INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH (ICMSSR)

INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IWRCC)

Record of Actions: 2018-1 Meeting

January 19, 2018, 1:00 PM – 2:00 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
NASA	ESD	Dr. Tsengdar Lee *(T)*
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Anjuli Bamzai *(T)*
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Chungu Lu *(T)*
JPL	Working Group Chair	Dr. Duane Waliser
Ohio State	Working Group Chair	Dr. Michael Morgan
OFCM	Federal Coordinator	Dr. William Schulz
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Michael Bonadonna
OFCM		Mr. Floyd Hauth *(T)*

Date of Issue: 6 March 2018

1. **Opening Remarks and Introductions for the Recording**

Dr. Cortinas called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Dr. Schulz introduced the meeting participants, provided administrative details, and highlighted the agenda.

2. Administration.

Dr. Schulz reminded members of the request to provide inputs to the High Impacts project. Dr. Morgan noted that he is waiting for inputs from NASA and NRL.

Dr. Cortinas provided information about the EUREC4A Field Study. NOAA/OAR and NSF are planning to participate, and he suggested that the Committee could coordinate agency participation in this Study.

This Field Study is a French-German initiative in support of the World Climate Research Programme's Grand Science Challenge on Clouds, Circulation and Climate Sensitivity. EUREC4A will take place between 20 January and 20 February 2020 with operations based out of Barbados.

EUREC4A aims at advancing understanding of the interplay between clouds, convection and circulation and their role in climate change: How resilient or sensitive is the shallow cumulus cloud amount to variations in the strength of convective mixing, surface turbulence and large-scale circulations? How do the radiative effects of water vapor and clouds influence shallow circulations and convection? What are the implications for the spatial organization of clouds and convection in the tropics, and for climate sensitivity?

To address these questions the core, and presently supported, EUREC4A measurements will focus on quantifying how cloud amount in shallow cumulus layers responds to changes in the large-scale environment, and how shallow clouds affect the radiation field and contribute to convective aggregation

The nucleus for the EUREC4A Field Study involves the deployment of two research aircraft (the German HALO and the French ATR42), an array of research vessels, advanced ground based remote sensing, a new generation of sophisticated satellite remote sensing and state-of-the-art turbulence-resolving modelling (100 m, over thousands of km).

Members discussed current agency interest levels in this Study and plans to participate. The reference web site for this Study is: http://www.eurec4a.eu/.

Dr. Schulz noted that this is an example of a watch list that would help keep members informed of activities that agencies might want to collaborate.

3. Action Item Review.

Dr. Schulz provided updates on each of the Action Items from previous meetings.

Action Items from 16 November 2017 Meeting:

2017-4.1: NSF will review ToR with their leadership and provide concurrence on the ToR, or provide a path for IWRCC to achieve concurrence.

This item is still open. Questions remain about the level of signature for such documents and whether an overall MOA is needed with OFCM. FACA concerns were also discussed. NSF and OFCM coordination will continue on this AI.

2017-4.2: The three Working Group leaders will compile a list of prospective members and submit to IWRCC for review.

This AI is still open. A new staff member at OFCM will be on board soon and will serve as Executive Secretary for this Group and assist with administrative actions.

Modified/expanded lists of prospective members have been compiled by the Group leaders and being reviewed prior to contacts being made to ensure the perspective members are willing to serve. The lists will be provided to the IWRCC for concurrence.

2017-4.3: Dr. Waliser will provide information which would facilitate IWRCC member agencies providing financial support to ECMWF S2S database, specifically:

- An (approximate) itemization of how the $50K would be spent.
- A description or listing of some research that has already benefited from access to this database.
- Identification of other potential fiscal partners (including other existing programs.)
- A commitment that the purpose of the database will continue to be scientific usage.

- An idea of the long-term strategy for the data base, for example will there be a financial maintenance plan put in place, or will the database be taken off-line and archived, or are other end states envisioned. The concern here is that this does not become an open-ended financial commitment.

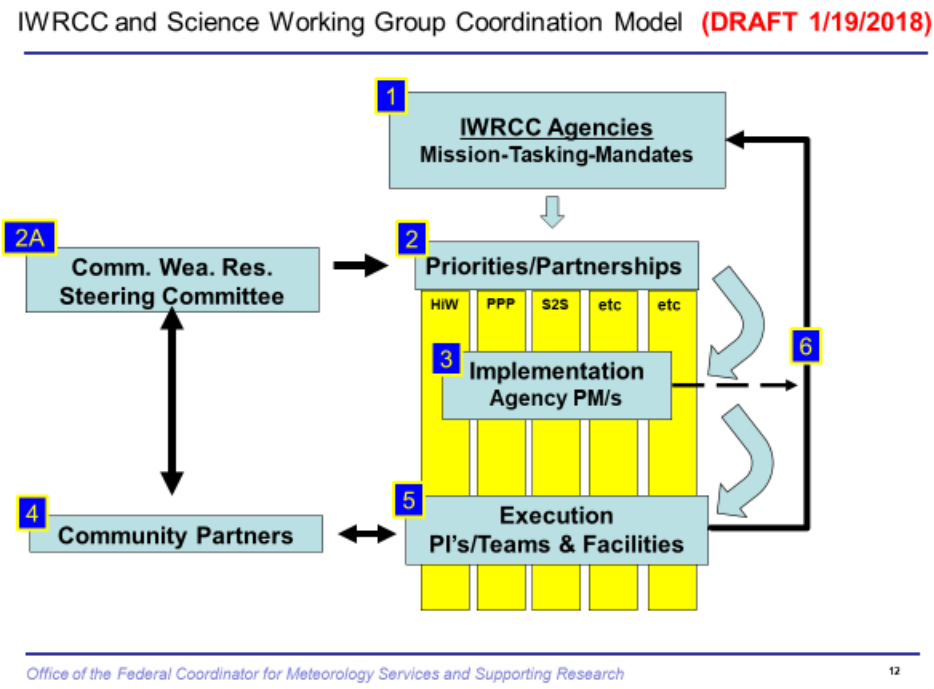
Dr. Waliser is continuing to work on this AI.

