

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

Record of Actions: 2019-2 Meeting

October 21, 2019 10:00AM EDT; SSMC 2 Room 7130

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
NASA	ESD (IWRCC Co-Chair)	Dr. Tsengdar Lee
NASA	ESD	Dr. Aaron Peña
DOC NOAA	NWS STI	Dr. Dorothy Koch
DOC NOAA	OAR OWAQ	Ms. Tamara Battle
DOC NOAA	OAR OWAQ	Dr. Bonnie Brown
DOC NOAA	NWS STI	Dr. Hendrik Tolman
DOD USAF	Air Staff/OFCM	Mr. Scott Van Blarcum
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Anjuli Bamzai (T)
FAA	AWD	Mr. Randy Bass (T)
DOC NOAA	NWS IA	Ms. Shanna Combley
DOC NOAA	OAR OWAQ	Mr. Rich Fulton
DOD Navy	OPNAV	Mr. David McCarren
DOD Navy	ONR	Dr. Daniel Eleuterio (T)
OFCM	Federal Coordinator	Mr. Michael Bonadonna
OFCM		Dr. James Sims
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Sim James
OFCM/STC		Mr. Floyd Hauth (T)

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Mr. Sim James (IWRCC Exec Sec) opened the meeting. Dr. Tsengdar Lee (NASA, Co-chair, IWRCC) provided opening remarks. Mr. James provided administrative details, conducted roll call, and reviewed the agenda.

2. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW.

Mr. Sim James (IWRCC ExecSec) reviewed the status of Action Items from previous IWRCC meetings.

2018-2.2 Assist with next steps in developing and reporting the research implementation plan in response to the Weather Act. (PL 115-25) (discuss today and close.)

2018-2.5 Inform ICMSSR and FCMSSR of priority research topics at next IWRCC ICMSSR meetings in 2020. Open.

2018-4.3 Get approval from IWRCC for broader distribution of S2S projects list for comment (will address today).

2019-1.1 Areas of cooperation with other OFCM coordinated groups by our WGs (will address today).

Membership Discussion: Several new members or their representatives were in attendance. Dr. Cortinas, OAR, moved to a new position and location and his term as co-chair is finished. Dr. Lee, NASA, is serving another year as co-chair. Mr. James solicited a volunteer for co-chair and two members (Dorothy Koch and Dan Eleuterio) offered to consider the position.

Working Group Tasks: The IWRCC WGs developed their research project lists in response to WMO Grand Challenges (S2S, PPP, and HIWeather). Mr. Dave McCarren described an ESPC initiative to coordinate S2S research across agencies. Since IWRCC would like to distribute their research lists more widely, assisting with the ESPC initiative will provide an opportunity for further distribution of the project lists. Mr. James noted that the WG/PPP will provide an update on their activity at the next IWRCC meeting. See Action Item 2019-2.1.

JAG/CSID: Dr. James Sims presented an overview of the JAG/ For the Sub-seasonal to Decadal Climate Services and Information Database (JAG/CSID). This JAG is under the Committee for Climate Services Coordination.

The Sub-seasonal to Decadal (S2D) Climate Services and Information Database will provide a central location for access to S2D products and services that are available from multiple agencies based on categorical needs and security levels to aid in Informed Decision Support Services (IDSS). The focus is S2D services and information from the Federal Weather Enterprise (FWE) on national, regional, and local levels, to include provision of information from the past as well as the future at time scales from two weeks to beyond.

This interagency team will determine the scope and resources, including costs, that are needed to develop the database, and propose a platform to host the database.

An update on JAG/CSID status will be provided at the next IWRCC meeting. See Action Item 2019-2.2.

3. REPORT FOR USWRP.

Section 108 of Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 directs the submission of a ten-year implementation plan of the USWRP research agenda. The law directs the requirement to list and describe research goals and activities as part of the mandated implementation plan. The ICMSSR asked the research community via the IWRCC to coordinate a meeting to help scope the response.

Mr. James reported that meetings were held with agency provided representatives. They constructed the requested outline for a new version of the USWRP implementation and proposed the next steps in developing the report. OWAQ personnel reviewed and approved the outline. The next step is to present the plan outline to ICMSSR and request approval to form a JAG and proceed with the development of the new USWRP Implementation Plan. The follow-on plan can be much smaller than the original because the annual OFCM BCR covers much of what was required in the original implementation plan that was directed by Congress.

