

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH (ICMSSR)

INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IWRCC)

Record of Actions: 2018-3 Meeting

August 24, 2018, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM EDT; SSMC 2 Room 7224

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

Suite 7224, SSMC2

1325 East West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

(T): Participated via telecon

Agency	Organization	Name
DOC NOAA	OAR (IWRCC Co-Chair)	Dr. John Cortinas
NASA	ESD (IWRCC Co-Chair)	Dr. Tsengdar Lee
DOC NOAA	NWS	Dr. Ming Ji
DOD USAF	Air Staff	Lt Col Robert Branham (T)
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Chungu Lu (T)
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Anjuli Bamzai (T)
DOC NOAA OAR	OWAQ	Dr. Rich Fulton
DOC NOAA	NWS IA	Ms. Courtney Draggon
DOC NOAA	NWS IA	Ms. Shanna Pitter (T)
DOD Navy	OPNAV	Mr. David McCarren
DOD Navy	ONR	Dr. Daniel Eleuterio (T)
NASA-JPL	NASA-JPL	Dr. Duane Waliser (T)
Univ. of Wisconsin	Univ. of Wisconsin	Dr. Michael Morgan (T)
OFCM	Federal Coordinator	Dr. William Schulz
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Michael Bonadonna
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Sim James
OFCM/STC		Mr. Floyd Hauth (T)

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Dr. Cortinas and Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Mr. Sim James (IWRCC ExecSec) provided administrative details, highlighted the agenda, and conducted roll call.

2. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW.

Mr. James summarized the status of the four Action Items from the previous IWRCC meeting.

AI Number	Action Item Detail
2018-2.2	Assist with next steps in developing and reporting the research implementation plan in response to the Weather Act. (PL 115-25). This will be covered in this meeting.
2018-2.3	Work with WG Co-chairs to draft guidance to Science WGs on what they are expected to do and when/how they should meet and report. In progress and will include updates today.
2018-2.4	Assist with determining how and where \$50 K can be provided to maintain S2S database identified by ECMWF contact. Funding process initially proposed to ECMWF was not acceptable. Other opportunities to support the S2S project office with the \$50K are being coordinated with the WMO.
2018-2.5	Inform ICMSSR and FCMSSR of priority research topics. This will be scheduled for early 2019.

Mr. James reminded the members of the ToR requirement for Chairman rotation: “Chair: The Committee will be led by two Committee members serving as co-chairs. Co-chairs will serve two years and will rotate through the member agencies, with one co-chair replaced each year.” Dr. Cortinas will be due to rotate out of the co-chair position next spring and someone else will need to move into that position in his place.

3. REPORT FOR USWRP

Section 109 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 amended Section 108 of the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992. Section 108 of the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act of 1992 established the USWRP and directs the submission of a ten-year implementation plan of the USWRP research agenda. This law directs the requirement to list and describe the research goals and activities as part of the plan.

“(Sec. 109) The U.S. Weather Research Program must: (1) report annually to Congress about on-going research projects and the five NOAA projects related to observations, weather, or subseasonal forecasts closest to operationalization; (2) establish teams with staff from the OAR and the NWS to oversee the operationalization of research projects; (3) develop mechanisms for research priorities of the OAR; (4) develop a system to track research goals; (5) provide testing facilities; and (6) facilitate visiting scholars.”

One of the tasks from Section 108 that Section 109 needs to address is b (3) Implementation Plan: Set forth the role of each Federal agency and department to be involved in the United States Weather Research Program, identifying and addressing, as appropriate, relevant programs and activities of the Federal agencies and departments that would contribute to such Program. “

Dr. Cortinas took the matter to the ICMSSR earlier this year as discussed at the last IWRCC. The ICMSSR noted that they did not want this information in the BCR and instead asked the research community via the IWRCC to coordinate a meeting of agency representatives to help scope the response to Section 109.

Members noted that the agencies participating in relevant research programs need to be identified and a group formed to propose a process to be approved by the ICMSSR.

Action Item 2018-3.1: Members should provide the name of a representative from their agency to develop the response to Section 109 as tasked by the ICMSSR. Provide the name to OFCM by August 31.

Action Item 2018-3.2: After AI 2018 3.1 is complete, OFCM will coordinate the scoping meeting, report the results back to IWRCC for approval and discussion leading in advance of brief to ICMSSR.

4. WEATHER RESEARCH SCIENCE WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The SWG Co-Chairmen provided information about their meetings and next activities.

