

Summary:

1) **Please send the cochairs** (Siegfried and Dave G.) feedback on the website:

<http://www.usclivar.org/Organization/drought-wg.html>

How can we improve, expand, etc.? **We will coordinate and discuss with Cathy.**

2) Randy Koster made a nice presentation on “The ‘robustness’ of the model-based soil moisture drought index –a study using GSWP-2 data.” (available on the website). Randy showed that by an appropriate scaling of the soil moisture values, the results from the different models (scaled soil moisture) came into a remarkable degree of agreement over many regions of the world (these tend to be regions where there is large interannual variability in the rainfall).

A question arose (Arun) about the PDF of soil moisture (unknown – but probably not too badly behaved – Dave L.). An alternative is to use percentiles – but requires more data.

How to extend this pilot study?

Randy will have 40-year global forcing for some models soon from another project

Dave L: can use 85 years of high resolution forcing over the US that includes the Dust Bowl drought

3. Dave Gutzler – more discussion on drought index

a) Should we consider alternatives (time scale differences- soil moisture versus PDSI) – **Kingtse volunteered to compute the PDSI to add to Randy’s curves of the normalized soil moisture**

b) Issue of usefulness of model soil moisture for operations:

Doug L. – very interested in using for drought monitoring

**Roger P. – important link to NIDIS – will invite someone (Randy?) to a summer workshop** focusing on a planned pilot study for the upper Colorado River Basin.

This type of analysis could be expanded to include a multi-model framework (Kingtse) for addressing questions like how much rainfall is needed to end a drought (expect to have more model differences). Marty – need to consider time scales of the precipitation.

4. Experimental design for model simulation is now final (see website). **Please send information about what runs you would like to do to Siegfried in the coming weeks.** Targeting the workshop in 2008.

5. Sumant N. initiated a discussion on observational studies. He briefly summarized work on estimating evaporation and run-off using NARR (North American Regional

reanalyses) precipitation and atmospheric moisture fluxes – NARR assimilates precipitation. **Sumant will elaborate at the next telecon (will send out a presentation).**