

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND
SUPPORTING RESEARCH (ICMSSR)**

**INTERAGENCY WEATHER RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE
(IWRCC)**

Record of Actions: 2018-2 Meeting

April 20, 2018, 9:00 AM–11:00 AM EDT; SSMC 2 Room 7130

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

Suite 7130, SSMC2

1325 East West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

PARTICIPANTS

(T): Participated via telecon

Agency	Organization	Name
DOC NOAA	OAR (IWRCC Co-Chair)	Dr. John Cortinas
NASA	ESD (IWRCC Co-Chair)	Dr. Tsengdar Lee
DOC NOAA	NWS Director	Dr. Louie Uccellini
DOC NOAA	NWS	Dr. Ming Ji
DOD USAF	Air Staff	Lt Col Robert Branham
NSF	GEO/AGS	Dr. Chungu Lu (T)
DOC NOAA	NWS IA	Ms. Shanna Pitter
DOC NOAA	OMAO	CDR Jason Mansour (T)
DOD Navy	OPNAV	Mr. David McCarren
DOD Navy	ONR	Dr. Daniel Eleuterio (T)
OFCM	Federal Coordinator	Dr. William Schulz
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. Sim James
OFCM	Secretariat	Mr. David Chorney (T)
OFCM/STC	-	Mr. Floyd Hauth (T)

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Dr. Cortinas and Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 P.M. Mr. Sim James (IWRCC ExecSec) provided administrative details, highlighted the agenda, and conducted roll call.

2. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW.

Mr. James summarized the status of the three Action Items from the previous IWRCC meetings.

2017-4.1: NSF will review ToR with their leadership and provide concurrence on the ToR, or provide a path for IWRCC to achieve concurrence. This action is underway but a decision on the path forward is not been made. AI remains open.

2017-4.2: The three Working Group leaders will compile a list of prospective members and submit to IWRCC for review. The list of prospective members will be reviewed as an agenda item today.

2018-1.1: Dr. Waliser (WG/WR) will provide information which would facilitate IWRCC member agencies providing financial support to ECMWF S2S database. Dr. Waliser provided the information needed and it will be addressed later in this meeting.

3. Preparing the US Permanent Representative to the WMO for the Upcoming June Executive Council Meeting.

Dr. Louis Uccellini discussed issues and positions the IWRCC may wish him to present at the upcoming WMO Executive Council meeting. He was elected and accepted as the US permanent representative to the WMO in May 2017.

As part of the background for his role as the US permanent representative to the WMO, Dr. Uccellini presented a brief history of the WMO and its organizational structure. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.

The establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in March 1950, following the entry into force of its Convention, and the designation of WMO in 1951 as a specialized agency of the United Nations, heralded a new era for international cooperation in the field of meteorology, hydrology and related geophysical sciences. The World Meteorological Congress is the supreme body of the organization and is composed of the delegates representing its member states and territories. (According to the World Meteorological Convention, the principal delegate of each member "should be the director of its meteorological service.") The congress, which meets every four years (next meeting is in June 2019), determines changes in the constitution and functions of the various WMO bodies, adopts regulations covering meteorological practices and procedures, and determines general policies for carrying out the purposes of the organization and related matters. It also establishes the regional associations and technical commissions.

The Executive Council is the executive body of the Organization, which meets annually (next meeting in June 2018), implements decisions of Congress, coordinates the programs, examines the utilization of budgetary resources, considers and takes action on recommendations of regional associations and technical commissions and guides their work program, provides technical information, counsel and assistance in the fields of activity of the Organization and studies and takes action on matters affecting international meteorology and related activities. The Council is composed of 37 directors of National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services, serving in an individual capacity as representatives of the Organization. [Milestones and additional history of the WMO are available on the WMO website.](#)

The increase in commercial aviation around the world after WWII was a driver for developing the global observation system and communication improvements to make the data available for use in all countries. The WMO helped organize these developments as well as those needed for radiosondes to measure wind,

humidity, pressure, and temperature aloft at standardized times around the globe. These advancements set the stage for developing numerical models to run in real time and also provide results/predictions in real time.

These activities were enhanced/enabled by participation in the International Geophysical Year, the launching of the World Weather Watch, the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP) and the GARP Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE).

The latest WMO Congress passed a resolution that requests the Executive Council to formulate the terms of reference for developing and implementing a seamless DATA-PROCESSING AND FORECASTING SYSTEM (DPFS), and a description of the set of products the system should produce for consideration by Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress. This resolution also requests the Executive Council to establish a Steering Group on the Seamless Data-processing and Forecasting System, with the main task of developing and proposing the implementation plan for consideration by the Executive Council at its sixty-ninth session. Interactions between CBS, CAS, and representatives of other technical commissions and regional associations are expected to define the scientific progress needed to realize the future seamless DPFS. The seamless DPFS has been identified as one of the strategic objectives for the next financial period 2020–2023 to be highlighted in the WMO Strategic Plan in view of its importance to future WMO services.

