

WICCI Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2009

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

12:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Lauren Azar
- Rep. Spencer Black
- Esteban Chiriboga
- Erin Crain
- John Edelblute
- Frank Ericson
- Steve Hiniker
- Linda Hodorff
- Kathy Lipp
- David Michaud (representing Kristine Krause)
- Sen. Mark Miller
- Erin O'Brien
- Gary Radloff
- Keith Reopelle
- Thomas Sear
- Richard Stadelman
- Patricia Trainer
- Curt Witynski
- Joy Zedler
- Ned Zuelsdorff

Staff and Guests

- Joanie Burns
- Richard Cates
- Kathe Crowley Conn
- Alison Coulson
- Lewis Gilbert
- Mary Hamel
- Chris Kucharik
- Richard Lathrop
- David Liebl
- John Magnuson
- Sec. Rod Nilsestuen
- Pete Nowak
- Steve Pomplun
- Jack Sullivan
- Dan Vimont
- William Walker
- David Webb

ABSENT MEMBERS

- Sean Dilweg
- Ken Genskow
- Rob Krieghoff
- Paul Linzmeyer
- Shelly Mayer
- George Meyer
- Robert Rogers
- Tommye Schneider
- Edward Wilusz

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Welcome

Richard Cates, Board Member, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Sec. Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

WICCI News, Progress and Plan

Lewis Gilbert, WICCI Science Council member, and Associate Director of the Nelson Institute, UW-Madison

- Brief review of WICCI's purpose, organizational structure, and how the Advisory Committee fits into the process.
- Discussion of the difference between mitigation and adaptation.
- News
 - 1) WICCI Climate Data about to be released
 - 2) New web site coming soon
 - 3) Newly formed Outreach Committee
- Progress
 - 1) Working Groups updates. New groups: Water Resources, Soil Conservation (Ag lands), Central Sands Hydrology. Groups in the process of forming: Agriculture, Plants and Natural Communities, Social Science (adaptation). The Working Groups will be meeting on September 21 for an all-day workshop.
- Future plans
 - 1) Will produce WICCI's first adaptive assessment report in fall 2010
 - 2) Working toward expanding climate change adaptation efforts to the Upper Great Lakes region through RISA, USGS Hub, etc.

Climate Downscaling: Results and Implications; Q&A

Chris Kucharik, WICCI Science Council, UW-Madison Department of Agronomy and the Nelson Institute Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE)

Dan Vimont, WICCI Science Council, UW-Madison Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences Department and the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research (CCR)

(See recordings of climate presentations given on September 21, 2009 at the Working Group Workshop: <http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/resources.htm>)

Questions:

- What will sequencing be like when it comes to extreme events? For example, a drought followed by a flood will have a very different impact than a flood followed by

a drought. Answer: We need to do additional analysis. We can analyze past sequences under future scenarios.

- How will future climate change affect wind intensity, wind direction, and wind energy generation? Answer: It is possible to use differential temperature to look at wind in the future.
- What do we know about cloud cover in future climate scenarios? Answer: We are beginning to look at this too. The problem is that no one has been measuring levels of solar radiation for more than just a few years.
- How will icing events change in the future? Answer: We expect that there will be more freezing rain here as our average temperatures increase.
- Are there similar efforts going on in other states? Answer: WICCI climate modeling is unique in that they used more models that contribute daily data. We also did statistical downscaling that allows us to make inferences about extreme events.

Questions and Issues for the Science Council and Working Groups to Consider

- Are we going to have more flooding and snowstorms that will close the interstates? Will we need more salt? Plows? Will we need different kinds of pavement due to heat buckling?
- How will wetlands be affected by climate change? How might they be used as part of adaptation strategies? Interested to see more integration of engineered solutions and natural solutions.
- Adaptation and Mitigation: Some members feel the line between the two should be softened and others didn't see the need for a line at all. However, WICCI focuses on adaptation because the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming (and other organizations) is already dealing with mitigation. WICCI is exploring how we should be making decisions while recognizing that the climate is going to change. We shouldn't ignore the mitigation link, but should still remain focused on adaptation.
- There was a sense that municipalities would not get on board with climate change adaptation unless they clearly understood how people would be affected today (or if there were regulations mandating those adaptations). Towns respond to things yearly, and dealing with changes that we'll see in 40 years is unlikely at this point.
- Energy should be a focus of WICCI.
- Many groups will wait until there is a mandate before acting on climate change adaptation. One role of this group could be to focus on policy recommendations for adaptation.
- There is a movement in the transportation industry to start working on adaptation. These groups should be more involved in the conversation.
- There is interest to see the maps of the climate data overlaid with maps of natural areas, wetlands, TNC lands, etc. Then we would know where to focus our efforts.

- WICCI should create a catalogue of other models (policy and ecosystem) that have temperature and precipitation as drivers so that we can see other variables from a future climate perspective. Cataloging those models would allow decision makers and practitioners to look at those models through the lens of climate change in Wisconsin and encourage them to change the way they think about how they do their work.
- There needs to be an economic cost/benefit analysis done on restoring hydrologic processes and managing extreme weather events.
- Are there any working groups looking at low income issues and how certain populations will be affected differently than others? Adaptation strategies will be different for those groups.

Advisory Committee Self Governance Discussion and Decisions

- The Advisory Committee was asked how they would like to continue as a group. Would they elect a chair person? Would they identify holes in the membership? Would they identify term length? Would they set their own agenda? Etc.
- Ultimately the Advisory Committee decided they would not like to self govern, but that they would like to continue as they have been; serving as a sounding board and giving feedback and suggestions to the Science Council and Working Groups.
- The group would like more time to have discussion amongst its members at future meetings. They would like to learn about how the represented organizations and agencies are discussing climate change and adaptation.

Adjourn