

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

Meeting 2017-3 Record of Actions

**1:00 p.m. EDT
September 27, 2017**

SSMC 2, Room 7224, 7th Floor Conference Room
1325 East West Highway, Silver Spring. MD 20910

Members	(T) via telecon	Agency
Craig McLean (Chair)		DOD/OAR
William Schulz (Vice Chair)		OFCM
Vanessa Griffin, <i>for Steven Volz</i>		DOC/NOAA/NESDIS
Chris Ekstrom		DOD/USN
Col Michael Gremillion, <i>for Ralph Stoffler</i>		DOD/USAF A3W
Rickey Petty (T)		DOE
Jonathan Berkson(T)		DHS-USCG
John Vimont (T)		DOI-NPS
Paul Fontaine (T)		DOT/FAA
Chris Cannizzaro <i>for Kenneth Hodgkins</i> (T)		DOS
Jack Kaye		NASA HQ/ESD
Tom Lee (T) for Sandra Smalley		NASA HQ/JASD
Cynthia Jones (T) <i>for Scott Flanders</i>		NRC
Paul Shepson (T)		NSF
Michael Clark (T)		OMB
Mark Brusberg (T)		USDA
Michael Bonadonna (Secretariat)		OFCM
Invited Participants		Agency
LCDR Jason Mansur		DOC-NOAA OMAO
Dave McCarren		DOD-USN
Tom Kiess (T)		DOE-NNSA
Rick Heuwinkel		DOT-FAA
Dr. Tsengdar Lee (T)		NASA HQ/ESD
Bill Spendley (T)		DOD-USA
John Lee (T)		NASA
Anjuli Bamzi		NSF
Jud Stailey, Donnel Woods, Jud Stailey, Floyd Hauth (T)		OFCM

Date of Issue: 30 October, 2017

1. OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Craig McLean (NOAA-OAR) and ICMSSR Chair for 2017 provided opening remarks and moderated the meeting. Roll call was conducted for participants on site and those using teleconference media. Members approved the agenda and the Record of Action from the last ICMSSR meeting.

2. FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE.

Dr. Schulz, the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology presented a summary of several key OFCM/Federal Weather Coordination structure activities. His update provided the following information:

- The FY18 Federal Weather Enterprise Budget and Coordination Report (“BCR”) was posted to the OFCM publicly available web site on 22 September 2
- 017. It has received considerable visibility/interest already. It replaced the annual “Fed Plan” and was reviewed by OMB, who provided edits and requested additional information. This BCR was the initial run to get the format understood by all participants. The timeline was 90 days from PBR to OMB. The goal for FY19: To OMB by PBR plus two weeks. For the FY19 edition, OFCM will consult with OMB to generate guidance on reporting and comparing FY18 CR numbers.

Mr. Bill Spendley (US Army) voiced his concern that OMB should submit a formal request to the OSD Comptroller for DoD budget information. OFCM requesting budget data informally from the Services poses a significant challenge. Mr. Michael Clark (OMB) indicated that this issue could be addressed by the OMB Examiners but no additional guidance should be expected.

Dr. Schulz proposed to formalize the report compilation team as a Working Group. Members approved.

- The Working Group for Disaster Impact Assessments and Plans Weather and Water Data (WG/DIAP) was activated for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. They were alerted by group email: diap.alerts@noaa.gov with brief descriptions of HARVEY and IRMA. Conference calls were convened daily, supplemented by continuous email exchanges, to share response plans and facilitate group discussion on deployment activities to include positioning/tracking/pre-staging of mobile sensors and identification of stationary systems. Response actions changed depending on track, intensity, and differing characteristics of each storm. Following landfall, activities included sensor recovery and data post-processing and uploading to members’ online databases. Data were also sent to NESDIS/NCEI for archiving and made available for post-storm assessment activities (e.g. NIST, NOS/RSD). Their work helped user agencies/entities gain awareness of unique interagency data collection activities, identified opportunities for data sharing/complementary post-storm assessments and studies, and served as practice for eventual COASTAL ACT collection protocols. The Dr. Anjali Bamzi (NSF) member noted that storm-related datasets collected through their RAPIDS program were also available for sharing with other agencies.
- The Tropical Cyclone Operations and Research Forum/Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference 2018 will be held at Florida International University, 13-15 March 2018. The agenda is begin drafted. There will be an operations focus this year (Research focus was last year). Supplemental funding requests are forthcoming (NSF, ONR, NWS/OAR). The National Hurricane Operations Plan working group will meet during TCORF.

