

FEDERAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH (FCMSSR)

Record of Actions: 2017-2 Meeting
October 24, 2017, 2:00 p.m. EDT

SSMC 2, Room 15242, 1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

Agency	Member (T: by telecon)	Attended for Member
DOC/NOAA	Benjamin Friedman (Chair)	Benjamin Friedman (Chair)
DOD	Dale Ormand	Bindu Nair
DOE	Gary Geernaert (T)	-
DOT/FAA	James Eck	Paul Fontaine (T)
EPA	Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta	Rohit Mathur (T)
NASA	Thomas Zurbuchen	Tsengdar Lee
NRC	Cynthia Jones(T)	-
NSF	William Easterling	Anjuli Bamzai (T)
NTSB	Captain David Helson (Acting)	-
OMB	Benjamin Page (T)	-
OSTP	Deerin Babb–Brott (T)	-
OFCM	William Schulz	-

Invited Participants	Agency
Vanessa Griffin (T)	DOC/NOAA/NESDIS
Craig McLean	DOC/NOAA/OAR
LTJG Rachel Pryor	DOC/NOAA
CAPT AJ Reiss	DOD/USN
Jen Cauffman	DOD
Richard Heuwinkel (T)	DOT/FAA
Michael Clark (T)	OMB
Steven Clarke (T)	OSTP
Ken Barnett	OFCM
Michael Bonadonna	OFCM
Erin McNamara	OFCM
Antony Ramirez (T)	OFCM
Donell Woods	OFCM
Floyd Hauth (T)	OFCM

Date Issued: 27 October 2017

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Mr. Benjamin Friedman, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and FCMSSR Chair, welcomed participants and conducted a roll call of members in attendance and those participating via teleconference media. He thanked members for the progress made over the past 9 months and noted that the new Administrator or his Deputy would be chairing the FCMSSR soon. He reviewed the agenda and solicited whether there were any other concerns or issues; none was offered.

2. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW.

Dr. William Schulz, Federal Coordinator for Meteorology, reviewed the two FCMSSR Action Items. The first was to present proposals to FCMSSR to implement the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 Section 402 requirements for the Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services. The second was to produce the Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination. Both Action Items were being addressed at this meeting and would then be closed.

3. FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE.

Dr. Schulz presented the diagram showing the Federal Weather Enterprise Infrastructure. His update focused on three activities:

- Release of the “Federal Weather Enterprise Budget and Coordination Report.”

The FY18 Federal Weather Enterprise Budget and Coordination Report (“BCR”) was posted to the OFCM publicly available web site on 22 September 2017. It replaces the annual “Fed Plan” and was reviewed by OMB, who provided edits and requested additional information. Dr. Schulz displayed and describe Tables 1 and 2 from the new report.

The President’s Budget Request (PBR) for FY18 was submitted on 24 May 2017. Since this was the initial run of the new process, the team compiling the report took time to meticulously establish process and format for the new report. They delivered the report to OMB within 90 days from the release of the PBR. The goal for FY19 is to provide the report to OMB by PBR plus two weeks. For the FY19 edition, OFCM will consult with OMB to generate guidance on reporting and comparing FY18 BCR numbers. To help meet this goal the Compilation team will be formalized as a Working Group.

- The Working Group for Disaster Impact Assessments and Plans Weather and Water Data (WG/DIAP) was activated for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. They were alerted by group email: diap.alerts@noaa.gov with brief descriptions of HARVEY and IRMA. Conference calls were convened daily, supplemented by continuous email exchanges, to share response plans and facilitate group discussion on deployment activities to include positioning/tracking/pre-staging of mobile sensors and identification of stationary systems. Response actions changed depending on track, intensity, and differing characteristics of each storm. Following landfall, activities included sensor recovery and data post-processing and uploading to members’ online databases. Data were also sent to NESDIS/NCEI for archiving and made available for post-storm assessment activities (e.g. NIST, NOS/RSD). Their work helped user agencies/entities gain awareness of unique interagency data collection activities, identified opportunities for data sharing/complementary post-storm assessments and studies, and served as practice for eventual COASTAL ACT collection protocols. A chart was presented showing agency and university participants and their systems and capabilities.
- The Tropical Cyclone Operations and Research Forum (TCORF)/Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference 2018 will be held at the Florida International University, 13-15 March 2018 (first time at this venue). The agenda is being drafted and so far includes challenges encountered in the 2017 season, GOES-16 data usage, Joint Hurricane Testbed updates, and Modeling and

Observing System issues. The National Hurricane Operations Plan working group also meets during TCORF. Supplemental funding requests have been sent to NSF, ONR, and NWS.

4. **IMPLEMENTING SECTION 402 OF THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT OF 2017.**

Dr. Schulz reviewed key provisions of the Act. The 2017 Weather Act directs OSTP to establish “an Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services (ICAWS),” with duties including identifying, prioritizing, and coordinating top forecast needs, and sharing needs and improvements across agencies. OFCM formed a Joint Action Group (JAG), which provided recommendations to meet the provisions of this ACT:

- Use a similar construct as that used in 1962 when OMB was tasked by law to produce an annual meteorological services budget report – have EOP (OMB) assign the task to an existing relevant agency (DoC).
- Since the FCMSSR and the supporting federal weather enterprise coordination structure cover most ICAWS duties, assign the duties formally to FCMSSR, without creating another organizational entity.
- Have OSTP leadership issue this plan; adjust the FCMSSR charter to accommodate the plan.

