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# ***Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR)***

*Meeting 2018-1*

Feb 2, 2017

# Beware the Groundhog!

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Meteorologists beware!

He's after your job!

...and he works for food!

**The groundhog hath spoken! Welcome to six more weeks of winter**

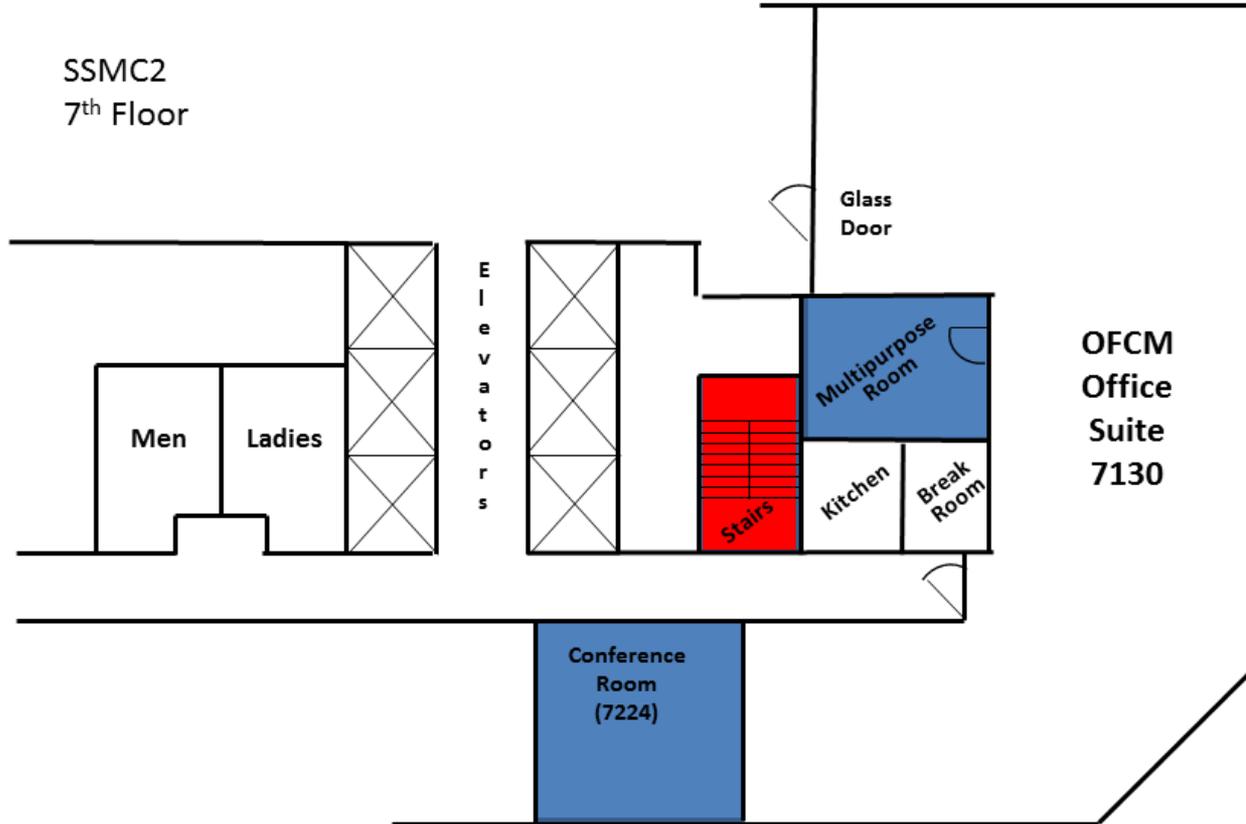
*Happy Groundhog Day*

# Administrative Info

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- **Meeting will be recorded**
- **Facilities**
- **Telecon / GoToMeeting**
  - Dial-in 1-888-680-9581, passcode 535430#
- **GoToMeeting:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/293418653>
- **Slides posted at:** <http://www.ofcm.gov/icmssr/meetings.htm>
  - Please advise us of any sensitivities

# OFCM Floor Plan



# Opening Remarks

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## *Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR)*

