



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

**Conference Call Notes**

***Joint Implementation Working Group (JIWG)***

**National Fish Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy**

September 15, 2014, 1:00 pm EDT

JIWG Attendees:

BIA – Sean Hart

BLM –

BOR – Art Coykendall

FWS – Mark Shaffer, Don Campton, Elena Babij

NPS – Cat Hawkins Hoffman

USGS – Robin O'Malley

EPA – Jeff Peterson

ACE –

USDA-FS – Rob Harper, Sandy Boyce

NRCS –

FSA –

APHIS – Wendy Hall

NOAA (NMFS) – Roger Griffis, Michael Weiss

NOAA (NOS) – Margaret Davidson

CEQ – Alice Ewen

NY – Patty Riexinger

WI – Jack Sullivan

WA – Cynthia Wilkerson

FL – Thomas Eason, Whitney Gray

GLIFWC – Jim Zorn, Jen Vanator

AFWA – Davia Palmeri

Other Attendees:

Michelle Staudinger, Travis Henry, Vivian Miller, Eric Beckley, Mary Ratnaswamy, Jenny Keatinge, Paul Souza, Stacia Stanek, Noah Matson, Aimee Delach, Doug Johnson, Jackie Smith, Jeff Krouse, Natalie Peyronnin, Molly Cross, Steve Davies

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Jim Zorn, co-chair: Welcome to our first teleconference under the new stakeholder engagement plan. This is the first call with public participation. We would like to recognize Mark Schaeffer, co-chair, who is leaving NOAA. We all appreciated his commitment to this group.
- b. Welcome from other co-chairs: Rowan Gould, Jack Sullivan, Mike Weiss
- c. Agenda Review: add discussion about upcoming in-person meeting

2. *NFWPCAS: Taking Action* (final copy attached)

- a. Report is ready for release Sept 22 at AFWA Annual Meeting.
- b. Consent from JIWG to go ahead with printing report
- c. E-mail Davia, [dpalmeri@fishwildlife.org](mailto:dpalmeri@fishwildlife.org), telling her how many copies for your organization.

3. *Taking Action* Rollout Plan

- a. Release event at AFWA Annual Meeting- Patty and Robin volunteer to participate.
  - i. Monday, September 22, 2-3 PM, St. Louis, MO
- b. FWS Communications lead, Michael Gale, has prepared basic set of communications
  - i. News Bulletin (Attached), which can be tailored to be used by all of our organizations –talk to your communications teams!
  - ii. Talking Points (Attached)—talk to your communications teams.
  - iii. Consider featuring the news about the *Taking Action* report while featuring your climate adaptation projects. Use this report to support actions for your agency, even if those projects are not in the report.



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- iv. Send Management Team any comments/revisions to the communications materials by Wednesday, September 17, 2014
4. Update on Stakeholder Engagement Plan
  - a. Posted on website (wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov)
  - b. FWS sent out a Federal Register notice indicating that all future JIWG meetings are open to the public and will be advertised at wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov
  - c. This subgroup should convene again to implement the objectives of Engagement Plan and find best ways to reach participants
  - d. Welcome to non-JIWG participants!
5. Proposal for discussion: Development of Implementation Plans for 2015 and 2016 (copy attached)
  - a. Review of draft proposal for moving forward with a plan to form new subgroups and develop recommendations for implementation in FY2015 and FY2016.
    - i. Because *Taking Action* is retrospective, propose that we become prospective
    - ii. Develop three big picture projects/topics that will follow the Strategy in 2015/2016
      1. Let FY2015/2016 fall out of process and look more generally across budgets?
    - iii. Form small drafting committees to look over key actions
    - iv. Look at ways CEQ priority agenda, Strategy, and budgets align
  - b. Intend to have a draft by the Nov. 13 meeting
  - c. Who is audience: The same as for all we do, want to emphasize and prove that we are looking for ways to collaborate and developing a habit of working together
  - d. Make sure this effort lines up with state's workplanning timeframes
  - e. \*"Workplan" is not an appropriate name for the product of this analysis.
    - i. Implementation Framework?
    - ii. Other ideas needed!
  - f. We need to form subcommittees based around each goal.
    - i. Goal 1 – Mark Shaffer
    - ii. Goal 2 – State rep?
    - iii. Goal 3 – Elena Babij?
    - iv. Goal 4 – Roger Griffis
    - v. Goal 5 – Robin O'Malley
    - vi. Goal 6 –
    - vii. Goal 7 – Jeff Peterson
    - viii. Volunteer by emailing Mark, [Mark\\_Shaffer@fws.gov](mailto:Mark_Shaffer@fws.gov) by Wednesday, September 17, 2014
  - g. Mark will convene first meeting of the seven goal leads next week.
6. SAFE Act Update
  - a. This is a bill in the senate (S1202) that codifies the Strategy, NCCWSC, CSCs, and sets up a body very similar to JIWG. Vehicle to authorize future funding to the states for climate adaptation.
  - b. Hearing over the summer
  - c. FWS has met with Sen. Whitehouse's staff and is supportive of the intent. Provided



