

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES  
AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH (ICMSSR)**

**INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
(IRWC)**

Record of Actions: 2016-1 Meeting

October 28, 2016, 1:00 p.m. EDT

Room 7224, SSMC2

Office of the Federal Coordinator for  
Meteorology  
Suite 7130, SSMC2  
1325 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**PARTICIPANTS**

*(T)*: Participated via telecon

Agency	Organization	Name
DOC NOAA	OAR	Dr. John Cortinas
DOC NOAA	NWS	Dr. Ming Ji
DOD USN	ONR	Dr. Daniel Eleuterio <i>(T)</i>
NASA	ESD	Dr. Tsengdar Lee
NSF		Dr. Chungu Lu
OFCM	Federal Coordinator	Dr. William Schulz
OFCM	STC	Mr. Floyd Hauth <i>(T)</i>
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Michael Bonadonna

Date of Issue:

1. **OPENING REMARKS:**

Dr. Schulz welcomed the group and asked each participant to introduce themselves. He stated the focus of the meeting would be on defining the desired scope of the committee under the Federal Meteorological Services and Supporting Research structure. The intended outcome of the meeting is a list of actions specifying Charter construction, membership invitations, and other actions related to the newly described scope.

The Interagency Weather Research Coordination Committee (IWRCC) was formerly administered by the National Science Foundation. Members include NSF, DoD, NOAA, NASA but the plan is to extend invitations to DoE, FAA, USGS, DoI (BOEM). The focus has been on facilitating shared use of the national research infrastructure and assisting in determining research priorities. In February 2016, the IWRCC requested the Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR) consider adopting the IWRCC into the Federal Meteorological Coordinating Infrastructure. After due consideration, the ICMSSR approved adding the IRWCC as a subordinate element of their coordinating infrastructure.

Dr. Schulz provided a proposed meeting agenda which was intended to be flexible but cover the key concepts of the IRWC for the discussion. OFCM will serve as Executive Secretary for the IWRCC, managing the administration of committee, keep roster information, organize and assist in the conduct the meetings, and prepare Action Items and Records of Action for the Chair.

## 2. SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE:

Dr. Cortinas summarized the original intent of the committee as it existed under the Post-THORPEX structure, which was to focus on U.S. efforts in support of the three World Meteorological Organization Grand Challenges: Polar Prediction, Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal Prediction (S2S), and High Impact Weather (HIW). Committee members agreed that the Committee, now under a new organizational hierarchy, should continue with that purpose. Specific areas of modeling and observations were then considered by the Committee.

### **Modeling:**

The participants discussed how much the IWRCC should concentrate on modeling since National Earth System Prediction Capability (ESPC) already well established and part of the Federal Meteorological Coordinating Infrastructure. It was noted that ESPC concentrates on building a national modeling architecture that will improve predictions. The international emphasis is on improving the science of predictability which can lead to future improvements in predictions.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is looking for the U.S. to help provide leadership in addressing the Grand Challenges. The IWRCC would concentrate on identifying what Federal agencies and other committees are doing in this arena and fostering cross collaboration and coordination of related research efforts. This gives the IWRCC a specific and unique mission. The consensus was for this group to focus on efforts in science phenomenology (as opposed to numerical modeling) and get the science managers involved. It would also be important to keep the U.S. representative to the WMO informed of committee activities. Agency Directors would be updated on committee activities through periodic ICMSSR meetings. Special effort would be made to keep Dr. Laura Furgione (NWS) informed of IWRCC interests and activity in her role as the U.S. Representative to the WMO.

