |

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| 1:50 | 10 – Discussion of Proposed Plans for the September 14 Advisory Committee Meeting (Steve Pomplun and Pete Nowak) |
| 2:05 | 11 – Discussion of Proposed Plans for the September 21 Working Group Workshop (Steve Pomplun and Pete Nowak) |
| 2:40 | 12 – Updates on RISA/USGS Science Hubs (Lewis Gilbert) |
| 2:55 | 13 – Request for Agenda Items for October Meeting |
| 3:00 | 14 – Adjourn |