82 Science Hall 550 N. Park Street Madison, WI 53706 608.263.3063 wicci.wisc.edu



Special Meeting of the WICCI Science

Tuesday, September 1, 2009 DNR Science Operations Center 1:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Erin Crain (Rep for Signe Holtz)
- Sharon Dunwoody
- Lewis Gilbert
- Chris Kucharik
- John Kutzbach
- David Liebl
- Jack Sullivan
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker

Staff and Guests

- Alison Coulson
- Pete Nowak
- Dave Lorenz
- David Webb

OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL MEETING

- **Dan Vimont** opened by saying a very important aspect of the meeting is to convey the methods they used in developing the climate data, and to ask the Science Council if they indeed support the work. This is critical since there will be a press release September 15 that will include the data from the climate group, and it will have the "WICCI stamp" on it. The other goal of the meeting is to get feedback on how to convey the data and respond to reactions from the public and other organizations.
- Probably the biggest question that will come up will be, "Is the work peer reviewed?" It is not, but most of the methods they used are. Sharon Dunwoody explained that it is important to mention that the work will go through the traditional paths to peer review. This is really just part of the process; most researchers will present findings from work at conferences, have stories written up by science writers, etc. all before completing the path to peer review and publication. It is not abnormal to release findings from a study/project before publication in a peer reviewed journal.
- WeEnergies had raised several questions, including sending Dan Vimont a report on best practices in downscaling climate models. He took their concerns seriously, and read the paper. He responded to them with a point by point email on how the work of the WICCI climate group meets and in many cases exceeds the 'best practices'. He will forward that communication to the Science Council.
- **Chris Kucharik** gave his presentation on past trends in Wisconsin's climate. Members of the Science Council gave him feedback.
- **Dan Vimont** presented the methodology used in the downscaling, as well as several maps and graphs of the output.
- **John Magnuson** made a motion that "The WICCI Science Council supports the group of the WICCI Climate Working Group because it is based on the best available science." This motion was seconded by **David Liebl**. Passed unanimously.