

NOAA in the Carolinas Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, September 11, 2009

Time: 10 AM until 2 PM

Location: NC Sea Grant, Flex Building, Module 1, Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC

Con Call: (866) 613-8897

Participant code – 9210146

Participants: Jennifer Dorton, Jack Thigpen, Mike Voiland, Susan White, Rebecca Ellin, Darin Figungskey

Call In: Aleta Hohn, Geno Olmi, Rich Bandy, Ginny Fay, Mike Emlaw, Linda Rimer, Scott Cross

1. Linda Rimer, EPA, called in to discuss some of the climate adaptation projects that the EPA is involved with in NC and the region.
 - a. The Office of Air & Radiation and the Office of Water are working together to address drought, climate change and adaptation in the SE.
 - i. Stratus received contract to assess climate change impacts across SE (11 states).
 - ii. There will be a meeting Feb 2-3 in Atlanta related to this effort. Meeting invitees will be national level planners and agency leads.
 - b. There is an NC Interagency Leadership Team (6 state agencies - DOT, DENR, Commerce, Culture Resources, Agriculture, and NC Wildlife Resources Commission. 4 federal agencies - NOAA, USACE, F&W, EPA) that address 3 goal areas. Goal area 2 is transportation planning. This goal team is including climate change and adaptation in its strategies for addressing future transportation needs.
 - i. Website:
<http://www.ncdot.org/programs/environment/development/interagency/ncilt/>
 - ii. States (e.g. FL, MD, WA) where Gov's have stepped out and taken leadership roles are further along in their climate adaptation strategies. NC and SC governors have not prioritized climate adaptation.
 - iii. NC Wildlife Resource Climate Action plan can be used as a guide for many other agencies and states. This plan was well drafted and thought out.
<http://www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth/documents/Manual/GGTBsec1.pdf>
 - iv. Safety LOU – Transportation Bill in Congress to reauthorize the transportation bill. Federal Highways is looking at climate change.
 - v. Partner with APNEP (w/ EPA) for Climate Ready Estuary status. Still trying to work out what it takes to become a "Climate Ready" estuary.
 - vi. The Interagency Leadership Team Will host a climate change adaptation workshop in conjunction with APNEP. The meeting will be in March 10-11 (tentative) at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Breakout sessions will be based on geographic sections of the state and they will have a small piece on SLR. Target audience is planners across the state.
 - vii. Scott Shuford wrote workbook on climate change. Workbook will be published by the American Planning Association. Scott is now a planner with Onslow

County, NC. Each section of the book looks at an issue through the lens of climate change (e.g. transportation needs as climate changes, agriculture changes due to climate changes).

- c. There will be a meeting in Asheville, NC on Sept 22 regarding State climate strategies. Linda discussed this meeting and is also interested in someone from NinC attending, if possible.
 - i. Jim Fox worked jointly with NCDC to create decision support tools related to climate change/adaptation. NOAA is funding Fox to do workshops and show off some of the climate related decision support tools that have made/created.
 - ii. Meeting is from 11:00 - 2:30 and will review the decision support tools.
 - iii. Learn more about the UNCA decision making/support tools:
<http://www.northcarolina.edu/nctomorrow/reports/index.php>. Scroll down to "Faculty Climate Change" and click on the campus of interest. Note UNC-Ashville report.
 - d. John Dormond – Program Director/Chair of the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program. The floodplain mapping group's main efforts, ongoing since 2001, can be found at http://www.ncfloodmaps.com/top_about.htm, under "What will this project entail?" Adaptation is part of this study.
 - i. Spencer Rogers (NCSG), Ken Galluppi (RENCI), and Rick Leuttich (UNC-IMS) are all involved in the Floodplain Mapping Program.
 - ii. A nice, short description of coastal mapping efforts, some of which we discussed at the Friday meeting, can be found at:
http://www.ncfloodmaps.com/pubdocs/coastal_flood_studies.pdf
2. Discussion of Linda's call.
 - a. Interagency Leadership Team (ILT) was news to most people.
 - b. Would like to get NinC either involved with the ILT or at least more aware of their activities.
 - c. **Ginny will look into the NOAA participation on the Team.**
 - d. **Rebecca will get more information on the ILT workshop that is being planned for March 2010.**
 - e. Mike Voiland: Linda's presentation should not deter us from our meeting and her info highlighted some of the speakers that we should invite.
 3. Review the Aug. 14 workshop outcomes and discuss possible upcoming NinC meeting themes.
 - a. SLR is still the meeting focus. There is a duplication concern which is real, but we need to focus on outcomes that will help us keep the duplication from occurring.
 - b. Aleta noted that we should tie the meeting back to Topic 1 (from the Aug. 14 meeting) – rates of change are very important. This is something that we can take back to NOAA and hopefully get NOAA's help. Push to have definitive information that can be pushed to state agencies.
 - i. Rebecca noted the Coastal Zone Management meeting will be held Jan 14-15, 2010 and the meeting theme is SLR and determining rates of change, based on literature review.