*Dr. Jack Kaye (NASA)  
Chair, ICMSSR*

- **Welcome**
- **Roll Call**
- **Approve Agenda & Record of Action.**

# Today's Agenda

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- **OPENING REMARKS:** Jack Kaye (NASA)
- **FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE:** William Schulz (OFCM)
- **STANDARDS FOR CIVILIAN METEOROLOGISTS:** Col Gremillion (AF A3W)
- **IMPLEMENTING THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT: SECTION 402:** William Schulz (OFCM)
- **METEOROLOGICAL DATA ACCESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS:** (OFCM, AF A3W, NWS)
- **FCMSSR/ICMSSR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** William Schulz (OFCM)
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# **FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE**

*Bill Schulz*  
*Federal Coordinator*

# FWE Coordinating Infrastructure

	Current	Active
FCMSSR	1	1
ICMSSR & Councils	3	3
Committees	4	4
WGs	16	14
JAGs	4	4
TOTAL	28	26

Federal Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (FCMSSR)

Federal Coordinator for Meteorology

NEXRAD Program Council

Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR)

Earth System Prediction Capability (ESPC) Executive Steering Group

Committee on Operational Processing Centers

Committee on Operational Environmental Satellites

Committee on Climate Analysis, Monitoring, and Services

Interagency Weather Research Coordinating Committee

Working Groups (enduring)

Joint Action Groups (short-term)

# ***FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE***

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- Budget and Coordination Report status
  - Anticipating mid-February PBR, agency BCR inputs to OFCM shortly after PBR issuance
  - Still awaiting confirmation from NPS, EPA, DOS, SI
  - OFCM expects to have preliminary FY 2019 BCR to OMB 31 Mar
  - Hoping for OMB clearance to release by 15 Apr
- Upcoming Events
  - Observational Data Workshop (22-24 May 18)
    - WMO: WIGOS, OSCAR/Sfc data management
    - Satellite, Conventional, Ocean, Space Wx
    - Attendees include all Operational Production Centers, NCEI, USAF 14OWS, JCSDA, OAR and NWS (Int'l Affairs, Off. of Obs, EMC)
  - TCORF – Miami (FIU), 13-15 March, agenda on ofcm.gov
- ICMSSR Chair Rotation Proposal:
  - DoD, NOAA, **NASA**, Transportation, Interior, USDA, DHS

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# Federal Civilian Job Series 1340 (Meteorologist) Qualification Standards & Impacts to AFW

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1. **Issue:** 1340 (Meteorologist) Qualification Standards drive unintended hiring consequences
  - Reqmt for “Degree: Meteorology, Atmospheric Science, or other Natural Science major; Very specific course listing
  - Or, “Combination of education and experience—coursework shown above, plus appropriate experience or additional education
2. Human resource processes across the government do not allow enactment of Part B
3. Transcript course titles across academia are non-standard
4. **Result:** Experienced and qualified candidates are not considered
5. **Recommendation:** Forward government change to OPM allowing for “most but not all coursework” phrasing for Part B
  - AF is leading this change request
  - Seeking interdepartmental coord and approval to approach OPM

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# Implementing Section 402 of the Weather Bill

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*From FCMSSR meeting 24 October 2017:*

“Action Item 2017-2.1. Reconvene Joint Action Group for Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services (JAG/ICAWS) to develop options to broaden FCMSSR Chairmanship beyond the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Draft a modified FCMSSR charter to include ICAWS duties as outlined in Section 402 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 and secure ICMSSR concurrence.”

At the meeting, FCMSSR members stated they wished to see a “pros and cons” approach to different options for FCMSSR leadership.

# Weather Act of 2017

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## 402. Interagency weather research and forecast innovation coordination

### (a) Establishment

The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish an Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services to improve coordination of relevant weather research and forecast innovation activities across the Federal Government. The Interagency Committee shall—

- (1) include participation by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its constituent elements, the National Science Foundation, and such other agencies involved in weather forecasting research as the President determines are appropriate;
- (2) identify and prioritize top forecast needs and coordinate those needs against budget requests and program initiatives across participating offices and agencies; and
- (3) share information regarding operational needs and forecasting improvements across relevant agencies.

### (b) Co-Chair

The Federal Coordinator for Meteorology shall serve as a co-chair of this panel.

### (c) Further coordination

The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall take such other steps as are necessary to coordinate the activities of the Federal Government with those of the United States weather industry, State governments, emergency managers, and academic researchers.

# Option A: Two, Equal Chairs: NOAA and OSTP

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## #1 JAG RECOMMENDATION

(assumes FCMSSR charter re-written to include ICAWS duties)

FCMSSR Chair: NOAA Administrator and senior OSTP representative

### PRO:

- Satisfies spirit of 115-25 by having OSTP-led committee
- Other departments comfortable with EOP-level leadership
- Precedent for this model in SOST (ICMSSR suggested better analogy is SOST, a subcommittee under CENRS, which is chaired by OAA/OSTP/NSF.)

