

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

INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IWRCC)

Record of Actions: 2017-3 Meeting
August 25, 2017, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST; SSMC 2 Room 7117

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	N2N6	Mr. Dave McCarren
NASA	ESD	Dr. Tsengdar Lee <i>(T)</i>
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Anjuli Bamzai <i>(T)</i>
DOC NOAA	NWS IA	Ms. Shanna Pitter
DOC NOAA	OAR IA	Ms. Brittany Croll
OFCM	Federal Coordinator	Dr. William Schulz
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Michael Bonadonna
OFCM		Mr. Floyd Hauth <i>(T)</i>

Date of Issue: 1 September 2017

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions for the Recording

Dr. Cortinas called the meeting to order at 9:07. Dr. Schulz introduced the meeting participants and highlighted the agenda. Dr. Cortinas welcomed Dr. Bamzai, the new member from NSF. He then emphasized the importance of having discussions in this meeting focus on how this committee will move forward and decide on what it needs to do. He believes it important to structure meetings to involve the Working Group to provide frequent updates on federal research community and academic institution interactions to ensure continuity of activities following THORPEX and to address the WMO three grand challenges.

2. Administration

Dr. Schulz noted that comments on the Record of Action from the previous meeting had been incorporated and asked that the updated ROA be approved. There were no objections.

He presented updates to the Action Items from the previous meeting:

- 2017-2.1: Provide comments/concurrence on Working Group Charter. Status: Comments provided and incorporated; awaiting IWRCC approval later in this meeting.
- 2017-2.2: Develop Working Group rosters/provide contacts to OFCM. Status: In progress; Recent contact by Mike Morgan with SUNY Albany professor who is interested/involved in S2S related work. May schedule meeting /briefing in autumn to provide more information and solicit participation with WG if appropriate. (Action for WG Co-Chairs).
- 2017-2.3: Establish Working Group web site. Status: Established on OFCM page, ready for modifications as needed.

3. IWRCC Co-Chair Selection

IWRCC ToR states: “The Committee will be led by two Committee members serving as cochairs. Cochairs will serve two years and will rotate through the member agencies, with one cochair replaced each year.”

Dr. Schulz recommended that the following rotation be adopted:

- NOAA OAR (currently serving)
- NASA ESD
- NAVY ONR
- NOAA NWS
- NSF
- NAVY Oceanographer’s Staff

A new co-chair will be named each summer. The NASA ESD member, Dr. Lee agreed to be the co-chair effective immediately. Next August a Navy ONR co-chair will be named to replace John Cortinas.

4. Working Group Charter final review and approval.

Dr. Schulz noted that two significant changes were incorporated into the latest version of the WG charter. One was in Section 3, last bullet, which identifies the Executive Secretary services provided by OFCM. The second was in Section 4, last bullet, which was added by the legal office to clarify WG roles and responsibilities. This change would allow the involvement of Environment Canada science leadership participation/advice.

There was considerable discussion by members regarding the Working Group title and the need to clarify the WG membership and roles/responsibilities. Key points emphasized the need for external scientific expertise to advise the Committee on topics/issues related to the WMO grand challenges. It was agreed that the WG name be changed to Weather Research Science Working Group (WRSWG). Changes to the Membership section of the WRSWG Terms of Reference were discussed, focusing on the need to have different organizations represented on the WG (compared to those on the IWRCC.) Several changes were recommended to the WG Terms, for approval by NSF and NASA as noted in action item 2017-3.1.

5. Update from Working Group: S2S Database Support Request

Dr. Duane Waliser, co-chair of the S2S part of WG, requested assistance from the Committee related to database support for the S2S Project’s hindcasts and forecasts. The S2S archive at CMA and the WMO Lead Centre obtain their data from the ECMWF site, as does the IRI Data Library which now contains a large subset of the S2S data. The S2S Project database at ECMWF already leverages substantial hardware/software/personnel elements (e.g. storage, web distribution) at ECMWF but the explicit personnel effort to maintain it is beyond the scope of ECMWF’s core activities. The S2S Project Steering Group is requesting financial support on the order of \$50K US per year for ECMWF to continue to support this valuable database over most of the S2S Project’s 2nd five years, namely CY’19-22.

Dr. Cortinas stated that the Committee needed to decide whether to collectively support this project verbally and or find a way to support with funds. Members discussed the types of support given by agencies to other databases and the mechanisms used to provide funds. Concerns were raised about WMO funding, potential recurring costs, and future development and sustainment of this database. It was decided that questions related to these concerns would be compiled, coordinated with members and sent to Dr. Waliser. These questions will be compiled, reviewed by the IWRCC, and forwarded to Dr. Waliser as noted in action item 2017-3.2:

Draft questions:

1. Confirm whether data from the central database are free to requesters.
2. How much funding does the WMO provide to maintain the central database?
3. How much was/is the central database used by ECMWF?
4. What does it mean to maintain and further develop the central database?
5. What mechanism would be used to provide funds (send to trust fund or other means)?
6. What is the sustainable plan for the central database? How much? How long? Further development?
7. What are the benefits of sustaining and or further development of the central database?
8. Will the request for funds be recurring and possibly extend beyond the current 5-year project?

6. Conceptualizing a Road Map Towards a Federal Weather Research Agenda

Discussion addressed the following questions:

- What will be the mechanics of the IWRCC?
- How do we decide or coordinate on a research agenda?
- How do we communicate recommendations to the ICMSSR and the community at large?

Key points from members included:

- All agencies have individual programs/projects that could benefit from broad coordination/planning especially in early stages of program development.
- Agency perspectives could add value to programs being developed by other agencies.
- This committee could provide a forum to inform the research community on agency research agendas and help avoid duplication of effort.
- The IWRCC could provide a way to communicate and influence agency research priorities.
- IWRCC could provide an opportunity to have a structured mechanism for dialogue with agencies and others involved in research activities and possibly assist with resources or funding processes. Align with program manager priorities where possible.
- Focus initially should be on WMO grand challenges.
- Committee should be prepared to update ICMSSR at their Spring meeting.

The committee agreed to develop an ongoing research coordination process. OFCM will create a draft process (see action item 2017-3.3) for member review and discussion at upcoming meetings.

7. Wrap-up/review.

Dr. Schulz summarized Action Items from this meeting:

Action Item 2017-3.1: The NASA and NSF members will coordinate changes to the membership bullet in Section 4. OFCM will send the changes to the Committee and Working Group members for concurrence.

Action Item 2017-3.2: OFCM will draft a summary of questions raised by the committee members, send them to members for changes/concurrence and forward the resulting query to Dr. Waliser.

Action Item 2017-3.3: OFCM will develop a rough draft of a process for IWRCC coordination and communication of research agendas.

8. Next meeting/Adjourn.

The next meeting will be scheduled to occur in about 2 months. Dr. Cortinas adjourned the meeting at 10:27.