Members asked that OFCM provide feedback from the ICMSSR review of USWRP progress and formation of a JAG to finish the task. See Action Item 2019-2.3.

4. UNIFIED FORECAST SYSTEM OVERVIEW:

Dr. Hendrick Tolman provided an overview of the Unified Forecast System.

The Unified Forecast System (UFS) is a comprehensive, community-developed Earth modeling system, designed as both a research tool and as the basis for NOAA's operational forecasts. It is configurable into multiple applications that span local to global domains and predictive time scales from less than an hour to more than a year. It is a unified system because the applications within it share science components and software infrastructure that will enable

NOAA to simplify the NCEP Production Suite, to accelerate use of leading research, and to produce more accurate forecasts for the U.S. and its partners.

Starting from the quilt of models and products created by implementing solutions rather than addressing requirements, NCEP will move to a product-based system that covers all present elements of the production suite in a more systematic and efficient way.

Dr. Tolman described the UFS system architecture, governance structure, NCAR-NOAA Infrastructure MOA work areas, R2O2R functions and analysis, organizing R2O transitions, and UFS applications. The applications will include medium-range weather, seasonal (S2S), hurricane, short-range weather/convection, space weather, marine and cryosphere, coastal, and air quality.

Dr. Tolman closed by noting the evolving set of activities on science, unification, community building, and capacity building, and the importance of governance viability, research and operations transitions, and EPIC accelerations of R2O.

Members noted concerns about IT security, property rights, coding challenges, and resource challenges.

5. WMO Update

Ms. Shanna Combley, NWS IA, provided an update on research-relevant outcomes of the 18th WMO Congress, held 4-19 June 2019. The WMO Congress meets every four years and is the supreme decision-making body of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It determines strategic direction, policy, specific projects/related activities and budget, and elects the President, Secretary General, three Vice Presidents, Commission Presidents and heads of newly established Boards.

Eight WMO Technical Commissions are transitioning to two Technical Commissions following approval of a Constituent Bodies Governance Reform (championed by the U.S. delegation). The Executive Council (EC) Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) will act as a two-way interface between EC and the technical commissions, the Research Board, and other relevant bodies. Several reforms were also introduced to improve the overall function of the Regional Associations.

The technical commissions are responsible for studying meteorological and hydrological operational systems, applications and research. They establish methodology and procedures and make recommendations to the Executive Council and the Congress. The technical commission experts are designated for their scientific expertise, not to act as representatives of their state.

The Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) acts as a two-way interface between the Executive Council and the technical bodies of the Organizations: technical commissions, the Research Board, and other relevant bodies.

This Congress established coordination panels for Oceans, Water, Climate, and Public Private Engagement.

A Transition Team was requested to develop the rules and procedures for the Research Board and its working structures as part of the revision of the current rules and procedures. The Chair of the Research Board will prepare a proposal for final membership that maximizes the range of expertise, geographical and gender balance and inclusiveness after coordination with the presidents of regional associations, the presidents of technical commissions and the representatives of the World Meteorological Centres, with the assistance of the Secretary-General. The WMO President is authorized to appoint final members proposed by the Chair of the Research Board.

The next steps await the output/outcomes of the November Transition Team meeting which will determine the Research Board membership and structure, and populate the WMO Expert Network database: <http://community.wmo.int>. Preparations will be organized to present a research topic/ grand challenge on the Earth System at the Open Science Conference in 2022.

Mr. James noted that the IWRCC will be prepared to provide position papers for the next international meetings.

6. NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN:

Mr. James will forward tentative Action Items from the meeting and propose preliminary topics for future meetings. The next meeting will be held in about 3 months. Mr. Mike Bonadonna, Federal Coordinator, noted visits being planned to NSF, NASA and with Craig McLean to sharpen OFCM focus on research. Dr. Tsendar Lee thanked members for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 P.M.

New Action Items

2019-2.1: Schedule presentation on WG/Arctic/PPP update.

2019-2.2: JAG/CSID provide update on the database development plan at next IWRCC meeting.

2019-2.3: OFCM provide feedback from ICMSSR on USWRP progress and formation of JAG to finish the task.