### CON:

- OSTP does not want to be responsible for managing lower level committees and associated “ground-level” or “tactical” issues **(NOT A SHOW STOPPER)**
- Need to have EOP issue directive listing full membership of FCMSSR as part of the “other agencies involved .... as president determines are appropriate”

# Option B: Two Chairs: NOAA permanent + rotator

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(assumes FCMSSR charter re-written to include ICAWS duties)

FCMSSR Chair: Rotates among agencies; 1 or 2 serving concurrently

PRO:

- Other agencies provide balance to NOAA
- Committee gets a fresh perspective

CON:

- Lacks EOP leadership periodically
- Need to have EOP issue directive listing full membership of FCMSSR as part of the “other agencies involved .... as president determines are appropriate”
- Few agencies at ICMSSR were excited about being a co-chair

# Option C: Two Chairs: OSTP permanent + rotator

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(assumes FCMSSR charter re-written to include ICAWS duties)

FCMSSR Chair: Rotates among agencies; 1 or 2 serving concurrently

PRO:

- EOP leadership
- Committee gets a fresh perspective

CON:

- Large administrative burden on OSTP
- Influence of major weather resource managers periodically diminished
- Need to have EOP issue directive listing full membership of FCMSSR as part of the “other agencies involved .... as president determines are appropriate”
- Similar lack of enthusiasm by other ICMSSR agencies on being Chair

# Recommended Path Forward

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Name change in FCMSSR Charter: FCMSSR to ICAWS

- Satisfies law
  - JAG favored using a term that was mentioned in law
  - Include responsibility to look at “ supporting research” explicitly written Charter
- Could fit better using Weather Act as coordination mandate (vice rescinded A-62)
- Still reference 1962 budget aggregation law in the Charter as a reminder about the Budget Report responsibility
- Need to specify agencies as participant

Path forward:

- ICMSSR approves option recommendation by February 2018 meeting
- Send to FCMSSR reps, present draft charter and recommended leadership structure at April 2018 FCMSSR meeting
- Submit to OSTP as recommended plan, or JAG/ICMSSR goes back for re-work

# Proposed FCMSSR Charter Revisions

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## Section 1:

- Change name to ICAWS
- Include reference to Weather Act 2017, retain reference to 87-843

## Section 2:

- Name changes

## Section 3:

- Add duties from PL 115-25 Section 402 (a)(2)and(3)

## Section 4:

- Add statement that per PL 115-25 Section 402 (c), participation of these agencies is “necessary to coordinate the Federal government” actions in this area.

## Section 5:

- Name changes.

## Section 6:

- Renew charter in 5 years

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# Meteorological Data Access and National Security Implications

NEWP Policy Issue #3 from 24 January 2018 Meeting

- Does continued increase in resolution and other improvements in NOAA's publicly available numeric models pose a national security risk, and, if so, how can that risk be mitigated?



# Meteorological Data Access and National Security Implications

## *Navy & USMC Perspective*

**Issue:** Does continued increase in resolution and other improvements in NOAA's publically available numeric models pose a national security risk, how can that be mitigated?

**Current Practices:** Navy runs their own Ocean and Atmospheric models, and operates the Defense Shared Resource Center at the Stennis Space Center in MS. Naval predictions and forecasts are classified only when the source of data or receiving platform or unit requires classification. In forward operating areas, DoD observations and sensitive foreign data sources are classified and assimilated through separate enclaves. Navy provides oceanographic services for the entire DoD and collaborates with NOAA to offer USN models, products, and services to any military or USG activity in need, subject to U.S. Code.

**Policy:** Navy's position is that continued increases in resolution and other accuracies in NOAA's publically available numeric models do not pose a national security risk. A critical factor in the efficacy of numerical model predictions is the availability of in-situ/remote observations, particularly in the atmospheric boundary layer and ocean mixed layer, that constrain initial conditions for DoD models. These data, combined with operational intelligence, a robust knowledge of force logistics and readiness issues, enable actionable decisions, which may be sensitive or classified. Increases in model resolution or accuracy, in and of themselves are not a critical factor, warranting classification or similar distribution controls.