S2S Component – Duane Waliser (co-chair). His group developed a draft package of agency interests and activities in S2S. They also continue to support ECMWF hosting the S2S Project database. The open comment period on NOAA draft report to Congress on S2S forecasting closed on August 10. The reference is: https://www.weather.gov/sti/stimodeling_s2sreport. Phase II of the S2S project will begin soon and is a five-year project with five topics to focus on. The reference is :

http://www.s2sprediction.net/file/documents_reports/WWRP_2018_4_S2S_Phase_II_Proposal.pdf. He also advertised the Community WCRP/WWRP S2S Meeting in Boulder, Sept 17-22.

Reference is: <https://www.wcrp-climate.org/s2s-s2d-2018-home>

High Impact Weather – Michael Morgan (co-chair) is working on getting a list of agency interests and activities to provide to his group. He noted the field campaign scheduled for this fall that is supported by the NSF. He is also looking at ways to engage the scientific community on high impact weather topics and inform them on what is going on internationally. Dr. Morgan closed with information about the symposia related to high impact weather being organized for the upcoming annual meeting .

PPP Component –David Bromwich (co-chair). His group developed a draft package of agency interests and activities in YOPP Consolidation Phase, mid 2019-mid 2022. The IASC YOPP Arctic Science Workshop is scheduled for 14–16 January 2019, Helsinki, FMI: deadline is 3 September. First results from YOPP SOP investigations will be presented. The reference is:<http://www.polarprediction.net/meetings-calendar/science-workshops/arctic-yopp-science-workshop/>

Members commented about the need to stress the importance of informing science communities about the importance of their research to the international community.

5. WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

MS. Courtney Dragoon, NWS IA Office, provided an update on WMO Executive Council activity with an emphasis on R and D related topics.

The Executive Council, which meets annually, is the executive body of the WMO. The Council implements decisions of the WMO Congress, examines the WMO budget and programs, and makes recommendations to Regional Associations and Technical Commissions. The U.S. delegation (USDEL) was led by Dr. Louis Uccellini, the U.S. Permanent Representative (U.S. PR) to the WMO. Other delegates to the Executive Council included officials from NOAA, the Department of State, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), and the Weather Company, an IBM Business. Over the course of the meeting, the Executive Council addressed the full scope of WMO activities. Some of the key issues addressed at the meeting included the WMO Strategic Plan for financial period 2020 - 2023, WMO governance, private sector engagement, and hydrology.

The Executive Council was invited to consider the draft WMO Strategic Plan 2020-2023, to agree on key strategic elements, and to provide guidance for further improvements. The Strategic Plan will be submitted for approval by the WMO Congress in 2019. The overarching strategic goals in the draft included 1) Better serve societal needs: delivering, authoritative, accessible, user-oriented and fit-for-purpose information and services, 2) Enhance Earth system observations and predictions: Strengthening the technical foundation for the future, 3) Advance targeted research: Leveraging leadership in science to improve understanding of the Earth system for enhanced services, 4) Close the capacity gap on weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services: Enhancing service delivery capacity of developing countries to ensure availability of essential information and services needed by governments, economic sectors and citizens, and 5) Strategic realignment of WMO structure and programs for effective policy- and decision-making and implementation. Through the Strategic Plan, the WMO is supporting establishment of an earth system science approach to seamless prediction from climate scales down to the mesoscale. The Strategic Plan will support further development of an integrated approach to weather, water, and climate linkages, and it will support US efforts to ultimately unify our operational climate, global weather and mesoscale weather prediction system using a fully coupled earth system model approach.

The Executive Council considered a number of draft resolutions regarding future WMO research and supporting activities that will be presented to the WMO Congress in 2019. The draft resolutions for Congress call for an integrated, earth system approach to research, a seamless-oriented research structure for the WMO, seamless regional research for water, and creating an environment and providing the resources for innovation. In addition, the Executive Council endorsed the recommendations of a review of the World Climate Research Program, including but not limited to recommendations on science strategy, governance, scientific leadership, operations, and partnership.

Governance reform was also addressed, and recommendations will be submitted for approval to the WMO Congress in 2019.

Members commented on WMO's lack of ability to enforce policies or instructions to WMO member countries. Ms. Draggon noted that the commission structure was being realigned and would function in an advisory capacity.

The committee noted their appreciation for the opportunity to coordinate on issues being presented by the US to the Executive Council and Congress. The feedback from the latest EC meeting was very informative and useful to the IWRCC.

6. OPEN DISCUSSION

Members commented on whether there was sufficient coordination on S2S topics with the USGCRP working groups. Others noted some of the meetings where interactions took place. The USGCRP connection is important but the IWRCC specifically considers research that will improve predictions/services. IWRCC can serve as a forum for discussions on research related issues within member agencies.

7. NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN:

Mr. James summarized the one action item from the meeting and noted several staff actions related to past IWRCC action items and SWG activities. The next meeting will be scheduled in about 3 months. The Chair thanked members for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.