

Fifth Meeting of the NOAA Science Advisory Board's Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)

August 11, 2011
Louisville, Colorado

MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the SAB EISWG was held August 11, 2011, at. Co-Chairs, Walter Dabberdt and Nancy Colleton, led the discussions.

Meeting attendees included:

EISWG Members:

- Philip Ardanuy, Raytheon
- Nancy Colleton, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Co-Chair)
- Walter Dabberdt, Vaisala (Co-Chair)
- Ronald McPherson, AMS
- Barry Myers, AccuWeather
- Peter Neilley, The Weather Channel Companies
- Warren Qualley, Harris Corporation
- Kelly Redmond, Desert Research Institute, Western Regional Climate Center
- Joel Widder, Oldaker, Belair and Wittie, LLP
- Julie Winkler, Michigan State University
- Robert Winokur, Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy

Other Participants:

- Raymond Ban, The Weather Channel (SAB Chair and Liaison)
- Bill Feiereisen, Intel and the University of New Mexico
- Cynthia Decker, NOAA (Executive Director, Science Advisory Board)
- John Gaynor, Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, NOAA
- David Hermreck, NOAA NESDIS
- Edward Johnson, NOAA NWS
- Jonathan Kelsey, NOAA Legislation Affairs
- Kevin R. Petty, Director, Technology Research, Vaisala Group
- Jennifer Sprague, NOAA NWS
- Kevin Stewart, National Hydrologic Warning Council (participating on behalf of Eugene Stallings)

- Scott Sternberg, President, Vaisala Inc.
- Helena Marjaranta, Director, Communications, Vaisala Group

EISWG Members not present:

- Helen Brohl, Department of Transportation, U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System
- Eric Gritmit, 3TIER
- Jeff Lazo, NCAR
- Eugene Stallings, EASPE, Inc.
- John Toohey-Morales

The agenda for the one-day meeting is included in *Appendix A*. Actions are included in *Appendix B*. Presentations are available at noaa.gov. *Attachment C* includes a list of EISWG Meetings.

SAB Update

SAB Chair and EISWG SAB Liaison, Ray Ban provided a summary of the SAB last meeting held July 21st in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Ban noted that the SAB discussed Working Group realignments along the four main goals of NOAA Strategic Plan. They also discussed how the SAB could provide strategic corporate board across science, service and stewardship that cut through NGSP goals. It was also determined that working groups would align directly with the overarching strategic objectives.

It is assumed that the SAB during the November 2011 meeting will map current working group structure to what NOAA could effectively use. EISWG, for example could be a pivotal, cross-cutting committee that would focus beyond the NWS to all of NOAA.

The SAB also discussed the creation of an ad hoc Task Force on Satellites.

Regarding the draft NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy, which was intended to inform federal employees they would have flexibility in releasing their science, the SAB cautioned about too much leeway and recommended that the agency consider some form of control measures.

Action: Include EISWG review (by WG) on the November meeting agenda.

Action: Provide EISWG review regarding potential realignment to the SAB following the November meeting.

Open Weather and Climate Services (OWCS)

Following the previous day's presentation at the AMS Summer Community Meeting, Peter Neilley led a discussion on next steps.

All thought that the AMS session was successful and were encouraged by Dr. Hayes' endorsement of the concept.

Some questions that should be addressed include:

1. Does the OWCS paper represent a NWS, whole of NOAA, or government approach?
2. How will NOAA protect data and/or gain approval of partners (Navy)?
3. What is the implementation plan for NOAA and the private sector?
4. Who leads on the part of the private sector?
5. How does the OWCS concept link with the roadmaps?
6. What is the best model (joint testing lab or association)?
7. How will NOAA ensure a fairness doctrine—equity for large and small firms?
8. Where might an initial pilot project be implemented?

The group discussed further outreach and communication of the concept such as:

- Developing a BAMS article. Contact Jeff Rosenthal at BAMS. This would reach 14,000 AMS members in addition to those briefed yesterday.
- Considering outreach to consider to other industry groups (cat modelers).
- Neilly's presentation is on the AMS website.

Action: Neilley to revise the concept paper (add abstract, scientific approach) by September 23rd.

Action: Decker to include OWCS on the next SAB meeting agenda

Action: Neilley to provide the OWCS presentation at the SAB's November 29-30, 2011 meeting in Washington, DC

Action: Colleton and Dabbert to share the concept paper with CWG and DAARWG. Ask for their comments by October 7th September 29th.

Action: Walt to lead a discussion at the November meeting regarding the Walt to organization of an AMS EISWG Town Hall Meeting for the purpose of broadly informing the AMS Community

Action: Neilley to brief Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Assistant Secretary for Observations and Prediction (possibly at next EISWG meeting).

Membership (Closed Session)

During a closed session, the EISWG members discussed possible candidates to fill the two vacancies on the working group.

Action: Colleton and/or Dabberdt to contact the two candidates to ensure that they have time to participate in EISWG activities. If so, the names of the candidates would be put forward to the SAB for a 3-year appointment.

CPTF

Warren Qualley reported that the Climate Partnership Task Force recommendations and findings were presented to the SAB in Ann Arbor.

Ban reported that based on the presentation, the SAB sent a letter to NOAA (Dr. Lubchenco) noting that until this Task Force was established there has been very little input from industry into the proposed climate service.

