

Federal Climate Change and Water Working Group (CCAWWG)

Providing Engineering and Scientific Collaborations in Support of 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 -Working-level 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) formed the Climate Change and Water Working Group (CCAWWG) in 2008 to help address these issues. The EPA, FEMA, and NASA have since joined CCAWWG. We published Reclamation and USACE science needs, along with providing a perspective on these needs from other local, state, and federal water management agencies in our 2011 report: "*Addressing Climate Change in Long-Term Water Resources Planning and Management: User Needs for Improving Tools and Information*" (<http://www.usbr.gov/climate/userneeds>).

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 Global Change Research Program, Council of Environmental Quality- Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources - Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality. The Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force has recognized CCAWWG as a valuable avenue of federal collaboration.

CCAWWG 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 applying climate information to climate adaptation in ways that are consistent with current scientific knowledge.
- Develop education and training forums that help the water resource community of practice 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.
- Allocate agency staff and resources to form the federal core of project teams that execute annual priorities. Staff is assigned based on individual agency interests and availability of resources.
- Hold 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.

<u>CCAWWG Agency</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Executive Sponsors</u>
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