

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH (ICMSSR)

Record of Actions: 2019-2 Meeting

May 9, 2019, 10:00 a.m. EDT

SSMC 2, Room 3246
1325 East West Highway; Silver Spring, MD 20910

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology
Suite 7130, SSMC2
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Members (T) via telecon	Agency
<i>William Bauman (Chair)</i>	DOT/FAA
<i>Michael Bonadonna (Vice Chair)</i>	OFCM
<i>Andy Stern for Louis Uccellini</i>	DOC/NOAA/NWS
<i>John Cortinas for Craig McLean</i>	DOC/OAR
<i>Ralph Stoffler</i>	DOD/USAF/A3W
<i>Bill Spendley(T)</i>	DOD/USA
<i>Chris Ekstrom</i>	DOD/USN
<i>LtCol James Reusse (T)</i>	DOD/USMC
<i>Gerald Geernaert for Rickey Petty</i>	DOE
<i>Jonathan Berkson (T)</i>	DHS-USCG
<i>Chris Cannizzaro (T) for Ken Hodgkins</i>	DOS
<i>Angel McCoy (T)</i>	DOI/BOEM
<i>John Vimont (T)</i>	DOI/NPS
<i>Keith Compton (T)</i>	NRC
<i>Don Eick (T)</i>	NTSB
<i>Gail Skofronick-Jackson for Jack Kaye</i>	NASA HQ/ESD
<i>David Chorney (Executive Secretary)</i>	OFCM
Invited Participants	Agency
<i>James Spann (T)</i>	NASA HQ HPD
<i>Thomas Keiss (T)</i>	DOE/NNSA
<i>Mathur Rohit (T)</i>	EPA/ORD/NERL
<i>Jesse Carman (T)</i>	DOC/NOAA/OAR
<i>David McCarren, Jeff Best (T)</i>	DOD/USN
<i>Lt Col Robert Branham</i>	DOD/USAF/A3W
<i>Erik Noble (T)</i>	EOP/ORD/NERL
<i>John Egentowich (T)</i>	DOT/FAA
<i>Carven Scott, Mark Zettlemyer (T)</i>	DOC/NOAA/NWS
<i>Matt Fronzak</i>	MITRE/FPAW
<i>James Sims, Sim James, Ken Barnett,</i>	OFCM
<i>Floyd Hauth (T)</i>	OFCM STC

1. OPENING REMARKS.

Dr. William Bauman (FAA), ICMSSR Chair, and ICMSSR Vice-Chair, Mr. Michael Bonadonna (OFCM) provided opening remarks. Mr. Chorney Executive Secretary (OFCM) provided administrative information 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. ACTION ITEMS.

Mr. Chorney provided an update on ICMSSR Action Items.

Action Item Number	Action Item	Responsible Office	Status
2018-4.1	Conduct a meeting to determine whether updates to the plans FCM-R17-2002 “ <i>Atmospheric Modeling of Releases from Weapons of Mass Destruction for Homeland Security</i> ” and FCM-R23-2004 “ <i>Federal Research and Development Needs and Priorities for Atmospheric Transport and Diffusion Modeling</i> ” are warranted and whether new objectives should be set.	OFCM	At the GMU conference in 2018 everyone seemed interested, but afterwards support has waned. Will bring back up at 2019 GMU ATD conference for a last ditch attempt.
2019-1.1	Provide the NOAA satellite life expectancy / reliability charts and methodology for distribution to the ICMSSR.	NOAA-NESDIS	4/4/19: email sent to Vanessa Griffin to follow up on the action. 4/29: NESDIS is reviewing the satellite life expectancy reliability analysis and will provide more detailed information before the August ICMSSR meeting.
2019-1.3	Schedule presentations from DoD, NASA, and NOAA on their commercial satellite weather data programs at the Summer ICMSSR meeting.	COES (JS)	5/2/19: Presentations will now be given at the 2019-03 meeting.
2019-1.4	Seek to host future FCMSSR meetings at NOAA Headquarters Department of Commerce in the Herbert C. Hoover Bldg. in Washington DC.	OFCM	We'll try for the October FCMSSR meeting.

Dr. Bauman offered to have the FAA provide an update on the status of the ICAO Regional Space Weather Centers at the next ICMSSR meeting. See Action Item 2019-2.1.

3. FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S UPDATE.

Mr. Bonadonna, Federal Coordinator for Meteorology, presented a summary of key OFCM/Federal Weather Enterprise (FWE) coordination activities and plans including:

- Noting the current FWE coordinating infrastructure will need to be modified/updated when the Interagency Committee for the Advancement of Weather Services (ICAWS) is established.
- The 2019 Tropical Cyclone Operations and Research Forum (TCORF)/73d Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference (IHC) was held March 12 and 13, 2019 at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), University of Miami, Miami, FL with more than 100 in attendance. It had funding support from NOAA, Navy, and National Science Foundation (NSF). The focus was on Tropical Cyclone Research, transition to operations, and an update of the annual National Hurricane Operations Plan which was published on May 1. Tentative plans are to hold the conference next year at Air Operations Center (AOC) in Lakeland, FL.
- Status of the Budget and Coordination Report (BCR) FY20, which is projected to be delivered to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review on May 10. OMB clearance for release of the report is expected May 24. OFCM will address any issues noted by the ICMSSR or OMB prior to publication.
- National Earth System Prediction Capability (ESPC) events include the formal National ESPC Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting scheduled for May 29, and the Workshop on Building an Inter-annual to Decadal Prediction/Projection Capability for Decision Support is scheduled for June 5-6 at the Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP), College Park MD. This exploratory workshop will discuss the need for coordinated updating of physical earth system predictions to support a wide range of long-term decisions.
- Recap of the Atmospheric Transport and Dispersion Working Group (WG-ATD). The most current OFCM plans relating to ATD are FCM-R17-2002 called Atmospheric Modeling of Releases from Weapons of Mass Destruction for Homeland Security, from 2002, and FCM-R23-2004 Federal Research and Development Needs and Priorities for Atmospheric Transport and Diffusion Modeling from 2004. Both publications are outdated. The working group is considering reviewing these two plans to determine if it is necessary to update, cancel or start completely from scratch with new plans. OFCM will try to energize the Working Group at the 2019 George Mason University conference on June 18. ICMSSR consensus was that more coordination and planning is needed to ensure a coherent national response.
- The 2019 Space Weather Enterprise Forum (SWEF) is planned for June 26 at the Yates Auditorium, Department of Interior Main Building, Vermont Ave NW, Washington DC. The theme is "Preparing the Nation for Space Weather". It will be a full-day meeting with about 250+ attendees. The intent is to engage the Space Weather community and public. USGS Director James Reilly is the invited Keynote speaker and a Congressional speaker is being sought.
- The FWE Coordination Session is being planned for the upcoming AMS Conference in Boston, MA in January 2020. Eight presentations are planned for the 36th Conference on Environmental Information Processing Technologies.

Members asked for clarification on topics for the ESPC ESG and concern was also expressed about the status of the past Action Item on 1340 standards. See Action Items [2019-2.2](#) and [2.4](#).

4. ICAWS UPDATE.

Section 402 of the Weather Act (signed by the President on 19 April 2017) directs Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to establish the ICAWS. Since enactment of this law, the Federal Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (FCMSSR) and OSTP have approved a proposal for FCMSSR to assume the duties (and name) assigned to the Congressionally mandated ICAWS, in lieu of creating another committee.

Changes would be to rename FCMSSR as ICAWS and combine ICAWS duties and existing FCMSSR duties into one ICAWS charter. OSTP and NOAA would serve as co-chairs for ICAWS. OSTP would submit a legislative change request to make OFCM Director the ICAWS Executive Secretary rather than a co-chair.

A proposed modified FWE Coordinating Infrastructure was shown and tentatively agreed upon by the FCMSSR and ICMSR. The proposed changes included renaming the FCMSSR as the Interagency Council for the Advancement of Weather Services, dropping the “Interdepartmental” term from the ICMSR thus renaming the body as the Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (CMSSR), and renaming sub-ordinate Committees as Sub-Committees.

OFCM will draft a new ICAWS Charter, solicit ICMSR and FCMSSR comments, obtain NOAA and OSTP General Counsel reviews and plan for an ICAWS Charter signing at the new FCMSSR meeting in October 2019.

Mr. Spendley requested input from the DoD general Counsel provide in the last revision cycle be included in the new ICAWS Charter revision. See Action Item [2019-2.3](#).

5. AVIATION.

- **NextGen Executive Weather Panel (NEWP):** Dr. John Egentowich (FAA) provided an update on the NEWP WG and FAA actions.

NextGen is the FAA-led modernization of our nation's air transportation system. Its goal is to increase the safety, efficiency, capacity, predictability, and resiliency of American aviation. Airlines, general aviation operators, pilots, and air traffic controllers gain better information and tools that help passengers and cargo arrive at their destinations more quickly, while aircraft consume less fuel and produce fewer emissions. This transformation is being achieved through an ongoing rollout of improvements which began in 2007. NextGen remains on target to have all major components in place by 2025. Dr. Egentowich summarized the background, executive oversight, participants, and the process, roles and responsibilities of each agency's weather activities related to NextGen objectives. He also provided examples of some of the topics covered at NEWP WG meetings.

