



Joint Implementation Working Group Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 28, 2016
9:00-12:00pm eastern
Main Interior building

Attending:

- Michael Bean, DOI
- Richard Merrick, NOAA
- Kevin Hunting, CA DFW
- Jim Zorn, GLIFWC
- Paul Souza, USFWS
- Kate Freund, USFWS
- Davia Palmeri, AFWA
- Catherine Marzin, NOAA
- Lynn Helbrecht, WA
- Alex Intermaggio, GSA/USFWS
- Roger Griffis, NOAA
- Jeff Peterson, EPA
- Marlene Cole, USDA/APHIS
- Kim Stone, GLIFWC
- Leanne Hogan, NMFS
- Ben Thatcher, USFWS
- Gregor Schuurman, NPS
- Art Coykendall, BOR
- Wendy Hall, APHIS
- Sandy Boyce, USFS
- Rachel Novak –BIA
- Mariel Murray – CEQ
- Brian Branciforte – FL FWC
- Whitney Albright – CA DFW
- Kim Tripp - BLM

NGO Participants:

- Taylor Pool, AFS
- Aimee Delach, Defenders of Wildlife
- Keith Norris, TWS
- Lauren McDonald, TWS
- Dani Dagan, TWS
- Doug Parsons, SCB

1. Welcome & Introductions, Goals for the Meeting – Co-chairs

- Michael Bean – the goal of our meeting is to begin collaboratively implementing the actions we laid out in the work plan at our last meeting.
- Richard Merrick – this is our first face-to-face meeting with the new JIWG leadership, and marks an important move toward implementation. We are asking people to think seriously about how to stand up these working groups and how we can all contribute.
- Jim Zorn – ask that we can all do whatever we can to solidify our work as a scientific backed enterprise to ensure it will last through the next administration.
- Kevin Hunting – continues to appreciate the involvement of the states. This is an important part of planning for California, and they look forward to begin to moving toward implementation.

2. Comments from CEQ – Mariel Murray

- The Administration celebrates recent accomplishments and is looking to institutionalize them. They released a [progress report in December](#).



- They appreciate the consideration of the Climate and Natural Resources Priority Agenda in JIWG efforts, including the Climate Adaptation Leadership Award, identifying best practices, working with partners and the climate resilient toolkit, etc.
- Resilient Lands and Waters project is closely involving many agencies and working with LCCs.

3. Partner Update – Taylor Pool, American Fisheries Society

- Provided an update on the Future of Our Nation’s Fisheries initiative – an effort to produce key policy recommendations for management of our nation’s fisheries.
- Will include climate change, and both freshwater and marine fisheries, as well as commercial and recreational fisheries.
- There is an upcoming meeting: February 8, and they encourage people to get involved, and to contact Taylor Pool or Tom Bigford (Policy Director).
- Aiming for a final presentation in the fall, for agency heads for the next administration.
- Discussion:
 - This should closely linking to the NOAA climate science strategy.
 - Encouraged to think about blue carbon and about the freshwater component of carbon sequestration and management.
 - The topics should include pathogens of species and aquaculture, and if so APHIS would like to be part of this discussion.

Action item: We will try to host a presentation at each meeting to feature efforts from our partners. Please get in touch with the MT if have ideas or presentations to share.

4. Final Work Plan Presentation and JIWG Approval – Michael Bean, Davia Palmeri

- At our last meeting, we discussed the draft Work Plan prepared by the Management Team and the Co-chairs to guide our efforts over the next two years.
- The Management Team revised the Work Plan to address those suggestions and proposes that the JIWG adopts it today.
- Workplan is organized into three main work streams – broken into a few major actions

Work Stream	Title	Resources required ¹	Subgroup
Promote use of the Strategy and recognize successful	Administer a Climate Adaptation Leadership Award	Requires staff support, help soliciting nominations, and reviewing nominees	Management Team