- c. It is probably not worthwhile for NinC to host a meeting in March or April to determine rates of change, after NC has already hosted a similar meeting.
- d. NinC meeting audience: NOAA, agency reps that attended the Aug. 14 meeting.
- e. Mike Voiland noted that there are many activities going on above (interagency Fed and International) as well as below us (states) so it might be difficult for NinC to find a niche with SLR.
- f. For the NinC meeting, we could have Scott Shuford, John Dormond, Jim Fox and Rick Leuttich come discuss what they are doing related to climate change and SLR.
 - i. The work being conducted by the above people and ILT as well as others, will help us fine tune the inventory.
 - ii. Value-added is a consolidated list of activities and projects related to climate change and adaptation.
 - iii. Darin noted that the NinC meeting will provide us with the opportunity to determine how NOAA can help with these projects.
 - iv. There is definitely some amount of overlap and many disconnected pieces in regards to SLR. NinC could look at the efforts and see where gaps are and then help to fill those gaps.
 - 1. This could be a good way to make connections. Have NOAA hear what is going on outside of NOAA and have others in the community look at what NOAA is doing.
- g. There is a good NWS hook as well since NWS is getting more climate related questions.
- h. Jack suggested that it might be best to host a meeting focused on outreach (re: Mike Voiland's suggestion at the Aug 14 meeting). Include social scientists that could help us get the climate change message out to the public and help us make connections with stakeholders.
 - i. The NC NERR is discussing having staff take an on-line climate training course so that all of the staff can discuss climate change from the same perspective. This will focus on internal education so that all of the staff are presenting the same message.
 - ii. Geno: CSC is hosting a workshop during the 3rd quarter of 2010. Sea Grant, NERRS, other NOAA partners will get up to speed on climate science and outreach efforts. Interesting examples that we could learn from.
 - 1. Audience: Primarily it will be NOAA and affiliates – NOAA people within the region that have the opportunity to talk about climate and climate impacts. Could be public, elected officials, etc.
- i. Susan stated that standardizing a climate change message could be difficult because we would have to have clearance from upper administration within the agency and possibly even up to DC before we can standardize the message.
- j. The Climate Office or Climate Program does have an outreach component. We need to look into their efforts and we would need to invite someone from this office to our meeting.

