

**Meeting Summary**  
**Agriculture Preparation/Adaptation Working Group**  
**(Ag PAWG)**

July 15, 2007, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Attendance:**

Kirk Cook , Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (Ag PAWG Lead)  
Eric LaGasa, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (non-member)  
Gary Grove, Washington State University  
Chris Feise, Washington State University  
Jeremy Littell, UW Climate Impacts Group  
Tom Myrum, WA Water Resources Association  
Craig Smith, NW Food Processors Association  
William E. Snyder, Washington State University  
Jeanne Wallin, Wallin & Associates

**Background Documents:**

1. Agenda
2. PowerPoint presentation for the meeting was not available

**Discussion items and key issues:**

1. Roll call conducted. (Key: APL is Kirk Cook)
2. A discussion of progress was held between the members of the PAWG. A limited amount of work had been completed in the areas of water storage, pest assessments and economic data acquisition. There was a feeling the a more focused approach was needed in order to provide necessary guidance to PAWG members in their respective expertise.
3. The need for some expanded expertise was discussed and it was decided that there was a valid need for assistance in the area of economics and economic development. As a result of this discussion Phil Wandscheider from WSU has joined the PAWG. A welcome was extended to Gary Grove also from WSU who will be adding expertise in plant pathology.
4. Jeremy Littell presented the group with the latest climate change predictions from the Climate Impacts Group. The refinements regarding temperature were discussed and the impacts (if any) were debated.
5. A discussion was held regarding the need to quantify the current “water storage” capacity in Washington State for irrigation needs. The term storage was discussed and the difficulties that surround obtaining a meaningful number. This is due to the fact that storage can include natural i.e. snow pack, reservoirs, groundwater, or instream withdrawals. The discussion helped focus on “storage” as reservoirs or water held in constructed facilities with an estimate on snowpack. The PAWG felt that having some sort of number as a starting point for assessing irrigated agriculture was important.

6. Jeanne Wallin brought up the issue of when the PAWG assesses impacts due to pest changes, that pests also include weeds and doesn't focus solely on insect pests. Craig Smith suggested that when we look at pests we pay special attention to bracketing different temperature ranges and looking at the pest effects within various ranges. Bill Snyder and Gary Grove cautioned that the assessment of pests may include those that will negatively impact one agricultural section but may benefit another and to not view this subject in a one dimensional manner.
7. PAWG members held a lengthy discussion on the economic factors of looking at climate change and its impact to Washington's agricultural sector. The positive and negative aspects of moving to bio-fuels and the need for feedstock and what the impact to food based crops maybe, the impact to the environment, changes in pesticide use. Craig Smith indicated that it would be very difficult to discuss economics without some consideration of global and/or regional food systems changes due to climate change and the function that global and/or regional marketplaces may have on Washington growers. At the end of the discussion it was agreed that the AG PAWG will factor economics into its white paper analysis but would not tackle the issue as a separate issue.
8. Kirk Cook discussed the tables which appear in the California climate change analysis and their potential merit in being used to begin the focus the discussion and begin to list specific areas of analysis for the group. He proposed that the tables be adapted for Washington State and the criteria discussed in the last conference call be incorporated into these tables. A majority of the PAWG agreed with that action. Kirk agreed to be the lead on this action.
9. In order to accomplish the task before the group, it was decided that a face-to-face meeting would be held in Eastern Washington during the week of August 20. *Since that time a meeting has been scheduled on August 21<sup>st</sup> in Yakima at the Department of Ecology offices.* The draft tables will be sent out two weeks prior for the group to comment on and return them to WSDA. These tables will form the basis of the all day work session on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.