# Meteorological Data Access and National Security Implications

## USAF Weather Perspective

**Issue:** Does continued increase in resolution and other improvements in NOAA's publically available numeric models pose a national security risk, and, if so, how can that risk be mitigated?

**USAF Weather Perspective:** Worldwide availability of US weather data, in the form of NWP products, TAFs, observations, and derived products, is of concern and could pose a national security risk. Our adversary could easily use this information to their advantage.

### **USAF QUESTIONS:**

- Can NOAA deny/mask data for the U.S. and it's territories during a time of conflict? If so, how?
- Request policy is developed to ensure this capability.

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# FCMSSR Agenda Topics

**Next FCMSSR: April 30 2018**

- **Weather Act Section 402 Recommendation**

**Next ICMSSR: May**

- **Committee on Climate Services Update**
- **Budget Coordination Report FY2019 review**



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# Committee Update: IWRCC

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Interdepartmental Weather Research Coordination Committee

and the

Community Weather Research Steering Committee

- IWRCC Terms of Reference
- Science Working Group Terms of Reference
- Coordination Structure
- Current issues under consideration

# IWRCC Charter: Purpose

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The IWRCC promotes and helps to coordinate basic and applied U.S. research activities aimed at a better fundamental understanding and improved prediction of high-impact weather related to variations in atmospheric-ocean circulations over high latitudes and over subseasonal-to-seasonal time scales for future socioeconomic and environmental benefits, including applications in support of weather-sensitive decision making at Federal, State, and other agencies (i.e., “high impact weather research”). In particular, IWRCC helps to

- (a) coordinate U.S. agency weather research priorities,
- (b) promote U.S. interests in the participation of well-defined international projects, and
- (c) explore and engage with new national and international weather research initiatives, including those associated with the THORPEX legacy projects.

IWRCC provides a forum where agencies can best leverage efforts among themselves and in the international community to achieve agency goals.

Interdepartmental Weather Research Coordination Committee

## IWRCC Charter: Roles and Responsibilities

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- Promote coordination of U.S. agency and community involvement for a coherent national input and response to domestic and international projects, when possible.
- Map, where appropriate and needed, US agency programs and initiatives onto large interagency projects, including but not limited to the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC), U.S. CLIVAR, U. S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), the National Earth System Prediction Capability (National ESPC), the Next Generation Global Prediction System (NGGPS) initiative led by NOAA, and the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO), as well as engage with relevant American Meteorological Society (AMS) activities and committees such as the AMS Policy Program.
- Enhance U.S. basic and applied weather research capabilities by fostering the development of coordinated agency - community initiatives related to large interagency projects.

# IWRCC Charter: Roles and Responsibilities

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- Facilitate the optimal and shared use of national and international research infrastructure such as data archives, evaluation tools, and testing environments in support of projects.
- Review progress and provide feedback as requested in the execution of US research activities contributing to projects.
- Compile and share with agencies brief annual summaries of IWRCC plans, activities, and accomplishments including metrics of success when available.
- Keep the U.S. Permanent Representative to the World Meteorological Organization informed of the Committee's activities and plans.

# IWRCC Charter: Members

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## Member Agencies

- NASA - Earth Science Division (ESD) (**current Co-Chair**)
- NOAA - Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) (**current Chair**)
- NOAA - National Weather Service (NWS)
- NSF - Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences
- US Navy - Office of Naval Research (ONR)
- US Navy – Oceanographer of the Navy (N2N6E)

## Potential Future Member Agencies:

- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- US Air Force
- Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- Environment Canada

## Community Weather Research Steering Committee: Purpose

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The CWRSC promotes scientific leadership for the coordination of U.S. involvement in the PPP, S2S and HIW efforts. Additionally, the CWRSC informs the IWRCC on matters concerning the scientific integrity and progress of such projects.\*

\*CWRSC ToR in draft, awaiting NSF approval.

## Weather Research Steering Committee: Roles and Responsibilities

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- Develop a conceptual framework for the coordination of US high impact weather related research in the context of the three projects, as well as coordinate the development of implementation plans for related national and international projects.
- Consult with appropriate Program Managers to Identify research in support of projects that potentially serve U.S. national interests, are aligned with agency plans with a potential for long-term benefits to society, the economy, and the environment, and have a high likelihood of transition to applications at US operational weather agencies.
- Engage the U.S. community in projects and present options for collaboration and coordination such as leveraging scientific community meetings, holding periodic open meetings or workshops, disseminating information on projects, opportunities, and changing priorities, and assimilating advice and suggestions from research communities at large.