- The 2nd Observational Data Workshop is being targeted for Spring/early Summer 2018.
- The annual rotation of the ICMSSR Chair (per Terms of Reference) is due at the next meeting. Dr. Schultz proposed an agency rotation for Chair instead of having elections each year. He further recommended that the next Chair be non-Commerce, non-Defense and that EOP agencies, and smaller agencies be excluded at their own request. NRC and NSF members asked that they be excluded. Members agreed for OFCM to develop and coordinate a rotational list and adjust the ToR accordingly. **See Action Item 2017-3.1.**
- Dr. Schulz proposed to have one of the four major subcommittees under ICMSSR provide an update briefing at each ICMSSR meeting, according to the following schedule:
 - Fall: COES (Committee for Operational Environmental Satellites)
 - Winter: COPC (Committee for Operational Production Centers)
 - Spring: IWRCC (Interdepartmental Weather Research Coordination Committee)
 - Summer: CSCC (Climate Services Coordination Committee)

The proposal was approved by the ICMSSR members.

- Mr. Rick Heuwinkel, FAA, explained that the changes in FMH-1 related to reporting ice pellets/small hail could not be implemented by the airlines before this winter season. He asked that this change be delayed for another year to allow sufficient time for reviewing the requirement and implementing any changes needed. **See Action Item 2017-3.2.**

3. IMPLEMENTING THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT: SECTION 402.

Dr. Schulz presented results of OFCM meetings and discussions held with OSTP, OMB, and Department / Agency stakeholders to form consensus on implementation of Section 402 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017.

The 2017 Weather Act directs OSTP to establish “an Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services (ICAWS),” with duties including identifying, prioritizing, and coordinating top forecast needs, and sharing needs and improvements across agencies. Recommendations to form consensus include:

- Use a similar construct as that used in 1962 when OMB was tasked by law to produce an annual meteorological services budget report – have EOP (OMB) assign the task to an existing relevant agency (DoC).
- Since the FCMSSR and the supporting federal weather enterprise coordination structure cover most ICAWS duties, assign the duties formally to FCMSSR, without creating another organizational entity.
- Have OSTP leadership issue this plan; adjust the FCMSSR charter to accommodate the plan.

Members noted the broader scope of roles and responsibilities of the ICAWS compared with the current FCMSSR which was organized based on the 1962 directive. Following further discussion, ICMSSR members agreed that the proposed draft outline and guidance from OSTP be presented to the FCMSSR with the reservations noted by ICMSSR members.

The reservations noted include the following:

- The Office of the Secretary of Defense Office of General Counsel has not conducted a formal legal review of PL 125-15 to determine DoD implementation
- PL 125-15 Section 402 doesn't specifically direct OMB to take any specific action.

4. SWEF WRAP UP AND PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

Mr. Michael Bonadonna summarized the 2017 Space Weather Enterprise Forum (SWEF) and provided the rationale for future SWEF scheduling.

The Forum held on June 27th was very successful with over 250 in attendance. Thanks again for the AF sponsorship. Presentations, transcripts, and the Forum report are available through online OFCM.GOV.

The challenge now is to get Congressional interaction and participation and international and foreign interest and participation. This can be accomplished by coordinating SWEF with the JHU-APL Space Environment Applications, Systems, and Operations for National Security (SEASONS) conference and DOS-OES Space Weather as a Global Challenge (SWGCG) meetings.

