



Federal Climate Change and Water Working Group (CCAWWG)

Providing Engineering and Scientific Collaborations to Support Water Management under a Changing Climate

ISSUE: Managing water resources is a mission shared by many federal, state, tribal, and local agencies and stakeholder groups. Understanding how climate variability and change will affect future hydrologic conditions (e.g. water supply, water demands, water quality, floods, and aquatic ecosystems); and identifying adaptation strategies to manage risks is a shared priority across these entities. Understanding shared priorities, building working relationships, and bringing capabilities together across the federal/non-federal spectrum is central to building solutions that have impact.

BACKGROUND: The Climate Change and Water Working Group formed in 2008 to address these issues, emerging from working-level collaborations between engineers, scientists, and managers in two of the primary federal water management agencies (Reclamation and USACE) and scientists and managers in two of the primary federal water and climate related science agencies (USGS and NOAA). The EPA, FEMA, NASA, and USDA have since joined CCAWWG. Early activities focused on developing assessments of community user needs for improved climate change and variability information in water and environmental resources management, leading to the 2011 report *"Addressing Climate Change in Long-Term Water Resources Planning and Management: User Needs for Improving Tools and Information"* and the 2013 report: *"Short-Term Water Management Decisions: User Needs for Improved Climate, Weather and Hydrologic Information,"* both available at <http://www.ccawwg.us>. CCAWWG has also prioritized education, partnering with the UCAR COMET program to develop and pilot deliver climate training for Federal and non-Federal practitioners.

Today, CCAWWG is providing an effective working-level forum that fosters communication and research partnerships around these needs across the water and science communities of practice. CCAWWG working-level collaboration informs and is coordinated with higher level interagency activities such as the U.S. Global Change Research Program's Adaptation Science Interagency Working Group, Council of Environmental Quality's Climate Preparedness & Water Resources Work Group, the OSTP Committee on Environment and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality, and the Advisory Committee on Water Information's Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup.

OBJECTIVES: Build "working-level" relationships across federal science and water management agencies.

- Provide a forum to share expertise and leverage resources across agencies to meet common needs.
- Work with the water management community to understand their science needs.
- Foster collaborative efforts across the federal/non-federal water management and science communities to address these needs in ways that capitalizes on interdisciplinary expertise, shares information, avoids duplication, and accelerates the application of climate information.
- Support appropriate application of climate information to water and environmental resource adaptation.
- Develop education and training forums that help water resource practitioners use climate information.

HOW DOES CCAWWG OPERATE? -We engage academia, non-federal, and other federal water resources management and science organizations to understand our shared research priorities, available capabilities, and form federal/nonfederal collaborations on project specific research. CCAWWG activities occur through a variety of structured and informal coordination forums with others that demonstrate interest and motivation.

To remain in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, CCAWWG limits certain activities to the federal agencies participating in CCAWWG, such as:

- Identifying annual CCAWWG priority projects and goals.
- Facilitating execution of annual priorities by allocating agency staff and resources to support federal role on project teams, based on individual agency interests and resource availability.
- Holding monthly conference calls or other meetings as needed to plan and coordinate federal activities related to CCAWWG and make adjustments to CCAWWG projects and plans on an ongoing basis.

Any federal agency interested in engaging CCAWWG, or a non-federal organization interested in collaborating on shared research priorities, may contact any CCAWWG point of contact.

CCAWWG Agency	Point of Contact	Executive Sponsors
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