The EISWG agreed to endorse the report and send it to the SAB for transmittal to NOAA.

Action: Colleton—make the recommended editorial changes to report and finalize it.

Action: Colleton to draft transmittal letter.

Action: Transmit to Ray Ban/SAB by August 17.

Partnership Policy

Ed Johnson of NOAA provided an overview of the NOAA Partnership Policy and discussed how the EISWG might evaluate its effectiveness. It was noted during the discussion that the need exists to better communicate the policy across the NWS as well as all of NOAA.

Questions to be addressed as part of the review include:

- Is the policy serving the purpose as noted in the policy?
- How should “effectiveness” be defined in this context?
- Does the current policy address future requirements?
- Is there consistency across the NOAA line offices?
- Does the agency need to re-familiarize itself with the policy?

It was noted that EISWG could not take on the responsibility of engaging the entire community. Therefore, NOAA should conduct a formal request for comment and EISWG would review the synthesized comments.

Action: Johnson to address need for uniform implementation of the policy across all of the line offices.

Action: Johnson to determine whether the NOAA website could be used to collect comments on the policy.

Action: Johnson to provide preliminary comments at the November EISWG meeting

Action: EISWG to address the policy at the April 2012 meeting.

Information on the Partnership Policy is available at:

<http://www.noaa.gov/partnershippolicy/#policy>

NWS Roadmap Discussion

EISWG will review and provide comments on the NWS Roadmap (Version 1.0), which is scheduled released in October 2011.

The Services, Science and Technology Plan, and the Business Plan will need to be consistent with the OWCS plan.

November Meeting Items

- OCWS Update—final presentation before SAB
- Partnership Policy—May want to better focus that discussion
- Roadmaps Version 1.0 Window to submit comments (Comment in Early 2012)—Chris Strager
- New Members
- SAB Update
- Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
- High Impact Weather—Roadmap will start the discussion and pilot projects
What are the boundaries (1/2 Day)
- Preview of the upcoming NOAA severe weather meeting to be held in December 13-15, 2011 in Norman, Oklahoma

Other Items

NOAA Partnership Meetings—The EISWG agreed to go on record that future NOAA Partnership Meetings not be scheduled during EISWG (or v.v) or other major meetings such as AMS meetings.

HHS References to the NWS—Barry Myers shared the following text from the HHS website:

HHS Flagship Initiatives

Most weather data in the United States is supplied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – which puts out a rich supply of high quality weather data that is free and easily accessible by the public.

Innovators outside NOAA then pick up this data and turn it into useful services that can benefit the public – weather websites, news programs, mobile applications, etc.

We are inspired, in part, by the weather – more specifically, the public-private ecosystem that undergirds the supply and use of weather data.

Our intent is to catalyze the emergence of a community health data ecosystem that’s similar to this weather data ecosystem, and position HHS as the “NOAA of community health.”

Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2011
8:00am—3:30pm
Vaisala
Colorado Technology Center
194 South Taylor Avenue
Louisville, Colorado

Agenda

- 8:00 Meet and Greet (continental breakfast)
- 8:30 Welcome and Introductions Colleton & Dabberdt
- Introduce Attendees
 - EISWG Brief Background
 - Meeting Objectives
 - Report from July SAB
 - Report Out from EISWG Summer Community Workshop
 - Summary of Recent Efforts (NWS PNS Service Delivery Architecture; SAB Conceptual Operations Report)
- 9:30 Open Weather & Climate Services Concept Neilley & Ardanuy
Next Steps
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Update on CPTF & Next Steps Qualley
- 12:00 Working Lunch
- 1:00 Next Steps on the Partnership Policy and Colleton & Dabberdt
NWS Roadmap documents with Johnson & Strager
- 2:00 EISWG Forum: Open Discussion for All Attendees All
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Next Steps & Summary
- Review Plans for November Meeting
 - Review Actions
 - Review Workplan
- 3:30 Adjourn

Appendix B

**EISWG Actions
Working Group Meeting
August 8, 2011**

1. Colleton and Dabberdt to include EISWG review (by WG) on the November meeting agenda.
2. Colleton and Dabberdt to provide EISWG review regarding potential realignment to the SAB following the November meeting.
3. Neilley to revise the concept paper (add abstract, scientific approach) by September 23rd.
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9. Colleton and/or Dabberdt to contact the two candidates to ensure that they have time to participate in EISWG activities. If so, the names of the candidates would be put forward to the SAB for a 3-year appointment.
10. Colleton—make the recommended editorial changes to report and finalize it.
11. Colleton to draft transmittal letter.
12. Colleton to transmit to Ray Ban/SAB by August 17.
13. Johnson to address need for uniform implementation of the policy across all of the line offices.
14. Johnson to determine whether the NOAA website could be used to collect comments on the policy.
15. Johnson to provide preliminary comments at the November EISWG meeting
16. EISWG to address the policy at the April 2012 meeting.

EISWG Schedule of Meetings

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
6	November 16-17, 2011	Silver Spring, Maryland
5	August 11, 2011	Louisville, Colorado
4	April 19-20, 2011	Silver Spring, Maryland
3	November 3-4, 2010	Sausalito, California
<i>Ad hoc</i>	August 9, 2010	State College, Pennsylvania
2	April 19-20, 2010	Silver Spring, Maryland
1	November 18-20, 2009	Silver Spring, Maryland