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comments with recommended updates based on progress since the bill was written.

7. Executive Order 13653 Update (Alice Ewen – CEQ)
  - a. State, Tribal, Local Leaders Task Force has worked hard to prepare a comprehensive report on their recommendations. The Natural Resources working group had about 300 recommendations that they are whittling down. It will be shared with the federal agencies for review likely in early October, to be published publicly in late October or early November.
  - b. The Climate Natural Resources Working Group of the Council will likely release recommendations in early October.
  - c. Once CNRWG priority agenda is released, Megan at CEQ could be able to crosswalk it with the Strategy, she should be invited to the Implementation subgroup of JIWG.
  
8. EPA proposes the convening of a small group of JIWG members to look at enhanced management of beavers as a tool in water resource management. Jeff has some initial research that can be shared
  - i. Strong interest from JIWG, Jeff will follow-up this week or next.
  - ii. The tension between the increased habitat complexity and increased stream temperatures (when many managers are focused on maintaining cold stream temperatures) makes this an important conversation for the JIWG to have.
  - iii. Interest from: Patty Riexinger (NY), Sandy Boyce (USDA-FS), Cynthia Wilkerson (WA), Jack Sullivan (WI), Wendy Hall (on behalf of Wildlife Services), Cat Hawkins Hoffman (NPS, on behalf of biological resources) – Jack and Cynthia indicated that their states are actively utilizing and studying the impacts of beavers
  - iv. Jeff will send an e-mail describing the intent of the group so that JIWG members can share with potentially interested other branches of their organizations.
  
9. Next Meeting: In-Person Nov. 13, 2014, 10 am – 2 pm, Hall of States, Washington, DC
  - i. Agenda to include:
    1. Priority Agenda from CEQ STL Task Force and CNRWG
    2. Impact of election
    3. Review of Implementation Plan drafted by subgroup
  - ii. Discussion of potential for a Conservation Leadership Forum like the ones that were completed during the creation of the Strategy (at NCTC)
    1. Send notes of interest to Mark Shaffer, [mark\\_shaffer@fws.gov](mailto:mark_shaffer@fws.gov)
  
10. Public Comments
  - a. Noah Matson (Defenders of Wildlife) – Thanks for working on the Strategy. Having reporters interested in the *Taking Action* report is great news.
  - b. Please send feedback on the format of the public meeting to [mark\\_shaffer@fws.gov](mailto:mark_shaffer@fws.gov) or [dpalmeri@fishwildlife.org](mailto:dpalmeri@fishwildlife.org)
  
11. Closing Remarks
  - a. Jim Zorn: Thanks to the Management Team for handling all of these issues. Thanks to Jeff Peterson for joining Management Team and taking a leadership role.