The recommendation is to time the SWEF events to leverage participation in SEASONS and SWGCG. The proposed action is to:

- Conduct the next SWEF event as a small Capitol Hill event in November 2018 in conjunction with SEASONS.
- Hold the next full-day SWEF in November 2019 working closely with DOS-OES for synergy with their SWGCG conference.

Members agreed with the proposed action.

5. FEDERAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT.

Dr. Schulz updated ICMSSR on the development of the draft Strategic Plan. He briefly reviewed the goals and objectives described in the plan and noted that they can be linked to the proposed response to Act 402 of the Public Law. The proposed way ahead:

- Approve the Strategic Plan for forwarding to the FCMSSR for final approval.
- Upon FCMSSR approval, direct FWE Committees and Working Groups to ready reports of ongoing actions and existing plans within their subject matter areas that support the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Individual agencies will be given an opportunity to add and/or comment.
- Include these summaries in FY19 Annual Report. (Repeats annually.)
- ICMSSR (OFCM) conduct gap analysis and issue directions to Committees/Working Groups as appropriate.
- Beginning CY20, revise/review Strategic Plan (via Joint Action Group); issue in CY21 for FY 22-26.

Members emphasized the need to sustain collaboration among agencies and approved forwarding the draft plan to FCMSSR.

6. COMMITTEE FOR OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITES UPDATE.

Mr. David McCarren gave a presentation on the activities of and current issues being addressed by COES.

COES was established in 1982, was active until 1996, and reactivated in 2013. Its purpose is to advance the goals of the ICMSSR to achieve interagency coordination in planning for use of

sustained environmental satellite systems to support federal meteorological and oceanographic operational services providers and their customers.

Mr. McCarren summarized the ToR objectives and agencies participating in the committee. Its current activities include monitoring plans for environmental satellite programs, satellite Radio Frequency encroachment issues, COES ToR renewal, and Satellite Telemetry Interagency Working Group (STIWG) ToR renewal.

COES is currently working on DoD SBEM programs and data gaps, and Indian Ocean satellite coverage and data exploitation. Its interests include leveraging NASA research satellite capabilities, international cooperation, emerging GPS-RO capabilities, and monitoring commercial weather data acquisition programs

COES provides a forum for issue discovery and the means to connect stakeholders with organizations providing environmental satellite services and system development. Through COES the FWE agencies can work together to solve environmental satellite issues beyond the reach or scope of individual agencies.

7. FEDERAL COORDINATION INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW.

Mr. Michael Bonadonna presented the status of all Committees, Working Groups and Joint Action Groups within the Federal Coordinating Infrastructure. He noted that of the 27 Committees, Councils, Working Groups and Joint Action Groups, 24 are active. He followed with a chart showing the status of the charters and ToRs for each of the activities. Fourteen of the Departments and agencies are participating in the FWE Infrastructure.

DOC and DOD have the most involvement and a chart was shown with their line office participation.

Discussion included a recommendation that the activities within the FWE Coordination Infrastructure be cross checked for consistency with Section 402 and adjustments to the current infrastructure be considered. . **See Action Item 2017-3.3.**

8. FCMSSR AGENDA

Dr. Schulz presented the draft agenda for the next FCMSSR meeting scheduled for 24 October. Potential topics are:

- Federal Coordinator Update
- Approve the Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination
- Approve the Weather Act Section 402 Implementation Plan
- SENSR status
- ESPC update (depending on information and agreement from an upcoming meeting).

Members noted their lack of information on SENSR status. They were invited to provide comments by email to OFCM regarding the need for an update on SENSR at the next ICMSSR meeting.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION.

A NASA contact name was provided in response to a question about NESDIS participating in disaster impact assessment activities. **See Action Item 2017-3.4.**

10. ACTION ITEM REVIEW.

The Secretariat reviewed the status of current and previously taken Action Items.

