

NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TELEPHONE MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2012

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012 – NCADAC MEETING

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Dr. Jerry Melillo, Marine Biological Laboratory and NCADAC Chair

Jerry Melillo welcomed the participants to the NCADAC meeting. Minutes from the 10 April 2012 and the 14-15 June 2012 NCADAC meetings were brought forward for comments or corrections. No comments or corrections were noted, and the minutes from both meetings were accepted as written. Jerry Melillo requested that Kathy Jacobs and Anne Waple be allowed to speak during the NCADAC meeting, and there were no objections.

NCADAC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Terese (T.C.) Richmond, Van Ness Feldman GordonDerr and NCA Co-Chair

T.C. Richmond described the process undertaken by the Co-Chairs and Executive Secretariat to clarify what consensus means for the NCADAC, and presented 3 documents. The first document provided background on the consensus decision-making process for the NCADAC and was not presented for NCADAC approval. The background document describes that consensus makes sense for the NCA report because the process fosters discussion, and because the NCADAC wants all members to participate to develop a unified decision. Any member who might block consensus needs to provide reasons and a proposal for reaching consensus. The process also includes the option to allow a minority view, as a last resort, to be recorded in the minutes or made part of a final document.

The second document, the consensus decision-making document, describes the specifics of the consensus process to be used by NCADAC. Decisions will be made when a quorum, defined as at least one more than half of the voting members, is present in person or on the phone. All members including ex-officio members can participate in the discussion to reach consensus, though ex-officio members will not be permitted to participate in the consensus decision. As a last resort if consensus cannot be reached, a minority view may be included in minutes or products.

The third document focuses on defining the roles and responsibilities of NCADAC members, authors, and review editors. It includes language from the NCADAC charter. NCADAC members are not responsible for specific scientific findings outside of their area of expertise, but are responsible for ensuring that they are comfortable with the process by which NCADAC products are developed.

Discussion

There was a discussion about the documents and several suggestions were made for edits, including removing language about NCADAC members being “ultimately responsible” for report content. There was a question about the possibility of NCADAC liability. Cynthia Decker, the NOAA Designated Federal Official, explained that members of federal advisory committees such as NCADAC have not been personally sued for giving advice to the government as chartered (These comments were the extent of the assurance given). NCADAC products are submitted to the government and become the property of the government, and NOAA legal council said at the first NCADAC meeting that any legal actions would pertain only to the government’s adoption of the advice, not to the advisory committee’s delivery of solicited advice.

There was a request that the NCA strategic plan be sent to the NCADAC.

Decision

T.C. Richmond agreed to incorporate suggested edits clarifying ultimate responsibility for the NCA content, and will make the revisions to the documents. Jerry Melillo established that a quorum (as defined) was present. T.C. Richmond requested consensus approval of the Roles and Responsibilities document. No- one indicated that they were unable to support the proposal, and the document was approved by consensus.

T.C. Richmond asked whether anyone was unable to support the proposed Consensus Decision-making document. A question was asked whether minority views would be identified with an individual, and it was agreed that a change would be made to the document to provide that minority views would be attributed. There were no further comments, and the document was approved by consensus.

SUSTAINED ASSESSMENT AND PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF SPECIAL TOPICS

*Kathy Jacobs, Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Climate Assessment Director
Dr. John Hall, Department of Defense and NCADAC Federal Ex Officio Member*

Kathy Jacobs described the document “Proposal for Selecting Future NCA Report Topics.” The proposal is a step towards identifying future assessment activities within the sustained effort. The proposal was developed through conversations with the INCA workgroup, the USGCRP Principals, a subcommittee, and input from the NRC. It includes the rationale behind the sustained assessment process and the criteria and rationale for selection of topics. The sustained assessment process may produce several types of products, described in the proposal, with different types of authors and varying levels of review. The process to select topics will be initiated by INCA and include iteration with the USGCRP principals and the NCADAC.

The proposal includes an initial list of foundational and special topics that has been vetted by INCA and several groups, but this is the first time the full NCADAC has reviewed the proposal. Kathy Jacobs stated that there is a need to decide on several topics to move forward so the scoping process can begin.

Kathy requested comments on the process and topics, and selection of topics to move forward in the near term.

Discussion

NCADAC members noted that the document should be explicit that NCADAC members can suggest topics for special reports. There was discussion that the list of criteria for selecting topics is fairly extensive, but that it is necessary not to have the criteria be too restrictive since they will be used in multiple contexts (e.g., foundational activities, special topics, and by the NCADAC as well as USGCRP). The full set of criteria does not need to be met for every topic individually; subsets of the criteria might be emphasized in different years or for different purposes.

NCADAC members liked that the process allows ideas to be submitted from a variety of sources including the private sector, and that this approach gives agencies a longer-term planning horizon to plan their support for these efforts. NCADAC would like to add language to emphasize the ability to engage non-federal partners in development of special topics and products.

