

Draft Report External Review Committee

June 26, 2008

The Committee Commends NOAA

- For its efforts to promote a National Climate Service
- For its efforts within NOAA to organize climate services
- For recognizing the importance of global change to society

Message from Workshop Participants

- The potential of a Climate Service is enormous
- The scope of a truly successful Climate Service exceeds that of the draft Strategic Plan
- Added note

Review Committee Proposes

- Deliberate pro and con analysis of more than one model for the service – Report: Options for a National Climate Service
- Developed through tiger teams (5-8 people - diverse representation) and a coordinating committee
- Must address a series of principles based on this workshop
- Suggested report format

Options for a National Climate Service (address at least 3)

- Create a National Climate Service Federation that would determine how to deliver climate services to the nation
- Create a National Climate Service with NOAA as the lead agency with specifically defined partners and
- Expand and improve the National Weather Service into a National Weather and Climate Service

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or Objectives

- Serve to develop products and information that will promote a variety of societal benefits including
 - Improve prediction and projection capabilities on the time scales that contribute to societal benefit
 - Promote a better understanding of how climate change and variability that can promote an improved understanding of other components of the environment
 - Change the decision-making capability in particular sectors,
 - Engender new science capabilities that may have large expected and unexpected benefit, and
 - Promote improved federal, state and regional adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies.
 - Better informed citizenry

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or Objectives

- Reflect the full range of users, ranging from those who can articulate their needs and are ready to make use of specific information to those who have limited experience and for which the utility of climate information is not yet clear.
- Address the full range of time scales of interest to society without artificial or arbitrary divisions based on days, weeks, months, years or decades.

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or Objectives

- Promote the extension of climate information to climate system information that ensures that the fundamental problems associated with the climate system and the diverse sectors of ecosystems, water, human health, agriculture, the coastal region, social and economic infrastructure, national security, etc. can be addressed.
- Support problem-based assessments and improved decision-making that are on global, regional, sectoral, and integrated scales.

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or Objectives

- Create a capability that ensures that information is accessible, includes data, interpretation and integration, promotes communication and education, and promotes innovation and interaction.
- Create an active community of interaction that promotes the 3-way involvement of researchers, users, and climate information providers that is engaged throughout the process from planning, execution, assessment, and improvement and involves the active use of the information within the service.

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or Objectives

- Recognize, incorporate and promote a “cascade” of roles extending from nationally-provided and vetted products, to defined roles of mission agencies, to a variety of interfaces with users (including regional interfaces such as RISAs and state climatologists to the private sector), to the active engagement of a breadth of users.

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or objectives

- Recognize that there are significant foundations required for a robust climate service underpinned by
 - A robust climate observing system
 - High spatial resolution climate system prediction and projection models with demonstrated skill

Examine Options Guided by a Series of Principles or Objectives

- Ensure that climate services are integrated with active research that can directly impact the generation of new climate service capabilities and climate services, in turn, can directly influence research directions.
- Include specific mechanisms to entrain successful products into the operations and capacity of the service

Suggested Report Format

- 1 page executive summary (elevator speech)
- Part 1. The definition of a Climate Service
- Part 2. Why a Climate Service is needed
- Part 3. How it will be implemented
- Part 4. How success can be judged

Part 2. Why a climate service is needed

- articulate the case for urgency and the potential benefits of the climate service.
- 6 to 10 compelling examples of how climate services will produce actionable outcomes (use workshop examples)
- Select examples with a range of benefits, with specific examples of how the service will
 - Improve prediction and projection capabilities on the time scales that contribute to societal benefit
 - Promote a better understanding of how climate change and variability that can promote an improved understanding of other components of the environment
 - Change the decision-making capability in particular sectors,
 - Engender new science capabilities that may have large expected and unexpected benefit, and
 - Promote improved federal, state and regional adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies.
 - Promote an informed citizenry

Part 3. How it should be implemented.

- Examine pros and cons of the three options
- Examination presented in context with the principles and objectives
- State a path forward from each of the three options.
- Define an evolution from targeted user groups, in which effective interaction can promote significant success to a broader and more comprehensive program in which the potential is not yet fully recognized.
- Propose options for the organizational structure of the service including leadership, integration of partners, and budget authority.

Part 4. How success will be judged.

- The report should incorporate defined success criteria for each option, including input, output, outcome and impact metrics

Draft

- Will still evolve based on comments today and after the meeting