Dr. Uccellini noted that with respect to the strategic plan the members are working toward:

- The weather, water, climate issues.
- Integration of application areas to provide better services.
- A science basis that embraces a more earth-based system approach to seamless prediction from the climate scale to the mesoscale.
- Building on a weather information concept of impact-based decisions for services provided globally.

The WMO is making an accelerated effort to engage more effectively the global weather enterprise. The US is leading the way in this area.

As the next Executive Council and WMO Congress approach, Dr. Uccellini would like input from the agencies on important issues related to the strategic plan topics listed above. He closed by describing a WMO textbook “Seamless Prediction of the Earth System from Minutes to months”.

Following Dr. Uccellini’s comments, Dr. Lee said that in the past some agencies have not been regularly involved in WMO activities. As a result, when these agencies are asked for comment on draft US position papers pertaining to WMO matters they lack some of the context of the effort and don’t receive enough turnaround time to review and formulate a substantive response. He said that he appreciated Dr. Uccellini’s introduction that provided a clearer context for US goals for coordination within WMO.

Dr. Cortinas noted that the Committee and Science WG are being organized to provide inputs to the WMO three grand challenges. ICMSSR and FCMSSR will be kept informed on progress in this activity.

See Action Items 2018-2.1 and 2.5.

4. Annual Report for USWRP

Section 109 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 amended Section 108 of the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992. Section 108 of the Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act of 1992 established the USWRP and directs the submission of a ten-year implementation plan of the USWRP research agenda. This law directs the requirement to list and describe the research goals and activities as part of the plan.

Dr. Cortinas noted that the Weather Act retained the need for an Implementation Plan as directed in the 1990s but the annual report on this plan now must include research activities across all federal agencies.

The Act is directive on NOAA, but NOAA would prefer to work through OFCM to obtain and provide the information from other agencies that is needed for this annual report. His intent today was to introduce this approach to the IWRCC and devise a way forward for this annual report.

He asked Dr. Schulz to provide more information on how to proceed with the annual report. Dr. Schulz noted the changes in tasked committees/organizations involved. He suggested that the OFCM annual Budget Coordination Report could be used as a vehicle to report on the Implementation Plan by adding an Appendix that described research activities that are underway in each of the agencies.

Dr. Lee noted that NASA was in the process of hiring someone to work on the Implementation Plan. Another member noted that his agency may have research activities that could be leveraged by other agencies to benefit research identified in the Implementation Plan.

Dr. Schulz concluded by stating that he would inform the ICMSSR about the requirements for the Implementation Plan and the related annual report at their next meeting. See Action Item 2018-2.2.

5. Weather Research Science Working Group Issues

The WRSWG Co-Chairmen compiled a list of potential SWG members for the committee's review and approval. The area of expertise and background are provided for each candidate.

IWRCC members discussed the list of suggested WG members and factors related to availability, private sector representation, and benefits/advantages of their participation in WG meetings.

The Committee approved the list of candidates and instructed the Executive Secretary to work with the co-chairs to provide guidance to the WGs in the form of an introductory letter explaining why they were invited and what would be expected of them. They also requested that the Co-chairs attend or provide reports on the WG activities at each of the IWRCC meetings. See Action Item 2018-2.3.

6. Weather Research Science Working Group: S2S Database Funding

Mr. James summarized the information that Dr. Waliser provided explaining the need for and programmatic ways financial support (\$50K) to ECMWF S2S database would be used. The money would support .5 FTE. **A report on some research that has already benefited from access to this database has been published.**

Dr. Waliser is not sure whether there will be other contributors. There is a commitment that the data will only be used for research in the terms of service prior to access to the database.

Members discussed the benefits and appropriateness of supporting the S2S database and decided to find ways to provide financial support. One avenue may be as part of the annual US contribution to the WMO. How financial support would be provided needs to be determined. Dr. Cortinas stated he would discuss with other agencies what other issues they might have in an appropriate funding mechanism for this support. See Action Item 2018-2.4.

7. Next Steps

Mr. James summarized possible Action Items or staff follow-up:

2018-2.1. Continue formulating coordinated agency inputs for Dr. Uccellini's forthcoming meetings with WMO Commissions and the Executive Council.

2018-2.2. Assist with next steps in developing and reporting the research implementation plan in response to the Weather Act(PL 114-25).

2018-2.3. Work with WG Co-chairs to draft guidance to Science WGs on what they are expected to do and when/how they should meet and report.

2018-2.4. Determining how and where \$50 K can be provided to maintain WMO S2S database support identified by ECMWF contact.

2018-2.5. Inform ICSSR of IWRCC priority topics at the February 2019 ICSSR meeting.

8. CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 16 July 2018 the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.