It will be important to monitor NSCI activities for cross coordination purposes in the future, particular the role of data assimilation (one of the NSF's NSCI activities) in relation to earth system modeling system. The ESPC modeling efforts are closely linked with evolving computer architectures. The committee should remain cognizant of any progress the ESPC effort makes in modeling and architecture that could support advances in the science areas of interest to this committee. Additionally, it may be useful to develop an inventory of current research related to WMO Grand Challenge areas by engaging the university and federal agency communities. **(See AI 2016-1.1)**

### **Observations:**

There are already groups like the NOAA Observations Systems Council (NOSC) and the US Group on Earth Observation (USGEO) working on observation issues. There is a need to determine which research observations are critical to improve prediction capability or scientific understanding in the Grand Challenge areas and identify where gaps may exist, and share that analysis. This will ensure that each community is aware of who is engaged in

various activities and to help connect everyone involved. The relationship emphasis with NOSC and USGEO would be to keep each other informed.

### **Community Weather Research Working Group (CWRWG).**

The consensus was that there is value in having a group that will engage a broader U.S. community beyond the Federal agencies. Members of such a group would be Subject Matter Experts who would function as a “Standing Advisory Committee”. The chairs of each of the WMO three grand challenge groups are prepared to serve on the CWRWG and are awaiting sanctioning by the IWRCC. They will also help populate the Working Group with appropriate members. It would be important to manage group members regarding their expectations on what their role and contribution could be. They should be focused on where research science should be going and encouraged to provide individual views/advice. The language of the CWRWG Terms of Reference (ToR) would have to be crafted to avoid conflicts with Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) regulations and guidance.

The IWRCC Chair will send the ToR from the current advisory group to OFCM to facilitate further charter and ToR development. The scope, charter and ToR should be worked on soon so the Committee can begin activities. (See AI2016\_1.2). There have been some public commitments made by the U.S. to participate in the WMO Grand Challenges so the international groups are waiting for information on coordination and collaboration activities or opportunities.

The initial draft ToR included representatives of NSF, DoD, NOAA, NASA. Environment Canada has expressed interest in membership and the consensus of the members was for them to be part of the advisory group because they can bring an international perspective. The IWRCC Chair should invited DOE, BOEM, and USGS to participate on the CWRWG if they are interested and can help with research funding. (See AI 2016-1.3).

### 3. ADMINISTRATION

#### **Membership:**

The committee should be kept small enough so that it needs only a single Chair. Dr. John Cortinas (NOAA-OAR) volunteered to continue as the Chair and was seconded by the attending participants. He recommended the Chair serve two-year term and a one year overlap with a successor. Another possible structure would be to have a Chair and Co-chair with the Co-chair moving up after a year. All IWRCC members would be U.S. Federal employees.

CWRWG members would have a three-year term. The IWRCC and OFCM will work out details of CWRWG Chair and membership during development of the ToR.

#### **Charter:**

OFCEM expects to have a charter or ToR for the IWRCC in draft form ready for the December 12th ICMSR meeting. The IWRCC will present a briefing on their draft charter / ToR to the ICMSR which would be sent to the ICMSR for approval following the meeting.

### 4. ACTION ITEM REVIEW:

There are no previous Action Items for this new Committee. New AIs have been appended at the end of this ROA. In future meeting, the Executive Secretary will review all open and pending Action Items.

5. CLOSING REMARKS:

The intent is to meet every other month as the committee spins up and becomes active. The frequency of meetings may change to quarterly in the future. Several members will be making presentations at the AMS in January 2017 and asked that the next IWRCC meeting be scheduled about one week prior to the AMS meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRWC)

2016-1 Meeting Action Items

**Action Item 2016-1.1:** Develop assessments on where the U.S. weather community is regarding modeling and observations needed to address science needs.

Responsible Office: IRWCC Members

**Due Date:** January 15, 2017

**Action Item 2016-1.2:** Draft a charter for the Committee and a TOR for the Working Group.

**Responsible Office:** IRWCC Chair, OFCM

**Due Date:** December 1, 2016

**Action Item 2016-1.3:** Extend invitations to DOE, BOEM, Environment Canada, and USGS for membership on the CWRWG. Coordinated through ICMSSR and FCMSSR members.

Responsible Office: IWRCC Chair, OFCM

**Due Date:** January 15, 2017