There was a suggestion to include an additional foundational topic under the Scenarios heading regarding development of a framework for evaluating models and their ability to inform decision-making. Regional models and downscaling are needed by end users, but there are no metrics to evaluate their applicability or usability. There was also a suggestion to include the methodological issues of scenario development in the scoping process, and to focus on development of regional sea level rise scenarios. The addition of a special topic report on drought was recommended; several other suggestions were made for special topics, including one on the Ohio River watershed. Kathy Jacobs noted that there can be additional consideration of the special topics ideas, and that these topics aren't final until after the scoping phase when a decision on a path forward can be made.

Decision

With the suggested additions to the foundational topics brought forward in the discussion, NCADAC approved the approach described in the document by consensus and agreed to move forward into the scoping process with the topics listed. Additional discussion on these and other topics can continue.

REVIEW OF NRC MEETING

Dr. Gary Yohe, Wesleyan University and NCA Co-Chair

Kathy Jacobs, Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Climate Assessment Director

Gary Yohe referenced the notes from the NRC meeting held at the end of July, which were distributed to the NCADAC members and posted on the NCADAC site. The NRC panel was engaged in a discussion of a series of questions related to the development of the 2013 report and the sustained assessment process. One topic that was discussed at some length by the panel was the use of illustrative “stories” or case studies in the 2013 NCA report. The committee may request a background webinar before the

FINAL

draft is released, and is looking forward to beginning their review as soon as possible when the draft is released.

There was a request to send a list of NRC Assessment panel members to the NCADAC.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Kandis Wyatt, NOAA

No one requested to make a comment, so the public comment period was closed and the meeting continued.

CLOSING AND SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Dr. Jerry Melillo, Marine Biological Laboratory and NCADAC Chair

Jerry Melillo discussed the schedule for NCADAC activities in the next few months.

- 1) In September, a series of informational webinars for NCADAC members will be scheduled on September 11-17. The webinars will be followed by an Executive Secretariat/Report Integration Team phone meeting to review the comments and the draft.
- 2) A second set of informational webinars will be held October 2-8, followed by another ES/RIT meeting, and at least one additional set of webinars and perhaps additional meetings in Nov to make sure all necessary changes have been made.
- 3) The ES will meet in DC November 13th, and the full NCADAC will meet November 14-15 to approve the draft report for release.

Jerry Melillo stated that during the ES meeting this week, the ES realized that the full report might not be available for NCADAC review on September 1. We may have to have half of the chapters available for review in early September, and address the remaining chapters in the October webinars. NCADAC will get the chapters to review with complete text, but the graphics and traceable accounts might not be finalized.

No further issues were brought forward, and the meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

APPENDIX A: ATTENDEES

Non-Federal Members in attendance

Name	Affiliation
Daniel Abbasi	GameChange Capital, LLC
Virginia (Ginger) Armbrust	University of Washington
Timothy (Bull) Bennett	Kiksapa Consulting, LLC
Maria Blair	American Cancer Society
James (Jim) Buizer	University of Arizona
Lynne Carter	Louisiana State University
F. Stuart (Terry) Chapin	University of Alaska
Camille Coley	Florida Atlantic University
Jan Dell	CH2MHill
Paul Fleming	Seattle Public Utilities
David Gustafson	Monsanto Company
David Hales	Second Nature
Sharon Hays	CSC
Mark Howden	CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship
Anthony Janetos	Joint Global Change Research Inst., University of Maryland
Jo-Ann Leong	University of Hawaii
Diana Liverman	University of Arizona
Rezaul Mahmood	Western Kentucky University
Michael McGeehin	RTI International
Jerry Melillo	Marine Biological Laboratory
Susanne Moser	Susanne Moser Research & Consulting and Stanford University
Marie O'Neill	University of Michigan
Jayantha Obeysekera	South Florida Water Management District
Lindene Patton	Zurich Financial Services
John Posey	East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Sara Pryor	Indiana University
Terese (T.C.) Richmond	Van Ness Feldman GordonDerr
Don Wuebbles	University of Illinois
Gary Yohe	Wesleyan University

Federal Members in attendance

Name	Affiliation
Virginia Burkett	U.S. Department of the Interior
John Hall	Department of Defense
Alice Hill	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Leonard Hirsch	Smithsonian Institution
Pat Jacobberger-Jellison	NASA
Thomas Karl	NOAA/Subcommittee on Global Change Research
Linda Lawson	U.S. Department of Transportation
George Luber	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Andy Miller	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Margaret Walsh	U.S. Department of Agriculture

USGCRP, NOAA, and NCA Staff in attendance

Name	Affiliation
Susan Aragon-Long	USGCRP (USGS)
Emily Cloyd	USGCRP
Cynthia Decker	NOAA
Bill Emanuel	USGCRP (PNNL)
Matt Erickson	USGCRP
Wyatt Freeman	USGCRP
Bryce Golden-Chen	USGCRP
Kathy Jacobs	USGCRP (OSTP)
Fred Lipschultz	USGCRP (NASA)
Glynis Lough	USGCRP
Rebecca Martin	USGCRP
Anne Waple	NOAA
Kandis Wyatt	NOAA

Other attendees

Name	Affiliation
Daniel Glick	CICS-NC
Susan Hassol	Climate Communications
Missy Stults	University of Michigan