2017-4.4: Revise the draft coordination process diagram to include a clear separation of federal policy and community science activities.

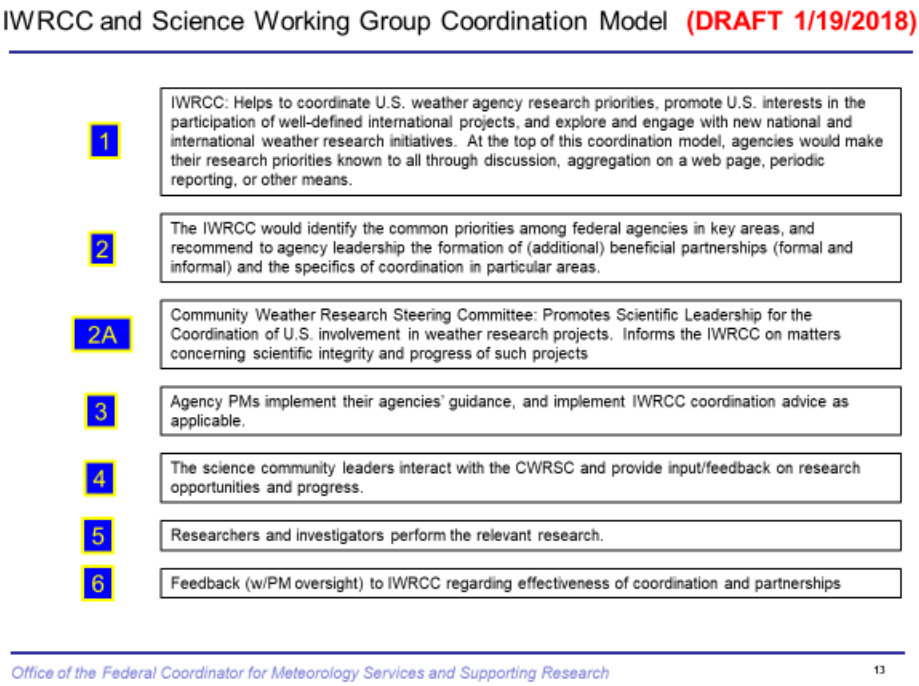
This AI is being addressed in a briefing to the IWRCC today.

4. Research Coordination Process Framework.

Dr. Schulz reviewed the background on the Framework Coordination Process and presented the updated diagram showing the IWRCC and Science Working Group Coordination Model.



The explanations for each of the process steps in the model are provided below:



The members were comfortable with the process as presented and agreed with Dr. Schulz's proposal to brief the draft Coordination Model at the Feb 2 ICMSSR meeting.

5. Strategic Plan Inputs.

Dr. Schulz reviewed the new Federal Coordination Documents and the requirement for committees to report progress towards Strategic Goals and Objectives. The intent is for Federal Weather Enterprise Committees and Working Groups to ready a report of ongoing actions and existing plans within their subject matter areas that support the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Individual agencies will be given opportunity to add and/or comment.

Dr. Schulz noted that of the six Strategic Goals the Fourth was most pertinent to the IWRCC. He drafted the following input for review by the IWRCC:

"Strategic Goal #4. Conduct productive, synergistic interagency research efforts. (IWRCC Inputs)

- Objective 4.1: Exercise leadership in coordinating U.S. efforts in international weather research priorities including the current WMO Grand Challenges.

  The Interdepartmental Weather Research Coordination Committee was re-chartered in 2017 to work within the Federal Weather Enterprise to "promote and help coordinate basic and applied U.S. research activities aimed at a getter fundamental understanding and improved prediction" of important atmospheric phenomena. The IWRCC is developing a coordination process which will increase visibility among agencies of priorities and projects, with specific focus on the World Meteorological Organization focus areas of High-Impact Weather, Polar Prediction, and Seasonal to Subseasonal forecasting.

- Objective 4.2: Foster interagency collaboration of research initiatives starting at the planning stage.

  The IWRCC's draft collaboration process includes sharing of interagency research priorities and to look for synergistic partnerships. In support of these efforts, the Community Weather Research Steering Committee (CWRSC) will provide advice, expertise and feedback on the scientific merit and integrity of these projects. The CWRSC is composed of academic and other scientific community experts in the fields under IWRCC's areas of focus (i.e. High Impact Weather, Polar Prediction, and Seasonal forecasting.)"
  (Objectives 4.3 and 4.4 have no inputs for this report.)

Members suggested minor changes in the wording of the objectives and proposed report.

These summaries will be included the FY19 Annual Report. ICMSSR (OFCM) will then conduct a gap analysis and issue directions to Committees/Working Groups as appropriate.

6. ICMSSR Briefing.

Dr. Schulz proposed that he present the IWRCC update briefing to the ICMSSR on February 2nd.

The briefing would include:

- IWRCC Terms of Reference.
- Science Working Group Terms of Reference.
- Coordination Structure (draft).
- Current issues under consideration.

Members asked that the briefing include plans for the next year. A polished version of the briefing will be provided to members for review next week.

7. Open Discussion.

Members discussed the challenges in finding Science Group members and exchanged updates on current High Impact Weather and Polar Prediction Project activities.

8. Adjourn and Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late February or early March 2018. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.