

WICCI Science Council Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2009
DNR Science Operations Center
12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Dick Lathrop (Co-Chair)
- John Magnuson (Co-Chair)
- Lewis Gilbert
- Bud Harris
- Barry Johnson
- Chris Kucharik
- Jim LaGro
- David Liebl
- Philip Moy
- Pete Nowak
- Jonathan Patz
- Ken Potter
- Jack Sullivan
- Dan Vimont
- Bill Walker
- Darrell Zastrow

Staff and Guests

- Alison Coulson
- Kevin Gibbons
- Ben Miller
- Roy Thilly [arrived at 1:25]

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Sharon Dunwoody
- Signe Holtz
- George Kraft
- John Kutzbach
- Pat Leavenworth
- Kristen Malecki
- Sandra McLellan

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

- Steve Pomplun will contact Bob Krumenaker's office to invite them to send staff members to participate in each the Outreach Committee and the Coastal Communities Working Group.
- Dick Lathrop and John Magnuson will e-mail the working group chairs to inform them of when they are scheduled to present.
- Dan Vimont will work with Steve Pomplun to schedule a time at which Don Wuebbles could participate in an AOS colloquium and a Science Council meeting.
- Kevin Gibbons will send out a calendar poll to schedule a January Science Council meeting.

MINUTES

[12:00] Meeting called to order by John Magnuson.

Welcome and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The October 5 minutes were approved unanimously.

Science Council members introduced themselves. Ben Miller introduced himself and began to discuss his role as Associate Dean of the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). He is involved with outreach and political affairs, which would directly relate to WICCI's work. Ben Miller works with agricultural groups and legislators who represent some of the same people WICCI members will be working with in the near future.

Review of Action Items

Don Wuebbles was unable to make the meeting.

Jack Sullivan discussed funding a science writer with people at Sea Grant.

Lewis Gilbert said that Bob Krumenaker from the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is interested in becoming involved in WICCI activities. He said that he will likely send a staff member to become involved with WICCI, and that he will ideally work in outreach activities. Lewis Gilbert said that Bob Krumenaker is also interested in having the park serve as a site for research. Phil Moy said that he would like for a staff member from the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to serve on the Coastal Communities Working Group.

Action Item: Steve Pomplun will contact Bob Krumenaker's office to invite them to send staff members to participate in each the Outreach Committee and the Coastal Communities Working Group.

Agriculture Working Group

Pete Nowak discussed the complexity involved in starting the group. He and Chris Kucharik have agreed to chair the Working Group. He said that he will be deliberate in assuring that the Department of Agronomy and other affiliated organizations receive their due credit for WICCI projects, rather than being seen as a purely Nelson Institute or DNR initiative.

Pete Nowak brought up the changes that are being seen in the growing season. He also mentioned the presence of invasives and how their ranges will be affected in a changing climate.

He said that their plan for the immediate future is to collaborate to produce bi-laws and apply for external funding.

Ben Miller said that he thinks that Wisconsin food systems are very vulnerable and sees the Agriculture Working Group as a great opportunity to begin a conversation.

Ben Miller asked how UW-Extension could become involved in WICCI. David Liebl said that he foresees using UW-Extension extensively in the outreach activities of WICCI.

Ben Miller and others discussed how to engage climate change skeptics. Lewis Gilbert said that the organization should take a stance that WICCI is here to define the risk and be available to people who would like to identify and reduce that risk. John Magnuson noted that WICCI is not involved in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other measures of mitigation.

Dan Vimont noted that the Agriculture Working Group should definitely work with the Governor's Taskforce on Global Warming.

Attendees discussed the risks and vulnerabilities that WICCI could identify for farmers, as well as the methods of various working groups and how they are engaging with stakeholders.

Members noted that it would be important involve people from UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, other UW campuses with major agriculture programs in forming the WICCI Agriculture Working Group.

