

## NOAA in the Carolinas Steering Committee Agenda

August 13, 2012: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Participants: Jennifer Dorton, Darin Figurskey, Susan White, Mike Voiland, Aleta Hohn, Geno Olmi, Mike Kruk, Mike Emlaw, Jack Thigpen

### 10:00 – 11:30 AM

#### NinC 2012 Meeting

- Location and logistics (i.e. food, schedule) were great.
  - In the future, it may be good to link our meetings with another group's meeting in order to increase attendance and help with cost sharing.
- Meeting Report
  - **Action Item: Double check that the meeting report is on-line in the Meetings section of the website.**
    - Complete as of 8/16/2012 – the report is on-line.
- Outcomes/New collaboration
  - NIDIS
  - Darin informed Ryan Boyles (NC State Climatologist) about the NCDC undertaking a study to improve the definition of drought for diverse North America climate regions and getting input from climatologists, in addition to the NCDC and Drought Monitor authors wishing to develop a database with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) input on crop impacts nationwide to help classify impacts objectively. Ryan was working on getting better input from stakeholders on drought impact in NC, and he may request support from NWS offices.
  - Hurricane Storm Tide network in NC – Rich and Darin followed up with USGS to find out what it would take to set up a network in NC that is similar to the one in SC.
  - SCSG will be assisting with the FEMA/EPA project. Linda Rimer will send Jennifer Dorton information on the public scoping meetings and Jennifer will share the info with NinC.
    - Jessica Whitehead and Sarah VanderSchalie also have been involved with this project and may have some further information.
- Post-meeting comments
  - There was a desire for longer discussion time on a particular topic in order to look for collaborative opportunities.
  - Invite representatives from other agencies, such as the Department of Energy and FEMA, to future meetings.
  - The meeting provided good networking opportunities.
  - Breakout sessions had balanced attendance which showed that our meeting tracts were well throughout and pertinent.

“Brown Bag” Seminar

- Previous seminars
  - Hurricane Season Forecast
  - NESDIS Satellite Imagery
    - oil, HAZMAT, fire and smoke
  - Climate Normals
  - The first call had approximately 30 people; however, the Climate call only had 7 participants.
- Possible ideas:
  - Tailor the talks to be Carolinas specific.
  - Host calls as topics come up instead of trying to keep regularly scheduled calls.
  - Work with other on-line seminars to help spread the word (e.g. SALCC) about upcoming seminars. Link into existing seminars as a contributor.
  - Streaming to the web – for example, NC Seafood Festival interviews. The video would be available via the web and it is not a “call in” type activity.
- **Decision**
  - There are lots of seminars and web events come through e-mail so people may be overwhelmed by the amount of topics available.
  - **Overall, the group decided to disband routine seminars, hosting calls as topics come up instead of trying to keep regularly scheduled calls.**

#### Direction of NinC

- How do we envision ourselves moving forward?
  - Based on our last meeting, we have felt the pain of budget cuts. How do we work within this environment? What are our mechanisms for engagement?
  - If we are a “middle man” then we are helping to organize activities and connect organizations.
  - In terms of outreach, what do we want to promote?
  - Bring together NOAA partners and academia to facilitate collaboration. Maybe the current NinC format is no longer that useful. Maybe we have evolved and we need to redefine the purpose of NinC.
  - Maybe host quarterly or semi-annually webinars in order to bring together possible collaborators.
  - SECART is more of the regional entity and as long as NinC is under SECART, then we should work to be the public face of NOAA in our region.
    - NinC performing a similar function of SECART but in a more defined geographic region.
  - Is there still interest/energy to continue with NinC and are we still needed?
    - Mine old report surveys to see if there is information in there that could help us determine ways to move forward.
    - Then have a survey (e.g. Survey Monkey) to determine gaps that NinC could fill and how NinC could help.
    - Right now energy level is pretty low since people have so many local office commitments and many SC members are also involved with SECART as well.

