

**NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013**

**TELEPHONE MEETING, 3PM – 5PM EDT**

**WELCOME**

*Dr. Jerry Melillo, Marine Biological Laboratory and NCADAC Chair*

*Dr. Kandis Wyatt, NOAA NESDIS, Designated Federal Official (Alternate)*

Jerry Melillo welcomed the NCADAC. Attendance was taken and the presence of a quorum was confirmed. Minutes from the November 2012 and January 2013 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. Kandis Wyatt stated that the package for renewal of the NCADAC charter had been delivered on schedule to the Department of Commerce. Jerry Melillo made a request that Ken Kunkel and other NCA staff be allowed to participate in the discussions of the committee as necessary. This request was approved by consensus.

**PROPOSAL FOR WORKING GROUPS**

*Ms. T.C. Richmond, Van Ness Feldman GordonDerr and NCADAC Vice Chair*

T.C. Richmond described the proposal regarding working groups. First, there are currently three NCADAC working groups on Sustained Assessment – the Sustained Assessment Working Group (SA WG), the Sustained Assessment Chapter team, and the Sustained Assessment Special Report Working Group. The proposal is to sunset the inactive SA WG. The SA WG had previously been assigned the evaluation component of the sustained assessment process; NCADAC can revisit the evaluation component following recommendations from the Sustained Assessment Special Report.

Second, the proposal is to delay establishment of three previously approved working groups (Regional, Sectoral, and Mitigation/Adaptation/Decision Support) until completion of the Sustained Assessment Special Report.

Decision

The NCADAC approved by consensus the sunseting of the Sustained Assessment Working Group (SA WG). The NCADAC also approved a delay in establishing the Regional, Sectoral, and Mitigation/Adaptation/Decision Support Working Groups

**PROPOSAL FOR NCA REPORT TIMELINE**

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

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Kathy Jacobs reviewed the timeline for finalization of the Third NCA Report, as approved by NCADAC at the November 2012 meeting and edited for clarity at the January 2013 meeting. Several additional clarifications were recommended to the timeline to better describe the process. First, the short time available to produce a revised draft between the July NCADAC meeting and the August NRC review period will not be enough to allow the revised version to go back to the NCADAC for approval. Therefore, there will be a request at the July meeting for the NCADAC to delegate authority to the Executive Secretariat to produce and approve the revised draft. The revised draft will include the decisions the NCADAC agrees on at July meeting, and NCADAC will be able to view the revised draft and the changes that have been made.

The second timeline change involved, in late July, a briefing for CENRS (Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability) to discuss the agency review process and review opportunities. In August, the revised draft report and the Highlights document will be available to the agencies to review through their NCADAC ex-officio members. NRC will also review the revised draft in August, to evaluate the responsiveness to their first review. The final change to the timeline is that, at the end of September, there will again be a NCADAC meeting and a request for authority to be given to the Executive Secretariat to create the Government Review Draft by late October.

### Discussion

The September/October meeting may be face-to-face because it will be the NCADAC's last chance to make sure that all changes have been completed. A scheduling poll will be sent soon to find dates for the in-person meeting in September/October.

### Decision

The clarifications to the timeline were approved by consensus.

## **HIGH LEVEL COMMENTS AND PROPOSED RESPONSES ON DRAFT THIRD NCA**

*Ms. Kathy Jacobs, Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Climate Assessment Director  
Dr. Jerry Melillo, Marine Biological Laboratory and NCADAC Chair*

Kathy Jacobs reviewed major comments received on the draft report. The first major category of comments, including from the NRC, focused on framing the issues in the report and clearly describing what is and is not part of the report. There were a number of NRC comments about the need to make information more useful for decision-makers, clarify the discussion of climate in the context of global change), and be more explicit about the relationships between human and natural systems. Other framing comments included the need to explain the multi-stress context more clearly; to explain extremes vs. trends to help people understand how we see variability and trends at the same time; and to include more on risk-based framing, international context, national security, and the NCA's approach to uncertainty. These framing comments are being addressed by adding some "roadmap" to the beginning about the report and how to use it. In addition, the interactive web style will help people to discover descriptions and related content across the report.