Dick Lathrop described the Adaptive Assessment Report that WICCI affiliates are currently working on. He noted that everyone has been looking forward to having an Agriculture Working Group, since it is such a crucial interest in Wisconsin. He asked Chris Kucharik if he thought that the working group would be able to contribute to the Adaptive Assessment. Chris Kucharik said that there are articles that have been published, but he has seen a lot of resistance from farmers when he has brought up the issue of climate change. He has been trying to build relationships to push against the perception that he has a hidden agenda. He and Pete Nowak said that they would try to prepare a report for the Adaptive Assessment.

Bill Walker noted that farmers may not be adapting to a changing climate, but they are adapting to the changing federal legislation. Other WICCI members discussed the mentality of farmers and how to engage with stakeholders around their interests to increase profits and yields.

Working Group Status and Schedule

Lewis Gilbert reported on a meeting that he participated in concerning the progress of the working groups and how they could present to the Science Council. He said that there are a few groups that already have white papers, and he discussed how they could be grouped to present on different dates. There would have to be four groups presenting at each of the next Science Council meetings.

Participants discussed how the presentations would flow and how much time should be allocated to each. They also discussed the utility of developing a template for working groups to use in developing their reports.

John Magnuson asked Bud Harris to describe what the Green Bay Working Group will be able to present. Bud Harris said that the group has interesting data to present, but they do not have probability density functions, nor will they be able to discuss adaptation strategies in any great detail.

Adaptation Strategies Working Group

Bill Walker reviewed the meeting that he participated in with Jim LaGro, Lewis Gilbert, and Jack Sullivan.

He said that they came to three main conclusions:

- 1) The group will be more of a service and resource group to the other working groups, much like the Climate Working Group.
- 2) The main product from this group will be a literature review and framework that will identify what adaptation is.
- 3) They will not give individual drafting assistance or consulting visits to each of the other working groups.

He said that they will present to the Science Council and working group chairs, and they will also prepare a chapter for the Adaptive Assessment Report.

Bud Harris said that this kind of thinking and the product that they are discussing would be useful for the Green Bay Working Group's upcoming meeting on developing adaptation strategies.

WICCI members discussed the range of definitions and understandings of adaptation in different communities and different countries. They also discussed how the Adaptation Strategies Working Group will work with other groups.

Assessment Report Committee

John Magnuson noted that after some discussion he and others have come to the realization that there should be a small committee to interact with the science writer, rather than just dropping the working group reports in the lap of the science writer and expecting that person to finish everything.

Members suggested that the following people be a part of that group:

- John Magnuson
- Dick Lathrop
- Steve Pomplun
- Jack Sullivan
- Sharon Dunwoody
- David Liebl

- Alison Coulson

Pete Nowak suggested that the science writer spend time in Science Council meetings, the offices of the Outreach and Operations Unit, and other areas to understand the origins and goals of WICCI.

[1:40] Short Break

Wisconsin Climate Change Action Initiative (WCCAI)

Lewis Gilbert introduced Roy Thilly, whom he met during a meeting at the Governor's Taskforce on Global Warming. He is from the Wisconsin public power industry.

Roy Thilly began by describing the process and resulting recommendations of the Governor's Taskforce. He said that WCCAI came from the discussion of convening a voluntary action working group as part of the taskforce working groups. He said that it is a fledgling organization, but they have identified that the focus will be on individual actions, social marketing, outreach, and education.

He said that the initial activities will likely involve RFPs and partnerships. He also identified board members of the organization. The affiliations of board members range from political positions, to private industry, to NGOs.

He said that the organization has \$5 million of seed money to begin their activities.

Members asked Roy Thilly questions about the activities and scope of WCCAI, as well as opportunities to collaborate with WICCI. Here are some highlights:

- He said that all the currently proposed activities of WCCAI are related to mitigation.
- He noted that this will not be a lobbying organization and will be more involved with individual behaviors, such as marketing and practical tools to reduce carbon footprint.
- Responding to a question related to energy and the crossover between mitigation and adaptation, he said that in his own experience that the power industry does not think a lot about climate change adaptation.
- He stressed market research as a method for how to reach people and change behaviors. Members noted how different that is to the university model of simply educating people and expecting them to change the way that they act.