- We may want to see what NinC at large thinks. Maybe we can do this from 3-4 carefully crafted question survey.
- **ACTION: come up with survey questions for the larger NinC audience.**
- **ACTION: Use Google Docs and people can help write/draft questions. Mike Kruk will set up the file on Google docs.**
- May be easier for people to put their general thoughts down and then NCSG people may be able to help with question wording. Jennifer, Darin Aleta, and Jack will help with the wordsmithing the questions.
- It may be worthwhile to change some of the SC membership since many of the current SC members have been involved for such a long time. This may increase the energy level within the group.

#### Executive Committee

- Mike Voiland will retire from NCSG in December 2012.
- Susan White's term on the EC comes up within 6 months.
- We need volunteers for the EC.
- This does not require a big time investment. Hold telephone calls with Jennifer and help put together agendas for the SC calls.
- No-one volunteered to participate on the EC. If no one volunteers by the time that Susan's term is up, then the EC will probably dissolve.
- Rich Bandy has expressed a desire to drop off of the SC. He is willing to give advice and help where he can.
- Jack suggested that we send out a general notice that the positions are coming open and we may get some new folks to participate.
- **Decision: Let's wait until the survey results come in before soliciting for new membership on the SC or EC.**

#### Upcoming Outreach Events

- *Seafood Festival*, Morehead City, October 5-7, 2012
  - Rich's shop will take the lead on NinC booth set up. Will start active coordination within the next few weeks.
  - Geno will bring the kiosk.
  - NCSG will have a booth as well.
  - Booth set up starts on Friday morning. NCSG and NinC booths can help coordinate coverage.
- Hatteras Village *Day at the Docks* is being hosted Sept 14-16.
  - NCSG will have a booth there, as well as other state agencies.
  - Can take NinC materials and info to have in the booth.
  - Area is covered and has electricity. May be able to have the NinC kiosk.
- *Science Writers 2012* international conference is being held in Raleigh, NC in October 2012.
  - Katie Mosher is working on this meeting.
  - [www.sciencewriters2012.org](http://www.sciencewriters2012.org) for more information.

- There is a tour to Carteret County.
- Mike will speak with Katie to determine if NinC help is needed.

#### Sea Grant/SECART project - Improving Inundation Forecasts via Post-Storm Assessments

- SG and other trained individuals go out and locate and document storm surge indicators.
- SG directors in the SE submitted a grant to NOAA to continue this work and it was funded.
- Will host a workshop next year to bring together other groups to participate in this effort.
- There is a federal interagency effort, led by USGS, to map storm surge and the Sea Grant effort ties into this effort.

#### **11:30 – 12:00 Noon**

##### NIDIS Carolinas Scoping Workshop – Lisa Darby, NOAA NIDIS

- Carolinas RISA will be the local leads for the Carolinas NIDIS project. Carolinas RISA has hosted several climate workshops related to drought. This project is a first since this pilot is not defined by a river basin. Will focus on ecosystems.
- Hosted Wilmington meeting.
- Two main themes that emerged were public health and public land management since they are both directly impacted by drought. Also looked at USGS salinity measurements.
- Four potential projects came forward (and meeting summary will be out soon):
  - Seafood safety forecast – tie low flow information to HABs and other toxins (Geoff Scott and Dwayne Porter).
  - Drought indices – look at ideas on developing drought indices based on the salinity network (Paul Conrad).
  - Drought forecasting – State climatologist would lead this one.
  - Drought impact reporting – get people to report drought impacts especially in the coastal regions. National Drought Impact Reporter would be involved as well as faculty at U. of Nebraska – Lincoln.
- Now have to narrow the focus into one topic. This will take several more workshops to move this effort forward.
- The particular project would be focused on coastal ecosystems in NC and SC. The pilots have a target of 2 years. Would then have to think about sustainability after the initial timeframe.
- Next steps:
  - Conference calls to determine how we should proceed with each of these 4 projects. Each of these potential topic areas would require at least one stakeholder meeting.
- Once the topic is identified, there are NIDIS resources available to support a pilot.
- Collaboration with NinC would be encouraged.
  - NIDIS office is in CO so contacts in NC and SC would be helpful.
  - Who can contribute to making a pilot work, who would benefit from the information, and how do we get the information to people?

- Once we (NinC) get the meeting summary and descriptions of the projects, we can then try to determine how we best fit in.
- Meeting webpage on [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov) and meeting reports will be filed there.