The ICMSSR agreed with the JAG’s recommendations and the guidance from OSTP and asked that it be presented to the FCMSSR for their review. The draft proposed guidance from OSTP stated: “In lieu of establishing a new committee, the Acting Director, OSTP, seeks to designate the FCMSSR as the committee that will complete the responsibilities specified in PL 115-25 Section. The Acting Director seeks concurrence from the Department of Commerce on this designation and requests that the FCMSSR Charter be modified accordingly.”

FCMSSR members discussed the proposal and had questions/concerns about possible Chairs and Co-chairs (including OSTP) for the modified FCMSSR. They agreed with the JAG recommendations of having the FCMSSR assume the duties assigned to ICAWS (and thereby not creating another new committee). OFCM was tasked to reconvene the JAG in order to draft a modified charter for FCMSSR that implements the provisions of the Act, and to present options regarding the Chair/Co-Chair selections/arrangements. The ICMSSR should review the proposed changes and provide their recommendations to the FCMSSR. **See Action Items 2017-2.1.**

5. **FEDERAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT.**

Dr. Schulz reviewed the development of the Strategic Plan as part of the updated annual report. The proposed action following FCMSSR approval would direct Federal Weather Enterprise Committees and Working Groups to prepare a report of ongoing actions and existing plans within their subject matter areas that support the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Individual agencies would be given the opportunity to add and/or comment. The intent is to include these summaries in the FY19 Annual Report. The ICMSSR (OFCM) would conduct gap analysis and issue directions to Committees / Working Groups as appropriate. Beginning CY20, the Strategic Plan would be reviewed and revised by the Joint Action Group and, after FCMSSR approval, issued in CY21 for FY 22-26.

The six draft goals and objectives of the strategic plan were reviewed. Comments were made regarding the need to have consistent language to include private sector technologies where appropriate. Members approved the publication of the Strategic Plan. **See Action Item 2017-2.2.**

6. SPECTRUM EFFICIENT NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR (SENSR) UPDATE.

Mr. Kevin Cooley, SENSR JPO Principal for NOAA, provided an update on the Joint Program Office-SENSR initiative. His presentation covered the background, scope and governance, key issues and future plans.

SENSR is a DOD, DHS, FAA and NOAA partnership to assess feasibility of consolidating air surveillance and weather radar networks for more efficient frequency spectrum use without risking degradation of the critical life, safety and property missions unique to each agency. It was established via a multi-department SENSR Pipeline Plan approved by OMB on 01/10/2017.

DOD and DHS have national security related aircraft and object tracking mission capabilities. FAA has airspace management mission capabilities, and DOD, FAA, NOAA have weather sensing mission capabilities.

SENSR builds on the ongoing Multi-Function Phased Array (MPAR) R&D program . The Executive Steering Group and JPO were established. Funding is from the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF). The program is comprised of two phases; Phase I - Requirements Baseline, CONOPS, Feasibility & Initial Acquisition, and Phase II–Full Acquisition & Implementation multiple phases . Phase I will answer a set of key programmatic and technical questions, enabling Agency leadership to determine if SENSR should proceed to Phase 2.

The SENSR Memorandum of Agreement (12/16/2017) established agency roles and responsibilities for conducting a SENSR Feasibility Study, established the Joint Program Office (JPO) and the Executive Steering Group, and established FAA as the overall SENSR Program Manager.

The requirements baseline remains in development, program objectives require clarification, and the multi-department CONOPS is not yet agreed upon but is also under development. Scope adjustments are under consideration because of the difficulty of meeting threshold weather requirements with current phased array technology. Removal of weather may be required to meet schedule, but assuring weather mission upon removal could be problematic for remainder of program.

The SENSR ESG will meet on October 31st to resolve the impasse on objectives, requirements and scope and to provide guidance on altering the acquisition approach. Phase I Execution (FY18-19) will continue with R&D to determine the feasibility of PAR use for required weather capabilities, to develop multi-department CONOPS, conduct acquisition planning and risk reduction, and determine potential spectrum auction proceed estimation.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION:

Dr. Schulz noted that the two action items from this meeting related to the implementation of Section 402 of the Weather Act and publication of the Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination. These are included below.

8. CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN:

Mr. Friedman thanked all the participants and reminded members that the next FCMSSR meeting will be April 24, 2018. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

FEDERAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH (FCMSSR)

Meeting 2017-2 Action Items

Action Item 2017-2.1. Reconvene Joint Action Group for Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services (JAG/ICAWS) to develop options to broaden FCMSSR Chairmanship beyond the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Draft a modified FCMSSR charter to include ICAWS duties as outlined in Section 402 of the *Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017* and secure ICMSSR concurrence.

Responsible Office: OFCM, FCMSSR agencies

Due Date: April 24, 2017.

Action Item 2017-2.2. Publish the *Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination* as presented during the 24 October 2017 FCMSSR Meeting.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: November 3, 2017.