



Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science (ACCCNRS) Teleconference Summary

March 30, 2015

The Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science (ACCCNRS or the Committee) met via teleconference on March 30, 2015 to resolve remaining substantive issues with the text of the ACCCNRS Report and to formally approve the final draft of the report. Following is a summary of the discussion and teleconference outcomes. A participant list is provided in Appendix A.

Opening Remarks

Robin O'Malley, Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, NCCWSC and ACCCNRS DFO, officially opened the meeting. Tim Mealey, Senior Partner, Meridian Institute, reviewed the agenda for the teleconference. David Behar, Climate Program Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and ACCCNRS Co-Chair and Sarah Ryker, Deputy Associate Director for Climate & Land Use Change and ACCCNRS Co-Chair, welcomed the ACCCNRS members and members of the public in attendance. The Co-Chairs also thanked and commended the ACCCNRS members for their work in developing the ACCCNRS Report.

Approval of the ACCCNRS Report

Jennifer Pratt Miles, Senior Mediator, Meridian Institute, reviewed the history of the iterations and process behind developing the final draft of the ACCCNRS Report since the September 2014 Committee meeting. Jennifer then explained the eight editorial and substantive revisions suggested by Committee members and reflected in the final draft of the report. She also explained how those revisions have been resolved via e-mail and phone communications between members. These eight revisions are listed below, with proposed deletions shown in strikethrough and proposed additions shown in blue font. The page and line number references correlate with the final draft of the report, dated March 16, 2015.

List of Final Changes Proposed by Committee Members:

1. P. 6, line 3: Delete the word “establishment” from the statement: The Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science (ACCCNRS or the Committee) advises the Secretary of the Interior on the ~~establishment~~, operations, and partnerships of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) and Climate Science Centers (CSCs). (Paul Beier)

2. P. 6, lines 29-30: Replace the word “importance” with the word “co-production” in the following statement: In this report, the Committee offers nine recommendations regarding the ~~importance~~ **eco-production** of actionable science, encouraging coordination and collaboration within DOI and with partners, engaging tribal and indigenous peoples, and program evaluation. (Paul Beier)
3. P. 8, line 2: Add the following footnote to the phrase “traditional knowledge”: **While this report expressly addresses traditional knowledges held by tribal and indigenous peoples (See Section IV), it is acknowledged that** the insights, innovations and practices of individuals around the world gained through on-the-ground experience can also contribute to the development of climate adaptation strategies and measures. (Lara Hansen)
4. P.13, line 24: Delete the phrase “as implied in the definition” from the following sentence: Although it is theoretically possible for actionable science to be produced by scientists working alone, ~~as implied in the definition,~~ co-production is a more reliable route to developing decision-relevant information for addressing complex societal problems such as adapting to and managing the risks of climate change. (Paul Beier)
5. P. 14-15, lines 38-1: Add “natural resource managers and decision makers from” to the following sentence: Recommended practices outlined in the guide provide mechanisms to engage **natural resource managers and decision makers from** states, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the process of defining science priorities and producing actionable science. (David Behar)
6. P. 17, line 15: Add “their” to “tribes and partners” in the following sentence to clarify that this paragraph is about tribes: Even though there are many entities that provide science and other services related to improving the ability of tribes and **their** partners to incorporate climate risks into their resource management efforts, the Committee believes demand far exceeds the capacity of the NCCWSC and CSCs. The Committee commends the Secretary’s recent decision to create and fund tribal liaison positions to support increased tribal engagement in CSC activities and provide a means to better address matters that may not align closely with USGS funding constraints related to fish, wildlife, and ecosystems. (David Behar)
7. P. 23, lines 8-11: Add the phrase “ensure that their science strategies and contributions to the DOI strategy reflect input from stakeholders and enhance coordination with other bureaus through consultation and the” to the following statement in Recommendation #6, Recommended Practice 2: DOI bureaus should **ensure that their science strategies and contributions to the DOI strategy reflect input from stakeholders and enhance coordination with other bureaus through**

consultation and the sharing and reviewing of annual and five-year science plans.
(Lara Hansen)