Dr. Egentowich closed by citing a Government Accountability Office (GAO) assessment that noted “Collaboration between FAA and Commerce, specifically the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been facilitated by the creation of the NextGen Executive Weather Panel.”

- **Friends and Partners in Aviation Weather (FPAW):** Mr. Matt Fronzak, MITRE Corp. noted that FPAW was created to enable members of the aviation weather user, producer and authority communities to meet and exchange meaningful aviation weather information. It first met in September 1997 and now meets twice each year.

FPAW aspires to be forum by which meaningful information is transmitted to key decision-makers in each community. He described some of the interactions of this community with aviation users, U.S meteorological authorities and the aviation weather products industries. These interactions at times may involve DoT, DoC, DoD and DHS.

6. COMMITTEE FOR CLIMATE SERVICES COORDINATION (CCSC) UPDATE.

LtCol Rob Branham (USAF) provided an update on the CCSC. Climate Services are defined as the timely production and delivery of useful climate data, information, and knowledge to decision makers. CCSC is the principal means for coordination on current and programmed activities within its assigned areas, recommending changes to more efficiently use resources in meeting valid user requirements, and addressing policy matters and issues as they relate to climate monitoring and services.

The committee's recent actions include a finalized Terms of Reference (ToR), reviews of the 4th National Climate Assessment, Climate Considerations for Arctic Environmental Services, and a proposal for the Inter-agency Climate Information and Services Database.

Future activities are to provide support to FCMSSR and Interagency Weather Research Coordination Committee (IWRCC) on climate initiatives, collaborate on the Predictive and Projective Climate Services database, and explore the inter-agency need for coordination and sharing of hydrological climate related services.

7. ARCTIC UPDATE.

In response to ICMSSR Action Item [2018-4.3](#) a one-day meeting was held on April 15, 2019 to review current and future operational meteorological, oceanographic, and space environmental services and supporting research for national interests in the arctic region with the purpose of determining whether collective interagency coordination is needed.

Mr. Bonadonna summarized highlights and outcomes of the meeting:

- Over 60 enthusiastic participants from DOC, DoD, DOE, DHS, DOI EOP, NASA, and NSF.
- Excellent briefings on the importance of the region and why there is a need for cooperation/collaboration to meet agency missions and associated requirements.
- Reviewed Policy Coordination, Operational Collaboration, and Research activities and interests
- Good review of satellite capabilities, sensors, observations and applications.
- Good discussion of research activities and ways to interact/ coordinate R2O possibilities.
- More info needed regarding conventional equipment, sensors, observational coverage or locations.
- Not enough info on international data sources, types, and availability or treaties or agreements that help or hinder obtaining such info.
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- The FCMSSR was briefed on the meeting and endorsed four Action Items:
- OFCM, with assistance from the meeting participants, will develop a summary of organizations and responsibilities for Arctic region environmental services and research.
- OFCM will ensure issues regarding Arctic environmental services are addressed in existing elements of the FWE coordinating infrastructure.
- OFCM will assist interested FWE organizations to engage in the Interagency Arctic Research

Policy Committee (IARPC).

- OFCM will reconvene an Interagency Exploratory meeting on Arctic Environmental Services in April 2020.

Mr. Carven Scott, National Weather Service, Alaska Region Director, provided information about operational challenges, gaps and impacts related to Arctic environmental issues and services in the

Alaska Region. He also described activities and capabilities of the Arctic Test Bed and Proving Ground and the Alaska Environmental Science and Service Integration Center (AESSIC). The Center is designed to enable collaboration among field offices, National Centers as well as other federal and international NMHS's for consistency of services at all levels.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION.

Cancelled due to meeting time limitations.

9. NEXT STEPS/CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN.

The ICMSSR Chair thanked members for participating in the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m. The target date for the next ICMSSR meeting is August 2019.

Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research Meeting 2019-2

Action Items

ICMSSR Action Item 2019-2.1. FAA will provide an update at the August ICMSSR on the ICAO Regional Space Weather Centers.

Responsible Office: FAA, OFCM

Due Date: August 30, 2019.

ICMSSR Action Item 2019-2.2. Follow up with OPM on the request to modify the 1340 Meteorologist Qualification Standards.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: August 30, 2019.

ICMSSR Action Item 2019-2.3. Incorporate DoD General Counsel proposed language change to the draft ICAWS Charter in paragraph 3a.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: June 30, 2019.

ICMSSR Action Item 2019-2.4. ESPC ESG Executive Secretary will ensure EPIC topic is added to next ESPC meeting.

Responsible Office: OFCM

Due Date: June 30, 2019.