

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

2018-1 MEETING AGENDA

February 2, 2018, 1:00 p.m. EST

SSMC 2, Room 7224

1325 East West Highway; Silver Spring, MD 20910

| <i>Members</i> | (T) via telecon | Agency |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Jack Kaye (Chair)</i> | | NASA HQ/ESD |
| <i>William Schulz (Vice Chair)</i> | | OFCM |
| <i>Craig McLean</i> | | DOC/OAR |
| <i>John Murphy for Louis Uccellini</i> | | DOC/NOAA/NWS |
| <i>Vanessa Griffin, for Steven Volz</i> | | DOC/NOAA/NESDIS |
| <i>Ralph Stoffler</i> | | DOD/USAF/A3W |
| <i>Bill Spendley (T)</i> | | DOD/USA |
| <i>Capt A.J. Reiss, for Chris Ekstrom</i> | | DOD/USN |
| <i>Rickey Petty</i> | | DOE |
| <i>Jonathan Berkson (T)</i> | | DHS/USCG |
| <i>Robert Mason (T)</i> | | DOI/USGS |
| <i>Angel McCoy</i> | | DOI/BOEM |
| <i>Christopher Cannizzaro (T)</i> | | DOS/OES |
| <i>Bill Bauman, for Paul Fontaine</i> | | DOT/FAA |
| <i>Mark Kehrli (T)</i> | | DOT/FHWA |
| <i>Rohit Mathur (T)</i> | | EPA |
| <i>Steve Clarke (T)</i> | | OSTP |
| <i>Michael Bonadonna (Secretariat)</i> | | OFCM |
| Invited Participants | | Agency |
| <i>Darone Jones (T)</i> | | DOC/NOAA/NWS |
| <i>John Cortinas</i> | | DOC/NOAA/OAR |
| <i>CDR Jason Mansur</i> | | DOC/NOAA/OMAO |
| <i>Lt Col Robert Branham (T)</i> | | DOD/USAF |
| <i>LTC John Ruesse</i> | | DOD USMC |
| <i>Dave McCarren, Dan Eluterio</i> | | DOD/USN |
| <i>Paul Pisano (T)</i> | | DOT/FHWA |
| <i>Tsengdar Lee (T)</i> | | NASA HQ/ESD |
| <i>Anjuli Bamzi (T)</i> | | NSF |
| <i>Floyd Hauth (T), Tony Ramirez, Ken Barnett</i> | | OFCM |

Date of Issue: February 28, 2018

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Dr. Jack Kaye, NASA HQ/ESD, ICMSSR Chair for 2018, provided opening remarks and moderated the meeting. Dr. Schulz provided administrative information. Roll call was conducted for participants on site and those using teleconference media. Members approved the agenda and the Record of Action from the last ICMSSR meeting.

2. FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE.

Dr. Schulz, the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology presented a summary of three current OFCM/Federal Weather Coordination structure activities. His update covered the following information:

- Budget and Coordination Report (BCR) status:

OFCEM is anticipating a mid-February PBR. Agency BCR inputs are due at OFCEM shortly after PBR issuance. Confirmation of agreement with the process is still due from NPS, EPA, DOS, SI. OFCEM expects to have the preliminary FY 2019 BCR to OMB by 31 March 2018 and hoping for OMB clearance to release the report by 15 April 2018.
- Upcoming events on the coordination calendar:
 - Observational Data Workshop (22-24 May 2018), Silver Spring location. The agenda will include WMO guidance on implementing WIGOS, OSCAR/Surface data management; and issues/plans related to Satellite, Conventional, Ocean, and Space Weather data. Attendees will include all Operational Production Centers, NCEI, USAF 14OWS, JCSDA, OAR and NWS (International Affairs, Office of Observations, and EMC)
 - Tropical Cyclone Operational Forum at Miami (FIU), 13-15 March 2018. The preliminary agenda is on the OFCEM web site.
- ICMSSR Chair Rotation Proposal:

Chair rotation among the following agencies will be documented in a revision to the ICMSSR charter and will include DoD, NOAA, NASA, Transportation, Interior, USDA, and DHS. **See Action Item 2018-1.1.**

3. QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR CIVILIAN METEOROLOGISTS.

Mr. Ralph Stoffler, Air Force Director of Weather, discussed challenges with federal government standards and requirements for Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Series 1340, Meteorologist. The issue is that 1340 (Meteorologist) Qualification Standards drive unintended hiring consequences. There is a requirement for a degree in Meteorology, Atmospheric Science, or other Natural Science major and a very specific listing of required courses. An alternative requirement is to have a combination of education and experience, i.e. coursework shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Human resource processes across the government do not allow enactment of the alternative combination of education and experience. In addition, transcript course titles across academia are non-standard. The result is that names of experienced and qualified candidates are not being identified to agencies that have job vacancies.

Mr. Stoffler contacted the American Meteorological Society and asked their help in getting Universities to certify their courses as qualifying a student for the 1340 standard. The AMS will address this concern at their next meeting with Universities later in 2018. The other action needed is to forward a change to the standard to OPM allowing for "most but not all coursework" phrasing for the current requirement alternative (Part B) in the standard.