8. P. 27-28 and P. 85-88: Additions to CSC Program Evaluation Framework and Appendix (Lara Hansen)
 - a. P. 27, line 40 & P. 85-86: In the Actionable Science category, add the word “Efficacy” to subcategory “2.5 Impact and Efficacy”, and the following associated evaluation metric in the table in Appendix VIII. Program Evaluation Measures for CSCs: **Number and description of high consequence decision/processes influenced by specific products and services**
 - b. P. 28, line 7 & P. 87: In the Capacity Building category, insert: “3.3 Impact and efficacy” as an additional subcategory, and the following associated evaluation measure, question, and metric in the table in Appendix VIII. Program Evaluation Measures for CSCs:
 - Measure: **Effectiveness of capacity building**
 - Evaluation question: **Is capacity building resulting in people and organizations using the knowledge to change practices or otherwise make a difference in planning or management outcomes?**
 - Metric: **Documented changes in practices among trained people or organization**
 - c. P. 28, line 14 & P. 88: In the Partnerships category, insert: “4.3 Outcomes” as an additional subcategory and the following associated evaluation measure, question, and metric in the table in Appendix VIII. Program Evaluation Measures for CSCs:
 - Measure: **Partnership outcomes**
 - Evaluation question: **Are partnerships yielding desired outcomes?**
 - Metric: **Assessment of expected/desired outcomes from specific partnerships with actual results**

After reviewing these items, Ms. Pratt Miles asked if Committee members had any questions or concerns about these eight revisions. Committee members did not raise any questions or concerns with these eight items. However, a Committee member raised a concern that the wording in Recommended Practice #4 under Recommendation #4 could be interpreted to recommend regional coordination between only the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) programs, the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regional Climate Hubs, and the NCCWSC/CSC programs. The Committee member suggested that the text be slightly revised such that it is clear in the text that the Committee recommends regional coordination with relevant efforts, inclusive of those outside these particular programs listed. As an example of another potential entity that the NCCWSC-CSC enterprise could coordinate with regionally, the member referenced the regional interagency workgroups that will be convened by the Environmental Protection Agency and General Services Administration Regional offices with other agencies, as required under Section 10 in

the recently released [Executive Order—Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade](#). The Committee agreed to revise the text in Recommended Practice #4 under Recommendation #4 to include “and other relevant, regional entities,” such that it reads as follows: *At regional and national scales, the NCCWSC, with involvement from the CSC network, should participate in existing working groups and establish regional working groups that bring together program managers of the NOAA Climate Program Office and RISAs, the LCC Network, USDA Regional Climate Hubs, NCCWSC/CSC programs, and other relevant, regional entities, to promote coordination on projects, funding, stakeholder engagement, and priorities for actionable science.*

Committee Co-Chair Sarah Ryker then asked if there were any objections to the text in the final draft ACCCNRS Report. With no objections and a Committee quorum, the ACCCNRS formally approved the report. NCCWSC staff explained that the Committee Co-Chairs will submit the ACCCNRS Report, along with a transmittal memo, to Department of the Interior Secretary Jewell on behalf of the Committee. The final report will also be posted online.

Appendix A | Teleconference Participant List

March 30, 2015 – ACCCNRS Teleconference

ACCCNRS Members and Alternates

David Behar, Co-chair, Climate Program Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission/Water Utility Climate Alliance

Paul Beier, Regents' Professor, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, and Past President, Society for Conservation Biology, Society for Conservation Biology, Member

Ann Marie Chischilly, Executive Director, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and Northern Arizona University, Member

Cliff Duke, Director of Science Programs, Ecological Society of America, Member

Peter Frumhoff, Director of Science and Policy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Member

Kimberly Hall, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Michigan State University, Member

Lara Hansen, Founder, Chief Scientist, and Executive Director, EcoAdapt, Member

Lynn Helbrecht, Climate Change Coordinator, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Member

Larry Irwin, NCASI Fellow, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc., Member

Rick Johnson, Manager, Corporate Environmental Operations, Environmental Strategy & Policy Entergy, Inc., Alternate

Olivia LeDee, Policy and Planning, Division of Fish & Wildlife, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Member (pending DOI confirmation)

Richard Merrick, Chief Science Advisor, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Member

Berrien Moore, Vice President, Weather and Climate and Director, National Weather Center, University of Oklahoma, Member

Jeffrey Peterson, Senior Advisor, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Member

Bill Reeves, Chief of Biodiversity, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Alternate

Sarah Ryker, Co-Chair, Deputy Associate Director for Climate and Land Use Change, U.S. Geological Survey, Member

Alessandra Score, Lead Scientist, EcoAdapt, Alternate

Bradley Udall, Senior Water and Climate Research Scientist/Scholar, Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University, Member

Paul Wagner, Senior Environmental Scientist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alternate

Ben Wigley, Vice President, Forestry Programs, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc., Alternate

Jeffrey Williams, Manager, Climate Consulting, Entergy, Inc., Member

National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center

Emily Fort, Data and Information Manager, NCCWSC

Robin O'Malley, Policy and Partnership Coordinator, NCCWSC

Lisa Lacivita, Research Associate, NCCWSC

Meridian Staff

Rianne BeCraft, Project Associate, Meridian Institute

Jean Connaughton, Project Coordinator, Meridian Institute

Tim Mealey, Senior Partner, Meridian Institute

Jennifer Pratt Miles, Senior Mediator, Meridian Institute