The second category of major comments focused on the Climate Science chapter and science across the report. Comments stated that for precipitation projections, particularly in a regional context, the report should be clearer about the certainty and uncertainty of the projections. For regional downscaling, the report should be clearer about both the benefits and the capacity of regional downscaling and reasons

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to be cautious in use of downscaling. Additional discussion of uncertainty in projections and application of downscaling will be added to the chapter. At the intersection of variability and trends, the last 10 years of temperature data have not seen an increase, so the chapter will explain mechanistically why this observation is consistent with the scientific understanding. The chapter will add a box with discussion of climate sensitivity and how the climate system responds to changes in carbon dioxide. The report also needs to be consistent in the number of significant figures that are used throughout, but also avoid problems that could be caused by rounding.

The revised report will be more explicit about the choice of base periods. With all the historical time series and trends in the report, 1901-1960 is used as the base period because there was an inflection point in the forcing in the 1960s. 1971-2000 is used for future projections because it is consistent with readers' human experience and memory of the recent past, so it gives a good frame for understanding projected changes.

The report will also be clearer about the extent to which uncertainty for decision-makers has been systematically included throughout the report. The Executive Summary will try to more clearly articulate the timing of impacts, including where possible projections of how much change will be in the near term versus the next 100 years. As changes are made in the Climate Science chapter, authors and staff are trying to map across the chapters to ensure consistency across the report.

The third category of major comments concerned gaps in the report. This category of comments include many from the NRC, particularly on the Decision Support, Mitigation, Adaptation, and Research Agenda chapters. In response to these comments, the national security context will be described in the Executive Summary; the Decision Support chapter will include more examples to make it useful to decision makers; Research Agenda will be revised to include more prioritization; Mitigation will add discussion of emission pathways, international context, driving factors behind emissions trends, the energy efficiency gap, and the opportunities with new energy sources. In addition, the Adaptation and Mitigation chapters will be revised to include more of the synergies between adaptation and mitigation planning.

The final major area of comments suggested a need to elevate tribal, indigenous, and native impacts in the Report Findings. Comments stated that the unique vulnerabilities of these populations to climate change, due to factors including their great geographical diversity, ties to place, and legal standing as governments (consistent with the Chapter 12), should be more clearly emphasized in the Executive Summary. After significant discussion among the NCADAC members, Jerry Melillo suggested that an additional Report Finding will be drafted for discussion at the July meeting, and that Report Finding 4 will be edited for balance. Adding a Report Finding is not taken lightly, but the addition will be considered in order to be responsive. The NCADAC can decide in July whether the response is appropriate.

Kathy Jacobs reminded the group that every single comment received is being responded to in writing, not only the categories discussed here. Review editors will review the adequacy of responses to comments, and the final set of responses will be available next spring when the report is finalized. Commenters are anonymous during the revisions, but their identities will be public with their comments next spring.

## UPDATE ON SPECIAL REPORT

*Ms. Kathy Jacobs, Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Climate Assessment Director  
Dr. James Buizer, NCADAC member and Executive Committee member*

Kathy Jacobs described the status of the work of the Sustained Assessment Special Report Working Group (SASRWG). There are 3 CLAs, 6 authors, and a Federal Liaison. The group has put enormous effort into creating a document that will provide advice to the government on how to conduct a sustained assessment process, as chartered to the NCADAC. The sustained assessment chapter was shortened in the draft NCA, and many comments were received about the short chapter. This report is the opportunity to fulfill the NCADAC charter and address many of the comments received on the chapter. The report will be about 35 pages. A draft will be available to the NCADAC to review in late May, and comments will be requested back to the author team in mid June. The SASRWG team will revise the document in response to comments before July 2, and give the NCADAC time to review it before discussion for approval at the NCADAC July meeting.

This is the first special report of the sustained assessment process. It will be a NCADAC product that provides advice to the USGCRP.

## ROLL-OUT PLANNING FOR THE THIRD NCA

*Dr. Susanne Moser, NCADAC member and Executive Committee member  
Dr. Ed Maibach, NCADAC member*

The NCADAC Engagement and Communication working group is in the early phases of developing an outreach strategy for the final Third NCA, called the Roll Out and Sustained Engagement (ROSE) strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to give a framework for coordinating activities of the White House, NCADAC, staff, USGCRP agencies, NCANet, the NCA Technical Support Unit, and others. The draft strategy covers key audiences, goals, products, tasks, messaging, tracking progress, and resources. The E&C WG is meeting bi-weekly until the July NCADAC meeting to continue development of the strategy. Between now and July, much of the focus is also on evaluating lessons from the draft release, public comment period, and past engagement events.