# Weather Research Steering Committee: Roles and Responsibilities

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- Interface with related and associated international activities through:
  - Representation of U.S. agency science interests and individuals of scientific expertise;
  - Relaying to the international projects U.S. national research priorities and expertise, socio-economic needs, and concepts for proposed field campaign and demonstration projects; and
  - Interaction with relevant WWRP and WCRP (World Climate Research Program) Working Groups
- Inform the IWRCC through periodic updates about ongoing international and US high impact weather research in the context of the three projects and other associated projects, possible future scientific directions, and related resource requirements.

# Weather Research Steering Committee : Membership

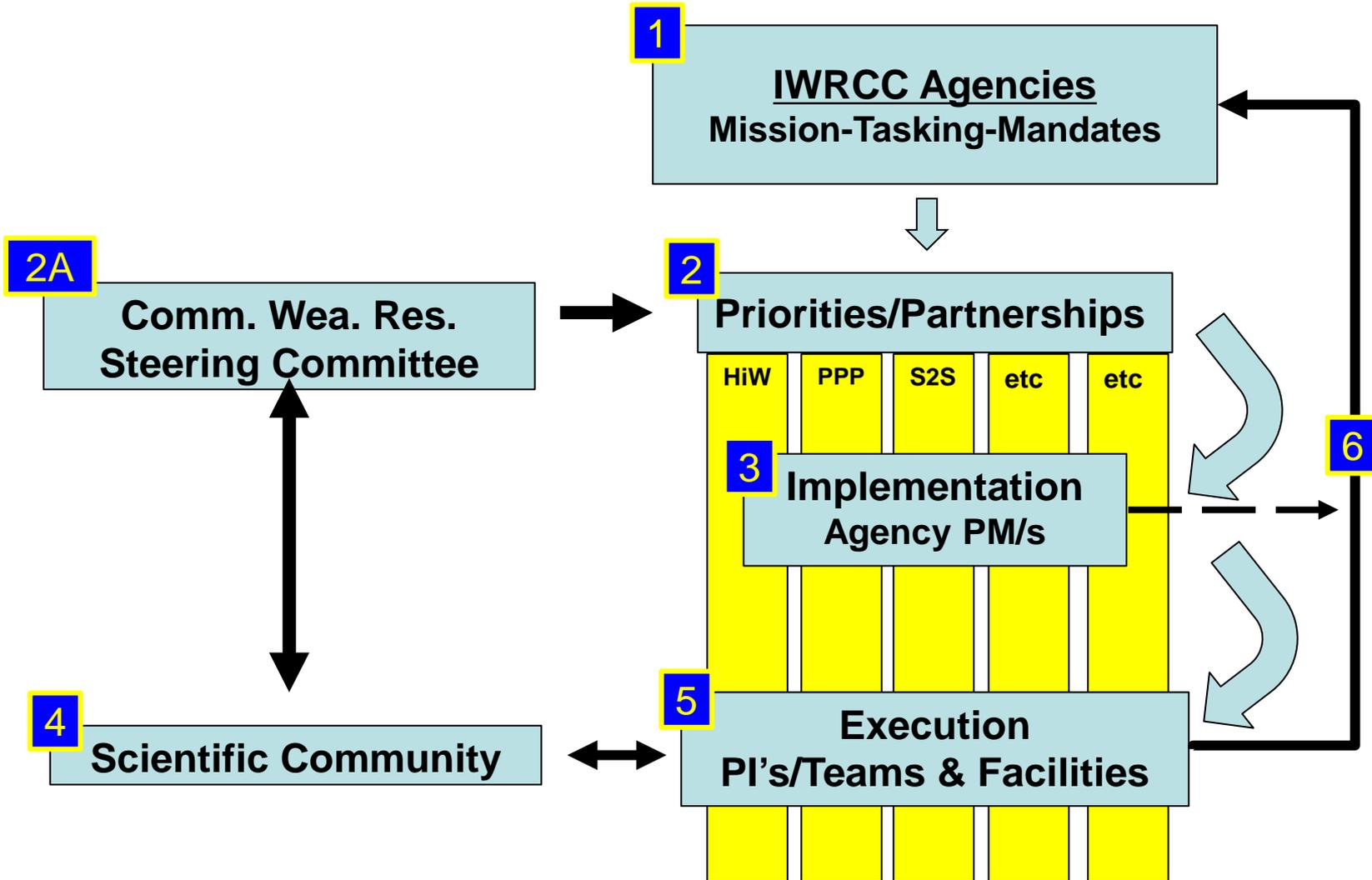
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## **MEMBERSHIP**