¹ Current NFWPCAS JIWG resources include \$50,000 each from USFWS and NOAA to support one full-time staff member at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies



implementation	Promote the Strategy goals and framework with regional partnerships and other stakeholder communities	Progress can be made at current capacity	Engagement and Outreach Subgroup
Increase future implementation of the Strategy	Identify and promote climate adaptation best practices for fish, wildlife, and plants	Contribution of 1-3 hours per week from JIWG members or staff or financial support for extra staff	Best Practices Subgroup
	Explore and highlight gaps in NFWPCAS implementation	Contribution of 1-3 hours per week from JIWG members or staff or financial support	Implementation Subgroup
	Contribute results to the Climate Resilience Toolkit	Progress can be made at current capacity	All
Incorporate climate adaptation requirements in to conservation funding	Influence conservation funding decisions	Contribution of 1-3 hours per week from JIWG members or staff or financial support	Conservation Funding Subgroup

Decision: Michael Bean proposed that the workplan is considered final and adopted – this is agreed by the JIWG.

5. Work Plan Implementation Discussion – Richard Merrick, Roger Griffis

- We view this effort as a living workplan – it depends on all of us to actually carry it out and help guide the subgroups.
- The Management Team has gotten started with administration of the Climate Adaptation Leadership Award for Natural Resources and is proposing four additional subgroups to focus on implementation of the other work plan priority activities.
- Asking agencies to think about how we can all participate, how these efforts align with each agencies, and what groups can contribute. We are also – very open to the NGOs or anyone else participating in the discussion (and in the workgroups themselves).
- Looking for guidance on framing these, narrowing the scope to more specific topics, etc.

Action item: In the next two weeks –Respond on which of these groups your agency will work. Ideally would like Federal, state, and tribal representation on these subgroups.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- **Climate Adaptation Leadership Award – Roger Griffis**

- Management Team has been working since the fall to launch new award recognizing outstanding efforts in adaptation wildlife and natural resources. This was one of the recommendations of the Administration's climate change priorities.
- The Award was launched in early November – now have received 47 nominations.
- 9 individual nominees and 38 groups/agencies/organizations. A decent mix of fed, state, tribal, and NGO. A full breakdown of the nominees will be provided at next meeting
- Plan to highlight 3-5 winners, and find a way to highlight all the honorable mentions to provide visibility and promote all the great efforts we received. We will likely post these to our website and look to all agencies to help feature them.
- Discussion
 - The award presentation is still being developed but will likely be around Earth Day. The Management Team will look into creating a physical plaque or trophy of some kind.
 - Also recognize that there is a regional/local aspect to this, and want to work with agencies or groups in each region to highlight winners and nominees
 - This is designed to be a multi-year award going forward in perpetuity, we hope people get excited and want to continue to join as sponsoring agencies.
 - Next year's award - start earlier to avoid the holidays, and align the presentation with a major conference or meeting (perhaps the 2017 National Adaptation Forum?).
 - The Management Team will be coming back to this group with recommended winners.
 - There is a lot of interest from JIWG agencies to be part of the review and promotion of the winners. This will include state agencies, and perhaps USDA climate hubs.

Action item: Suggest bringing Mark Shaffer back to the Award recognition ceremony and honor him in some way.

Action item: Looking for recommendations about potential event opportunities for award presentation, and potentially for communications help and support.