There is a long period of time in 2014 and beyond that could include roll-out and sustained engagement activities. Shortly after release, activities might include media events and briefings for decision makers. Longer-term activities could include webinars and online education opportunities, in-person forums, training, and other opportunities to reach deeper into the U.S. population. Also, Dan Glick, one of the NCA Editors, has funding to work on a video project with CLAs. Jerry Melillo has contributed a lot of ideas about audiences, events, and resources.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

*Dr. Kandis Wyatt, NOAA NESDIS, Designated Federal Official (Alternate)*

Mandy Warner from Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) gave a public statement. EDF submitted comments on the draft report, and suggests that the NCA should include more information on the economic impacts of climate change. In addition, they urge the NCADAC to deliver the final document

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on schedule. While it is clear that this NCA is more ambitious than previous assessments, EDF suggests a clear framework to show the way climate fits into the larger context. No written statement was provided for the record.

#### **CLOSING AND SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS**

*Dr. Jerry Melillo, Marine Biological Laboratory and NCADAC Chair*

*Dr. David Easterling, NOAA National Climatic Data Center*

Jerry Melillo reviewed the schedule for the upcoming months:

May 27: Draft Sustained Assessment Special Report available for review

June 4: Revised chapters and comment responses submitted by CLAs

June 8: Chapters and responses delivered to Review Editors

Jul 9-10: NCADAC meeting in DC, tentatively planned for NASA headquarters.

End of August: NCADAC phone meeting

Late September/Early October: NCADAC in-person meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

## APPENDIX A: ATTENDEES

## Non-Federal NCADAC Members in attendance

Name	Affiliation
Daniel Abbasi	GameChange Capital, LLC
Ginger Armbrust	University of Washington
Bull Bennett	Kiksapa Consulting
James Buizer	University of Arizona
Lynne Carter	Louisiana State University
F. Stuart (Terry) Chapin	University of Alaska
Camille Coley	Florida Atlantic University
Placido Dos Santos	University of Arizona
Paul Fleming	Seattle Public Utilities
Guido Franco	California Energy Commission
Mary Gade	Gade Consulting
David Gustafson	Monsanto Company
David Hales	Second Nature
Sharon Hays	Computer Sciences Corporation
Rattan Lal	Ohio State University
Arthur Lee	Chevron Corporation
Jo-Ann Leong	University of Hawaii
Diana Liverman	University of Arizona
Rezaul Mahmood	Western Kentucky University
Ed Maibach	George Mason University
Jerry Melillo	Marine Biological Laboratory
Susanne Moser	Susanne Moser Research & Consulting
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
Terese (T.C.) Richmond	Van Ness Feldman GordonDerr
Andrew Rosenberg	UNH and Union of Concerned Scientists
Richard Schmalensee	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Henry (Gerry) Schwartz	HGS Consultants, LLC
Joel Smith	Stratus Consulting
Gary Yohe	Wesleyan University

**Federal NCADAC Ex-Officio Members in attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Virginia Burkett	U.S. Department of the Interior
John Hall	Department of Defense
Alice Hill	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Rachel Jacobson	White House Council on Environmental Quality, for Ruffo
Jack Kaye	NASA
Thomas Karl	NOAA/Subcommittee on Global Change Research
Andy Miller	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Robert O'Connor	National Science Foundation
Margaret Walsh	USDA

**USGCRP, NOAA, and NCA Staff in attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Susan Aragon-Long	USGCRP (USGS)
Emily Cloyd	USGCRP
Carla Curran	USGCRP (Savannah State)
Alison Delgado	USGCRP (JGCRI)
Dave Easterling	NOAA
Ilya Fischhoff	USGCRP
Elizabeth Fly	NOAA and USGCRP
Bryce Golden-Chen	USGCRP
Kathy Jacobs	USGCRP (OSTP)
Melissa Kenney	NOAA
Ken Kunkel	NOAA
Fred Lipschultz	USGCRP (NASA)
Glynis Lough	USGCRP
Anne Waple	USGCRP
Kandis Wyatt	NOAA

**Other attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Avery Fellow	Bloomberg BNA
Susan Hassol	Climate Communication
Lisa Fleisher	Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
Mandy Warner	Environmental Defense Fund
Stephanie Ogburn	ClimateWire/E&E News