- The CWRSC shall consist of no more than 18 members, including up to three Co-Chairs
- IWRCC will appoint the Co-Chair(s), and based on the Co-Chair(s)' recommendation, the members of the CWRSC for initial terms of up to three years, with the possibility of an extension for one additional term of three years.
- Expertise of the membership, to the extent possible, will span the scientific breadth of the impactful weather research including its societal component.
- Membership should include scientific experts from government, academia, private sector, and other North American weather research agencies.
- A member from each of the three project teams will be members of the CWRSC.
- In carrying out IRWCC roles and responsibilities as set forth in 3, above, members shall provide their individual opinions, advice and recommendations which shall be recorded as part of IRWCC deliberations on such matters. At no time will the CWRSC provide consensus opinions, advice and recommendations.\*

\*Language provided by NOAA Office of General Counsel

# IWRCC and Science Working Group Coordination Model **(DRAFT 1/19/2018)**



# IWRCC and Science Working Group Coordination Model **(DRAFT 1/19/2018)**

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1

IWRCC: Helps to coordinate U.S. weather agency research priorities, promote U.S. interests in the participation of well-defined international projects, and explore and engage with new national and international weather research initiatives. At the top of this coordination model, agencies would make their research priorities known to all through discussion, aggregation on a web page, periodic reporting, or other means.

2

The IWRCC would identify the common priorities among federal agencies in key areas, and recommend to agency leadership the formation of (additional) beneficial partnerships (formal and informal) and the specifics of coordination in particular areas.

2A

Community Weather Research Steering Committee: Promotes Scientific Leadership for the Coordination of U.S. involvement in weather research projects. Informs the IWRCC on matters concerning scientific integrity and progress of such projects

3

Agency PMs implement their agencies' guidance, and implement IWRCC coordination advice as applicable.

4

The CWRSC facilitates engagement with appropriate science community entities to provide input/feedback on research opportunities and progress.

5

Researchers and investigators perform the relevant research.

6

Feedback (w/PM oversight) to IWRCC regarding effectiveness of coordination and partnerships

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# FCMSSR Action Items

AI #	Responsible Office	Text	Comment	Status	Due Date
2017-2.1	OFCM, FCMSSR Agencies	Reconvene JAG/ICAWS to develop options to broaden FCMSSR Chairmanship. Draft a modified FCMSSR charter to include ICAWS duties as outlined in P.L. 115-25 S 402 and secure ICMSSR concurrence.	JAG/ICAWS convened. Options will be presented to ICMSSR then FCMSSR with a revised Charter	Working	04/24/18
2017-2.2		Publish the <i>Strategic Plan for Federal Weather Coordination</i> as presented during the 24 October 2017 FCMSSR Meeting.	Published 12 Jan 2018	Closed	11/03/17

# ICMSSR Action Item Review

AI #	Responsible Office	Text	Comment	Status	Due Date
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 for ICMSSR review.	Draft sent to ICMSSR for consideration	Open	02/10/17
2017-2.1	OFCM	Secure a government sponsor and funding source for the 2018 SWEF.	Due to scheduling problem with European Space Weather Workshop, SWEF will be planned to coincide with DOS-led Space Weather as Global Challenge (SWGK) meeting July.	Open	2/28/18

# ICMSSR Action Item Review

AI #	Responsible Office	Text	Comment	Status	Due Date
2017-2.2	OFCM	Schedule a date for the 2nd Observational Data Workshop.	Scheduled for 22-23 May	Closed	07/30/17
2017-3.2	OFCM	Update and publish FMH-1. Follow up with a revision once the ice pellet / small hail reported requirements issue has been resolved.	FMH-1 published	Closed	01/31/18
2017-4.1	NOAA-OAR	Use an upcoming monthly meeting of the NOAA-NSF group on Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) as an exploratory meeting to assess agency interest...Return a recommendation to ICMSSR on the need for formalization of this group under the federal weather coordination structure.		Open	03/15/18
2017-4.2	NOAA-NWS, ICMSSR	NOAA NWS will send a draft of their Section 201 response to ICMSSR members. ICMSSR members will provide recommendations or edits back to NOAA by 15 May 2018.		Open	03/30/18

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# Wrap Up