Open FCMSSR Action Items

FCMSSR AI #	Responsible Office	Text	Comment	Status	Due Date
2017-1.2	ICMSSR	Present proposals to FCMSSR to implement Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 Section 402 requirements for the Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services.	Will be presented to FCMSSR in October	On Track	10/24/17
2017-1.4	ICMSSR, OFCM	Produce the Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination.	Will be provided to FCMSSR in October for approval	On Track	10/24/17

Open ICMSSR Action Items

ICMSSR AI #	Responsible Office	Text	Comment	Status	Due Date
2015-1.6	OFCM	Update the Terms of Reference documents for all Committees, Working Groups and Joint Action Groups subordinate to the ICMSSR to include formalized engagement with OSTP.	Work in progress	Open	05/17/17
2016-2.2	OFCM, NWS, FAA, DHS	Continue interagency engagement on MPAR and the related radio-frequency spectrum auction. Regularly present updates to the ICMSSR and FCMSSR. (replaces ICMSSR AI 2015-1.2)	Will remain open until executed regularly	Open	Quarterly
2016-4.2	OFCM	Provide a copy of the Terms of Reference for the new Committee on Climate Services (CCS) for ICMSSR review.	The CCS will meet in October. ToR will be discussed	Open	02/10/17

ICMSSR AI #	Responsible Office	Text	Comment	Status	Due Date
2016-4.5	OFCM, NWS/OOE	Develop a proposal for ICMSSR consideration on how OFCM and the FWE engage in Information Decision Support System (IDSS) interagency coordination.	Work in progress.	Open	06/15/17
2017-1.2	OFCM, ICMSSR agencies	ICMSSR members validate their membership on the WG/MPAR. Re-convene the WG/MPAR to a) review the WG ToR, b) brief ICMSSR on ToR applicability and on WG activities, and c) seek ICMSSR guidance going forward.	WG roster updated. Save-the-date email sent for meeting	Open	06/07/17
2017-1.4	OFCM	Establish a Joint Action Group to review OPM 1340 standards and make a presentation to the ICMSSR with recommendations.	No action taken	Open	06/07/17
2017-2.1	OFCM	Secure a government sponsor and funding source for the 2018 SWEF.	New SWEF schedule approved. Next SWEF Nov 2018.	Open	12/15/17
2017-2.2	OFCM	Schedule a date for the 2nd Observational Data Workshop.		Open	07/30/17
2017-2.3	ICMSSR organizations	Provide budget input for the FY18 Federal Plan/Annual Report, to include an internet link to agency's FY18 congressional justification submission and page numbers where feasible (additional information on an investment/priority).	Completed	Closed	07/07/17
2017-2.4	OFCM	Provide updates on the status of Terms of References of all FWE groups.	Update provided during the mtg	Closed	09/30/17

11. NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN

The ICMSSR Chair thanked members for participating in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m. Target dates for future ICMSSR meetings are December 6, 2017, and March 20, 2018.

**Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research
Meeting 2017-3**

Action Items

ICMSSR Action Item 2017-3.1. Poll the ICMSSR members to determine which Departments and Agencies are interested in serving as ICMSSR Chair. Develop a rotation scheme and secure ICMSSR concurrence at the December meeting.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: December 15, 2017

ICMSSR Action Item 2017-3.2. Update and publish FMH-1. Follow up with a revision once the ice pellet / small hail reported requirements issue has been resolved.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: January 31, 2018

ICMSSR Action Item 2017-3.3. Review all OFCM groups to ensure they support the FWE Strategic Plan. Report out at December ICMSSR meeting.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: December 15, 2017

ICMSSR Action Item 2017-3.4. Contact NESDIS/SAB to examine their potential inclusion on OFCM groups involved in disaster response i.e. WG/DIAP

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: October 30, 2017