- **Engagement & Outreach subgroup – Kate Freund**

- Formed in 2014, to promote the Strategy goals and framework with regional partnerships and other stakeholder communities.
- Most of the effort so far has been around two projects:
 - Developing and sharing an [outreach and engagement plan](#) for the JIWG, finalized in 2014.
 - Also spent time [revising the Strategy website](#) to better focus on implementation.
- Potential activities going forward include efforts to bring in partners and encourage diverse participation in JIWG activities from other agencies, networks, non-governmental groups, etc.
- Want to support efforts to integrate the Strategy into the priorities and activities of regional partnerships and stakeholders, and encourage partners to share information to their networks.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- We have discussed sponsoring briefings, webinars, workshops, symposia on topics relevant to implementation of the Strategy.
- Will also revisit the Engagement Plan to look at what have we accomplished, and build on the strategy website as a tool.
- For example, we would like to work closely with LCC Network. Discussion with Ben Thatcher, Assistant National LCC Coordinator:
 - The LCC Strategic Plan includes one of four areas focused on the priorities of Goal 1, including the use of landscape conservation designs as a means to implement this Goal.
 - There are opportunities to do more to promote or build on these LCD efforts, and help partners see how these efforts fit in to the broader framework of the Strategy.
 - LCC Conservation Science Plan references the Strategy. Opportunity to develop a self-assessment template to identify barriers and accomplishments for implementing Goal 1.
- Discussion:
 - Lynn Helbrecht: Agrees that the LCCs connection is very sound, and the LCCs have a lot to contribute to implementing the Strategy both for Goal 1 and other efforts. She participated in relevant efforts in her region with opportunities to build on the Strategy.
 - Jeff Peterson: What can the JIWG do to encourage other networks or partnerships to also look at the Strategy and prioritize this as the LCCs have done? There may be opportunities to work with the LCCs to talk directly to other networks and model success.
 - Discussed stakeholders or sectors that we aren't yet reaching – such as the private lands/ag sector, and marine systems (USDA hubs, RISAs, others). Many LCCs work heavily in the marine environment, but there's always more that can be done.
- **Best Practices team – Davia Palmeri**
 - Identifying and promoting best practices for fish, wildlife and plants across the community. Build on previous examples of adaptation that are helping to implement the goals of the Strategy.
 - Better define what we mean by best practices and define the potential products or reports, key audiences, etc. Also – what are the best mechanisms to deliver this information?
 - We want to integrate with the existing mechanisms, such as the Climate Resilient Toolkit, that already exist to help highlight some of these practices.
 - Discussion:
 - Need to ensure we don't duplicate efforts and are adding value. There is a connection with the group that is identifying gaps and needs.
 - What might be most useful is to help step down climate smart or other high principles to individual examples – connecting themes or high level frameworks to real examples of what that really looks like on the ground.
 - Assess the uptake or use of these best practices– are they making a difference? What does it take to move a practice into implementation?
 - The leadership award nominations could help inform the best practices
 - A hybrid approach that links between guidance and examples.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- Review success of particular approaches, and determine whether they worked, to actually determine if they have the desired effect.
- We can identify some key areas, and then tap into existing communities of practice and efforts, such as the vulnerability assessment database, etc.

- **NFWPCAS Implementation Subgroup – Jeff Peterson**

- There have been many diverse efforts to implement the Strategy –from state and federal agencies and others. In some places, have had good success in implementing key strategies and recommendations, where in other areas there has been less progress.
- Identify some areas of the strategy that have had less attention, and then find opportunities to do more to advance these efforts.
- Identify two or three areas where we might be able to advance efforts, and then take steps to actually do that.
- The timeframe and deliverables are flexible, but there is a standing need to determine how effective our implementation efforts are and to identify opportunities to do more.
- Roger Griffis: The Management Team is still thinking through example products, such as host a forum to examine a particular challenge, and what it would take to do it.
- Discussion:
 - Michael Bean: Do we yet have a good sense of where the gaps are? Do we need to think about whether some sections of the Strategy might not be as high a priority?
 - Jeff Peterson: One example of a possible gap is on connectivity. Different agencies are doing a lot, but we don't have a comprehensive approach. How can we integrate external efforts?
 - Lynn Helbrecht: It may be hard to identify gaps when there are not any identifiable targets. How will we determine where there is a gap – is there a systematic approach, or is it anecdotal? What is the audience for this? Also need to think about why the gaps exist also.
 - Jeff Peterson: Most immediate audience is the JIWG itself, to the extent to which we are interested in collaborating on places where we may be able to do better.
 - Kate Freund: We may want to revisit the milestones in the Strategy as a place to start.
 - Jim Zorn: One gap in Indian Country is simply how far and wide is the strategy known and/or being used? What can we do to promote this, especially in tribal communities?
 - Richard Merrick: Need to think about local and community level as well, not just state tribes and feds.
 - Sandy Boyce: CEQ and Mariel Murray spearheaded an atlas of tribal lands to help identify connections to federal lands, there is a tool available.
 - Roger: States are currently finalizing updates of SWAPs including consideration of climate change, may be some great information as well as potential gaps that can be identified.