Mr. Stoffler asked that the member agencies of the ICMSSR/FCMSSR add their indorsement for the request for a change in the 1340 requirements. Members agreed to support his proposed request to OPM. The Director of Weather plans to draft a letter requesting the change to the standard and provide it to

OFCM for coordination with ICMSSR members and consideration/indorsement by the FCMSSR. **See Action Item 2018-1.2.**

Mr. Stoffler identified another issue related to coordination of U.S positions on training and training certifications with the WMO. He discovered that exceptions to ICAO training standards for qualification of air navigation services were published by the WMO in November of 2016. These changes were needed but agencies affected were not involved in the coordination of the exception or informed about it. He asked that the process for coordinating U. S. positions on ICAO issues with the WMO be reviewed and formalized. **See Action Item 2018-1.3.**

4. IMPLEMENTING THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT: SECTION 402.

Dr. Schulz summarized the recommendation for implementing Section 402 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 being proposed by the Joint Action Group for Interdepartmental Committee for Advancing Weather Services (JAG/ICAWS). The JAG was tasked to develop options to broaden FCMSSR Chairmanship beyond the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. They provided pros and cons for three options:

- Option A: Two, Equal Chairs: NOAA and OSTP.
- Option B: Two Chairs: NOAA permanent + rotator.
- Option C: Two Chairs: OSTP permanent + rotator.

The JAG considered Option A to be the best choice and recommended it to the ICMSSR. Changes needed to adopt this option include a name change in the FCMSSR Charter from FCMSSR to ICAWS, including the responsibility to look at “supporting research”, add a reference to the 1962 budget aggregation law in the Charter as a reminder about the Budget Report responsibility, and specify agencies as participants.

Proposed FCMSSR Charter revisions: In Section 1 change the name to ICAWS and include a reference to Weather Act 2017 and to 87-843; Section 2 name changes; Section 3 add duties from PL 115-25 Section 402 (a)(2)and(3); Section 4 add statement that per PL 115-25 Section 402 (c), participation of these agencies is “necessary to coordinate the Federal government” actions in this area; Section 5 name changes; and Section 6 renew the charter in 5 years.

ICMSSR needs to approve this option recommendation and present the draft charter and recommended leadership structure at the April 2018 FCMSSR meeting. Following FCMSSR approval legislative changes would be sought. **See Action Items 2018-1.4 and 1.5.**

5. METEOROLOGICAL DATA ACCESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS:

Dr. Schulz introduced the subject of protecting access to meteorological data. The FAA’s NextGen Executive Weather Panel (NEWP) discussed this topic at their 24 January 2018 meeting and requested that the ICMSSR consider the issue. The question posed from their meeting was: “Does continued increase in resolution and other improvements in NOAA’s publicly available numeric models pose a national security risk, and, if so, how can that risk be mitigated?”

The Navy, USMC and USAF perspectives were reviewed and discussed. Members also discussed the implications of restricting data would have on international agreements and research activities. Concerns were expressed about the use of our data by adversaries, access to our data by foreign nationals working

in various laboratory facilities and universities, and the availability of and use of data by the private sector. National Security Council policies also need to be considered.

Members agreed that this issue needs to be addressed but more information is needed related to National Security Council positions. **See Action Item 2018-1.6.**

6. FCMSSR AGENDA:

Dr. Schulz proposed topics for the next FCMSSR which is scheduled for April 30, 2018:

- Weather Act Section 402.
- Data security issue.

Topics proposed for the next ICMSSR meeting in May 2018:

- Committee on Climate Services Update.
- Budget Coordination Report FY2019 .
- NAS Decadal Survey results (if ready).

Members were invited to suggest additional topics.

7. INTER AGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE (IWRCC) UPDATE:

Dr. Schulz updated the ICMSSR on the activities of and current issues being addressed by the Interdepartmental Weather Research Coordination Committee and the Community Weather Research Steering Committee (CWRSC).

The IWRCC promotes and helps to coordinate basic and applied U.S. research activities aimed at a better fundamental understanding and improved prediction of high-impact weather related to variations in atmospheric-ocean circulations over high latitudes and over subseasonal-to-seasonal time scales for future socioeconomic and environmental benefits, including applications in support of weather-sensitive decision making at Federal, State, and other agencies (i.e., “high impact weather research”).

IWRCC provides a forum where agencies can best leverage efforts among themselves and in the international community to achieve agency goals.

Dr. Schulz summarized the committee’s roles and responsibilities, the member agencies and the potential future member agencies.

The CWRSC promotes scientific leadership for the coordination of U.S. involvement in the three WMO grand challenges PPP, S2S and HIW. Additionally, the CWRSC informs the IWRCC on matters concerning the scientific integrity and progress of such projects.

The CWRSC will consist of no more than 18 members, including up to three Co-Chairs. Their membership will include scientific experts from government, academia, private sector, and other North American weather research agencies. In carrying out IWRCC roles and responsibilities members will provide their individual opinions, advice and recommendations. At no time will the CWRSC provide consensus opinions, advice and recommendations.

