

MEETING SUMMARY
WASHINGTON CLIMATE CHANGE
Human Health Preparation/Adaptation Workgroup
Meeting #4 – October 4, 2007 10:00am – 3:00pm

Attendance:

1. Preparation/Adaptation Workgroup members:
Roger Rosenblatt, Ned Therien, Stephen Bezruchka, Dick Hoskins, Lara Whitley Binder, Anne Marie Kimball, Ann Bikle, Dave Seabrook
2. Climate Health Impact Team members:
Catherine Karr, Beth Jackson
3. Washington Department of Health Liaisons:
Gregg Grunenfelder, Glen Patrick, Rachel McKinlay, Liz Dykstra
4. Others present: Ellen Lettvin

Discussion items and key issues:

1. Gregg Grunenfelder started the meeting with a roll call of those present and obtained acceptance from the group of the August 29th meeting summary.
2. Gregg provided an update of the Preparation/Adaptation Working Group leads. Key highlights included:
 - Two sections of our draft PAWG report will be due to Ecology by Oct 12 (the Climate Impacts and Issues for the Sector section, and the Key Impacts and Issues for the Sector in WA section). We will discuss later in the meeting how we'll complete those two sections.
 - The remainder of our report will be due to Ecology by Nov 16th. In our final report, we will need to focus on specific actions the state can take to prepare/adapt. Our recommendations need to be well developed.
 - Ecology is organizing two "summits" for stakeholders to give feedback on climate change education & engagement. One will be Oct 17th in Seattle, and the other Oct 25th in Spokane. There will also be an E3 Conference in Seattle Nov 7 – 10. Climate change will be a focus of discussion on Nov 10th at that E3 Conference. Public comments on our final draft report will likely be sought during a series of meetings in mid-December. Final details on that process are still to be worked out.
 - Supplemental budget requests on climate change, and all other issues, are going to be highly limited. The main budget focus on issues and recommendations will occur during the 09-11 biennial budget process.
3. Roger Rosenblatt provided an update on the HB 1303 efforts of the Climate Health Impact Team (CHIT) at the UW. Key highlights included:
 - The workgroup leads are all hard at work and making good progress in their respective areas. We'll hear reports from each team later in the meeting.
 - Coordination with the University Library has resulted in the establishment of a refworks data base which is now being populated with reference

material in the 5 categorical areas of our work. This will be an invaluable tool to store and provide access to the scientific and medical information relevant to our work. The url for the site is:

<http://refworks.com/refshare/?site=039831155711600000/RWWS3A599556/008181187994831000&lowresMode=true>.

The topical areas of our work can be found under “view”, “folder”. You need a UW NetID to access the full articles through UW libraries. Dick Hoskins at DOH has the required access and can assist DOH staff in obtaining any articles/reference materials needed.

- Roger introduced Dr. Ellen Lettvin to the group. Dr. Lettvin is the assistant director of the Applied Physics Laboratory at the UW and is interested in exploring how remote sensing technologies may be used to advance our work – from either the standpoint of future research or outreach.
 - While the combined PAWG/CHIT report is due to Ecology by Nov 16th, the CHIT work at the UW will be ongoing into 2008 providing continued opportunity to sort issues and consider further recommendations and actions which may not be covered in our initial report. This will be an ongoing issue for the years to come.
4. Reports were made from each of the workgroups, providing a status of their work and preliminary issues, recommendations, and research needs that are being identified. Reports were made by the following individuals:
- Health effects of excessive heat - Roger Rosenblatt
 - Health effects of infectious disease - Ann Marie Kimball
 - Health effects of air pollution – Catherine Karr
 - Health effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events – Roger Rosenblatt
 - Societal disruption and stress – Beth Jackson

Excellent progress is being made across all issues.

5. Anne Bikle and Stephen Bezruchka led a discussion on a draft paper describing the Overarching/Critical considerations section of our report. The focus of the paper is on the social justice issues associated with climate change and the fact that the negative effects of climate change will fall disproportionately on those in lower socio-economic brackets. The group also discussed “upstream” vs “downstream” responses to climate change impacts. As much as possible, those response recommendations will be included in our recommendations section, and not separated out in the Overarching considerations portion of our report.
6. In consideration of the day’s earlier discussions, the PAWG/CHIT identified the 3 priority strategy areas within which we will be making our action recommendations. The 3 strategy areas are as follows:
- Enhance critical public health surveillance systems. The type of action recommendations associated with this strategy include things such as:
 - Improved surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases and the vectors that transmit disease from animals to humans.
 - Improved air quality monitoring systems.

- Improved infectious disease surveillance and reporting systems.
- Enhance emergency preparedness and response efforts. The type of action recommendations associated with this strategy include things such as:
 - Updates to emergency plans to address heat emergencies (heat wave preparation & adaptation)
 - Air quality warning systems & response plans
 - Continued planning and exercises directed towards the effects of extreme weather events
- Enhance policies targeted towards our built environment. The type of action recommendations associated with this strategy include things such as:
 - Updates to critical area ordinances to further define and set policy recommendations for appropriate land use activities on or near unstable slopes and flood plains
 - Policy development on issues targeted towards reducing urban sprawl, making communities more walkable and pedestrian friendly, and promoting more efficient modes of transportation
 - Revisions to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to ensure climate change considerations are taken into account when new development actions are proposed.

7. Next steps:

- For our work due to Ecology on Oct 12 (i.e. the first two sections of our report), Roger will take the lead and draft the sections. Gregg will circulate the draft material early in the week for comment and submit the material to Ecology no later than Oct 12th.
- The following leads were identified to ensure the completion of the remaining components of our report, due to Ecology by November 16th:
 - Gregg will take the lead for further developing the 3 key strategies areas and drafting specific action recommendations associated with the 3 strategies. Gregg will also take the lead in completing the section describing our overarching/critical considerations.
 - Roger will take the lead in further refining the information in our five workgroup areas – documenting the science and leading to the reasons for selecting our 3 key strategy recommendations. Roger will also take the lead in defining the priority recommendations for future research.
- **Our next meeting time (via conference call) will be November 2, 2007 from 10 AM to noon.** At that meeting we will review the written components of our final report prior to finalizing them for submittal to Ecology by November 16th.