- **Climate Adaptation and Conservation Funding Subgroup – Catherine Marzin**



- Funding support and capacity is a key limiting factor for adaptation planning and implementation of the Strategy at all levels.
- This group will examine both efforts to catalog and publicize current opportunities, and to identify funding streams where climate change should be part of the criteria. This includes outreach to decision makers and funders to help promote the Strategy, and make it part of a decision criteria or evaluation, etc.
- Discussion
 - Richard Merrick: This is a place where NGO and external participation could be extremely helpful, working with external funding opportunities.
 - Richard Merrick: They have started a discussion with NFWF to think through whether climate change may be part of their considerations.
 - Michael Bean: It would it be interesting to do an analysis on how much existing grant programs (federal, and others) currently include climate change considerations.
 - Jim Zorn: Note that there was some funding proposed to BIA that was not enacted last year– it would also be useful to catalog proposed efforts that were not actually funded.
 - Kim Stone: May be useful to have some kind of clearinghouse for funding availability.
 - Marlene Cole: Suggest that this group could connect to agriculture funding opportunities

6. JIWG Member Support – Richard Merrick

In advance of this meeting, we asked agencies to consider they may be able to better engage in and support implementation of the important new actions called for in the Work Plan. Expanded support of the JIWG could take a variety of forms including providing funding (to AFWA), staff support, fellows or interns, or additional expertise, services or capacity.

- The JIWG expects that these are standing committees, but are focusing on 2016-2017 for the workplan and initial accomplishments.
- Once the subgroups begin actually working, part of that work and charge is to come back with a clear workplan/timeframe – what do we want to get out of this in the next six months, one year, etc.
- Funding support option:
 - Join NOAA and FWS in providing funding for JIWG staff and logistical support (NOAA and FWS currently provide \$50K annually to AFWA for JIWG staff support).
 - EPA is working on securing funding to support implementation, by providing \$25K to support the interagency effort across the board, based on what the JIWG sees as the greatest need.
 - Mechanisms to get funding to AFWA – still working on ways to make this easy – some agencies have existing agreements and relationships to move money, some are more complicated.
- Staff support option:
 - Provide dedicated staff support through a detail or in-place assignment or dedicated intern or fellow to work on one or more of the new actions identified in the Work Plan



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- Also may provide support to the workgroups through specialized staff – not just the JIWG staff. For example, in rolling out the Climate Adaptation Leadership Award, we will need to engage communications staff and professionals.
- Rachel Novak: BIA is standing up a native intern at AFWA to provide support.
- Kate Freund: FWS has a detailee who will be able to provide some support.
- Jim Zorn – from the tribal side, have been able to engage Kim Stone, coordinating and directing climate change program, to support the Management Team and implementation.
- Marlene Cole: AAAS fellows may be able to provide some capacity
- Roger Griffis: If people have access to these or other fellows, please let us know.
- Wendy Hall: Suggests WINS (native student internship program) – have native and pacific island students come for the summer, may have an opportunity to provide help here.
- Agencies may also be able to provide specialized services through staff or contractors (e.g. website design or management, meeting facilitation, communications, or special projects) or support administrative costs such as printing, travel, or meeting space).