Dr. Schulz closed by presenting a draft IWRCC and Science Working Group Coordination Model that described the six steps/activities of the committee and working group operations.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION: NO NEW ITEMS WERE RAISED BY THE ICMSSR MEMBERS.

9. ACTION ITEM REVIEW:

Mr. Michael Bonadonna, ICMSSR, Secretariat, reviewed the status of current and previously taken Action Items.

Open FCMSSR Action Items

| FCMSSR AI # | Responsible Office | Text | Comment | Status | Due Date |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---------------|---------------------|
| 2017-2.1 | OFCM, FCMSSR Agencies | Reconvene JAG/ICAWS to develop options to broaden FCMSSR Chairmanship. Draft a modified FCMSSR charter to include ICAWS duties as outlined in P.L.115-25 S 402 and secure ICMSSR concurrence. | JAG/ICAWS convened. Options will be presented to ICMSSR then FCMSSR with a revised Charter | Working | 04/24/18 |
| 2017-2.2 | | Publish the Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination as presented during the 24 October 2017 FCMMSR Meeting. | Published 12 Jan 2018 | Closed | 11/03/17 |

ICMSSR Action Items

| ICMSSR AI # | Responsible Office | Text | Comment | Status | Due Date |
|-------------|---------------------|---|--|--------|-----------|
| 2016-2.2 | OFCM, NWS, FAA, DHS | Continue interagency engagement on MPAR and the related radio-frequency spectrum auction. Regularly present updates to the ICMSSR and FCMSSR. (replaces ICMSSR AI 2015-1.2) | Will remain open until executed regularly | Open | Quarterly |
| 2016-4.2 | OFCM | Provide a copy of the Terms of Reference for the new Committee on Climate Services for ICMSSR review. | Draft will be sent to ICMSSR for consideration | Open | 02/10/17 |
| 2017-2.1 | OFCM | Secure a government sponsor and funding source for the 2018 SWEF. | Due to scheduling problem with European Space Weather Workshop, SWEF will be planned to coincide with DOS-led Space Weather as Global Challenge (SWGK) meeting July. | Open | 2/28/18 |
| 2017-2.2 | OFCM | Schedule a date for the 2nd Observational Data Workshop. | Scheduled for 22-23 May | Closed | 07/30/17 |
| 2017-3.2 | OFCM | Update and publish FMH-1. Follow up with a revision once the ice pellet / small hail reported requirements issue has been resolved. | FMH-1 published | Closed | 01/31/18 |
| 2017-4.1 | NOAA-OAR | Use an upcoming monthly meeting of the NOAA-NSF group on Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) as an exploratory meeting to assess agency interest...Return a recommendation to ICMSSR on the need for formalization of this group under the federal weather coordination structure. | | Open | 03/15/18 |
| 2017-4.2 | NOAA-NWS, ICMSSR | NOAA NWS will send a draft of their Section 201 response to ICMSSR members. ICMSSR members will provide recommendations or edits back to NOAA by 15 May 2018. | | Open | 03/30/18 |

10. NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN

The ICMSSR Chair thanked members for participating in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Target dates for ICMSSR meetings in 2018 are:

11 May, 8 August, and 14 November.

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND
SUPPORTING RESEARCH**

MEETING 2018-1

ACTION ITEMS

ICMSSR Action Item 2018-1.1. Revise the ICMSSR Charter to include Chair rotation and other administrative changes.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: May 15, 2018.

ICMSSR Action Item 2018-1.2. Review memo drafted by USAF A3W regarding the 1340 qualification standard to the ICMSSR for concurrence and FCMSSR for approval to be sent to OPM with federal weather community endorsement.

Responsible Office: A3W (memo draft), OFCM (distribution), ICMSSR Agencies (concurrence and/or comment)

Due Date: February 28, 2018.

ICMSSR Action Item 2018-1.3. Arrange a meeting of interested federal weather enterprise organizations to discuss policy and procedures for coordination of U.S. positions and information flow for WMO issues.

Responsible Office: OFCM.

Due Date: March 15, 2018.

ICMSSR Action Item 2018-1.4. Present FCMSSR with the proposal to update the FCMSSR Charter as an implementation plan for Section 402 of the Weather Act. The proposal includes renaming FCMSSR as the Interagency Committee for Advancement of Weather Services (ICAWS), expanding leadership to establish NOAA and OSTP representatives as Co-Chairs, establishing the Federal Coordinator as the ICAWS Executive Secretary, and including all necessary language to implement the requirements of the Weather Act Section 402 and P.L. 87-843.

Responsible Office: OFCM.

Due Date: February 28, 2018

ICMSSR Action Item 2018-1.5. Upon FCMSSR approval of the Section 402 implementation plan, submit the recommend plan to Director, OSTP and work with OSTP to submit a legislation change request to identify the Federal Coordinator as the ICAWS Executive Secretary rather than a Co-chair.

Responsible Office: OFCM, OSTP

Due Date: May 30, 2018

ICMSSR Action Item 2018-1.6. Coordinate to ascertain NSC position, if any, on security of and potential vulnerabilities arising from weather related data and products.

Responsible Office: OFCM, OSTP, DoD. NOAA-NWS

Due Date: February 28, 2018.