- k. It was noted that NinC needs to facilitate in areas where there are gaps. SLR is not a gap. How to communicate climate is a gap.
 - l. Rich stated that we need partners to tell us what they need from NOAA so that NOAA can assist with projects.
 - i. The assumption with this is that partners know what NOAA does. We also have to manage expectations – NOAA can't fill all of their needs.
 - m. Jennifer stated that, since rates of change related to SLR is being worked on by several groups, maybe we should drop the 1st priority and go to the 2nd – Decision support tools.
 - i. Scott stated that this lends itself well to data acquisition since all of the decision support tools need data to feed them
 - ii. Someone needs to go to the Sept 22 meeting in Ashville if we go down this route.
 - iii. Jennifer will e-mail Linda to see if there is an agenda for this day.
 - n. There have been many needs assessments for the past few years. One problem that has come up is that the decision support tools that have been created are too technologically advanced for the states and they can't use them.
 - o. Rich stated that we should focus on decision support services, not decision support tools. Everything doesn't need to be a technological "gadget".
 - p. Susan provided the following meeting idea: Highlight federal, state, and local based examples of decision support services that are already available. Focus these services on SLR so that we can tailor the meeting more. 1 – Here is what's available and 2 – Outreach. This is a NinC facilitation role. One outcome is a white paper that can be pushed up through Climate, NCDC, etc.
 - i. This might even highlight possible partners within other groups.
 - ii. This meeting idea will help NOAA and partners see what is available and help highlight activities within the region.
4. Lunch discussion. Raleigh group discussed whether or not we should even have an event based on the current issues we are having in regards to setting up a meeting.
- a. Geno noted that sometimes there is overlap between NinC and SECART. NinC is good at awareness building. Somewhat uneasy with the NinC's "engage the public" activities as of late. NinC is good at internal community building.
 - b. NinC can help SECART with some communication facilitation within the Carolinas. Meeting attendees think that the NinC meeting should still occur.
 - c. Maybe we could focus the SLR or climate adaptation on NOAA staff and NinC key partners (NERR, SG, etc). We need to be educating our own folks on what is being done related to climate.
 - d. Susan noted that the panel from the last meeting said that we need to bring in academics and a broader audience. This was prior to SECART taking off though.
5. Decision support services for adapting to climate change: tools, education techniques and outreach.

- a. 1 ½ day meeting. Topic – Climate Services (broad) or fine tune to climate adaptation. Have presentations from across the NOAA line offices and states. Then have a ½ day small group breakout to discuss where and how we can partner.
 - b. Darin & Rich would like to see ½ day on outreach/education component.
 - c. Rich stated that we need a recap of some of the things we have been doing since the last meeting – CI FLOW update, changes to the website, etc. What’s been done behind the scenes since the last meeting?
 - d. Possible idea is to start at 2 PM on travel day and discuss CI FLOW etc and a social hour. Then start the first full day with climate services discussions. Last day is a half day with discussions and/or outreach.
 - i. Presentations: Climate Office, NOAA CI (Climate related in Asheville, NC), Climate Ready Estuary (EPA & APNEP). State and NOAA presentations. Showcase things that are out there. POC for NOAA: Krisa Arzayus, NOAA Regional Team climate coordinator.
 - ii. Possibly have posters and abstracts. Posters can provide information on other decision support services available but not necessarily what we need to hear presentations on.
 - iii. Darin noted that we had mixed responses to this in the past. Have them up the entire time instead of having a poster session.
 - iv. The HMT SE meeting was facilitated very well. If we have some good facilitators we could have the 1 ½ day be very productive.
 - v. A small planning committee should draft an agenda and present out to the larger group.
 - vi. There needs to be plenty of meeting time for people to get together.
6. Meeting planning team members: Scott Cross, Jennifer Dorton, Susan White, Darin Figsrsky, Jack Thigpen, and Aleta Hohn.
- a. Finalize the NinC meeting theme
 - b. Determine meeting goals and outcomes
 - c. Determine pre-planning efforts that need to be undertaken (e.g. inventories)
 - d. Decide on meeting location (Asheville, Sunset Beach (Sea Trail), or Myrtle Beach area)
 - e. Possible meeting dates (update the NinC Calendar so that possible conflicts are highlighted)
7. Jennifer: contact Asheville, Sea Trails (Sunset Beach), Kingston Plantation (Myrtle Beach). Angela Willis can provide information on Sea Trails - (252) 808-2808.
- a. Late March or April. Meeting space for approximately 75-100; Breakout spaces – 4; lodging either on-site or nearby & cost; area for social area (h’ors doevers, beer/wine); poster space for duration of the meeting. Availability to accommodate scenarios (2 – ½ days, one full day, or 2 full days and ½ day).