Action Item: Request identification of support, including potential funding or volunteers from your staffs, to work on particular subgroups within two weeks. This will be followed up with a more formal request from the JIWG in the form of a memo.

7. Public Comment

- Aimee Delach – Defenders: The 2017 National Adaptation Forum May 9-1. The location is still TBD. This might be a great opportunity for the 2017 leadership awards ceremony.
- Roger Griffis: One of the actions of the JIWG was to put together a session at the 2015 NAF meeting, which was well attended and showed a lot of external interest. The 2017 forum will certainly be looking for sessions that connect planning to implementation activities.

8. JIWG Roundtable

- Michael Bean: Recent storm this weekend affected many of the same efforts affected by Sandy – this may be an opportunity to show progress and lessons learned in terms of building resilience.
- Richard Merrick: Also an opportunity to emphasize the vulnerability and risks – did still see a lot of impacts (flooding, etc.) and there's a lot more that needs to be done.
- Kevin Hunting: State administration is developing a plan around mitigation. First effort did include a consideration of adaptation, but this effort will include a much more robust consideration of adaptation actions.
- Jim Zorn: The challenges faced by tribes are so varied and there are many fundamental capacity issues. There are many opportunities to capture what tribes are doing –
- Kim Stone: GLIFWC is working on efforts to better understand what is happening with climate change and how it is affecting treaty resources. They are trying to gage impacts, collecting data for a phenology study at a few sites, also studying fish diet, and how climate change is affecting wildlife populations in inland lakes.
- Marlene Cole: Encourage that we think about how to better connect to land use sector, commercial and residential sectors, urban and suburban communities, as well as public-private partnerships.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

- Jeff Peterson: EPA releasing a training module for water resources, intended for water professionals at all levels of government. They have also recently completed a review identifying areas/practices where states have done a particularly great job. Releasing a draft technical document with USGS looking at altered streamflow and hydrology, and encouraging states to consider when climate is changing, how to recognize these impacts and help protect streamflows, fisheries, and other resources.
- Roger Griffis: Recent announcement of NOAA Climate Science Strategy that is currently being stepped down at the regional level.
- Lynn: WA completed their revised SWAP, integrating climate change and included a vulnerability assessment, which was a foundational effort for the state. They tracked vulnerability for hundreds of species and multiple habitats. They probably wouldn't have done this work if it wasn't supported by funding from federal and LCC sources.
- Catherine Marzin: National marine sanctuaries work with communities and engage people from all levels and partners to increase resilience. These strategies are important for natural resources but also building capacity of communities as well.
- Davia Palmeri: Very proud of how many nominations we have received for the CALA, also proud of the many state efforts who addressed climate change in SWAPs for Oct 1 2015 deadline.
- Kate Freund: Announced progress toward internal FWS efforts to build capacity and share climate change information across staff, including an upcoming practitioner's forum at NCTC.
- Gregor Schuurman: Integrating climate considerations into planning. They are trying to merge climate smart guidelines to scenario planning and simplify and rewrite this guide for park managers.
- Wendy Hall: Focusing on some internal activities and in-reach efforts, including a climate change working group, efforts to share information, building training, as well as creating a forum for sharing what they are doing. Also working closely with the climate hubs, which are working to conduct regional vulnerability assessments, collaboratively with USDA agencies.
- Sandy Boyce/USFS: Tackling die-offs and declines of particular species. USFS is reorganizing into an office of sustainability and climate change, in the office of the Chief. Dr. Cindy West is now leading this office. Because it is located at that high level, it has close access to leadership.
- Art Coykendall/Bureau of Reclamation: The agency is getting ready to submit second report to Congress under the Secure Water Act, focusing on enhancing climate adaptation planning.
- Rachel Novak: Tribal climate science center liaisons are coming onboard.

Meeting Recap and Adjourn

Thank you for all participants for this very productive discussion. We have reason to be excited about progress that we are making and getting a good start in putting these subgroups together.