WICCI Resources

John Magnuson opened the discussion of what is on the WICCI webpage and what resources WICCI members would find useful.

Jonathan Patz suggested that the new website link to many different pages.

Members discussed the content of the adaptation strategies section of the website. They suggested describing the learning element of the organization and describing that the adaptation strategies is a third step in the organization.

Members then discussed the page for sharing resources among members. John Magnuson mentioned the PowerPoint presentation that Dick Lathrop and Alison Coulson developed and uploaded for other members to use for their own talks and presentations.

John Magnuson also noted that he would like to make articles that WICCI scientists have been publishing regarding climate change adaptation in Wisconsin available to download on the website. He also asked what else members would like to see.

Jonathan Patz noted that he would like the About WICCI Overview page to contain information about how many working groups there are, which organizations are affiliated, etc. so that WICCI members can use that information to apply for grants.

Request for Agenda Items

Action Item: Dick Lathrop and John Magnuson will e-mail the working group chairs to inform them of when they are scheduled to present.

Action Item: Dan Vimont will work with Steve Pomplun to schedule a time at which Don Wuebbles could participate in an AOS colloquium and a Science Council meeting.

Members requested that there be a January Science Council meeting, during which working groups could give presentations.

Action Item: Kevin Gibbons will send out a calendar poll to schedule a January Science Council meeting.

[3:00] Meeting adjourned.

APPENDIX

Meeting Agenda – November 2, 2009

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 | 1 – Welcome and Introductions |
| 12:15 | 2 – Announcements and Approval of Minutes from the October 5 Science Council meeting |
| 12:25 | 3 – Progress on Action Items from the October 5 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Magnuson will speak with Don Wuebbles and make sure that he is prepared to discuss topics that are of interest to the Science Council (e.g. precipitation modeling projections).• Jack Sullivan will follow up with Jim Hurley to see if Sea Grant can contribute funds towards paying for a science writer.• Dick Lathrop will add “Developing Adaptation Strategies” as the last item under “Future Efforts” in the table of contents in the outline of the Adaptive Assessment Report. Energy Production will be listed as a Working Group in development.• Kevin Gibbons will follow up with the working groups that have not submitted answers to the discussion questions and give them one additional week to reply.• Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, David Liebl, Jack Sullivan, and Alison Coulson will meet to discuss the working group answers to the discussion questions. During that meeting they will diagnose the status of the working groups, as well as discuss and schedule working group presentations during upcoming Science Council meetings.• Lewis Gilbert, Jack Sullivan, David Liebl, and Steve Pomplun will meet to discuss Bob Krumenaker’s involvement with WICCI.• Lewis Gilbert, Bill Walker, Jim LaGro, and Jack Sullivan will give a presentation about the potential Adaptation Strategies Working Group at the December Science Council meeting.• Dick Lathrop, John Magnuson, Lewis Gilbert, Pete Nowak, Chris Kucharik, and Bill Bland will meet to discuss the prospect of starting an Agriculture Working Group. |
| 12:35 | 4 – Working Group Status and Schedule (Lewis Gilbert) |
| 12:55 | 5 – Adaptation Strategies Working Group Update (Bill Walker) |
| 1:25 | 6 – Assessment Report Committee (John Magnuson) |
| 1:35 | 7 – Break |
| 1:45 | 8 – Wisconsin Climate Change Action Initiative (WCCAI) (Roy Thilly) |
| 2:30 | 9 – WICCI Resources (John Magnuson) |
| 2:55 | 10 – Request for Agenda Items for December Meeting |
| 3:00 | 11 – Adjourn |

Announcements

- The letter from scientists in Wisconsin to the Wisconsin Congressional delegations regarding climate change is still accumulating signatures.
- There are two remaining WICCI Community Environmental Forum lectures scheduled:
 - **November 10** – Decision Making Under Risk
Lauren Azar, Commissioner, Wisconsin Public Service Commission

- Sean Dilweg, Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance
- **November 24** – Working Toward a Positive Future
Matthew Frank, Secretary Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources