

08 December 06: Drought WG Telecon. – notes (red indicates action items)

US Membership:

Siegfried Schubert – NASA/GSFC - cochair
Dave Gutzler – Univ New Mexico - cochair
Marty Hoerling – NOAA/CDC
Arun Kumar – NOAA/CPC
Randy Koster – NASA/GSFC
Sumant Nigam - Univ Maryland
Mingfang Ting – Columbia Univ/LDEO
Tom Delworth – NOAA/GFDL
Richard Seager - Columbia Univ/LDEO
Wayne Higgins– NOAA/CPC
Kingtse Mo – NOAA/CPC
Roger Pulwarty – NIDIS Director
David Rind – NASA/GISS
Ning Zeng – Univ of Maryland
Dennis Lettenmaier - Univ of Washington
Rong Fu - Georgia Institute of Technology

International Membership: Ex Officio

Ronald Stewart - Canada
Victor O. Magaña - Mexico
Jozef Syktus – Australia
Bradfield Lyon -link to IRI activities

Expanded

David Legler
Lisa Goddard
Alex Hall
Jerry Meehl
Jin Huang
John Marshall
Adam Sobel
Max Suarez
Phil Pегion
Cathy Stephens
Don Anderson
Jared Entin

1) Overview/review of the WG prospectus

S. Schubert gave a brief overview of the prospectus –dated Nov 14. Sumant noted that it has a good balance between modeling and observational activities

2) Discuss near term action items

a) website:

US CLIVAR has kindly agreed to host a website for our working group. The site was developed and is maintained by Cathy Stephens. Please take a look.

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

b) Publication

- There was general agreement that a short manuscript (suggested by Dave Gutzler) reviewing current status of drought modeling and observational research is an important first activity for the group (should be useful to the agencies, NIDIS etc., and provide a baseline for moving forward). Dave volunteered to lead the effort. **He will develop an initial outline and send that to the WG** (will include statement of WG activities, status of drought modeling/prediction and data analysis). Regarding monitoring – the focus will be on how to best link the research to the on-going monitoring activities. It will be based on (among other things) the recent drought presentations, the prospectus, and the drought workshop report.

It was suggested to submit the paper to a CLIVAR publication, or possibly EOS in order to get a broader audience (or perhaps both). Will wait until further along with the writing to make a final decision.

Relevant question from David Legler: I would also like to know if the WG feels there are sufficiently focused sets of scientific research documents (e.g. Workshop reports, plans, etc) that address the challenges of understanding, characterizing predictability, modeling, and predicting drought. In other words, is it sufficiently clear to all the agencies what research activities need to be carried out to improve and utilize drought prediction capabilities? I don't know that I could lay my hands on a "handbook" (roadmap????) for future drought prediction-related research. Perhaps the WG could discuss the possibility of developing one, drawing upon the resources of CLIVAR, the agencies (what could the CPPA plans contribute?), and the PI community.

c) Inventory of relevant observational data sets

Sumant volunteered to lead this effort – will perhaps have a first cut at this for the next telecon (in about 1 month) – **please send Sumant information on relevant data sets**

d) Inventory of relevant model simulations

Siegfried volunteered to work on this with help from Arun, Phil and Randy (perhaps also Richard) – **please send Phil Pегion information on relevant data sets**

e) Reference list of drought publications

Ning pointed out the need for a comprehensive reference list of drought publications – drought cuts across many fields. Ning volunteered to lead this effort – please send your list to Ning.

f) identify and coordinate with other relevant activities

*CMEP drought project – the update (below) is from David Legler

The CMEP activity for drought (which now has a name.... DRICOMP - DRought In COupled Models Project), as proposed by US CLIVAR Predictability, Predictions, and Applications Interface Panel (PPAIP), is moving forward. Currently it looks like commitments from NOAA, NASA, NSF, and DOE will provide funding for somewhere between 15-20 small supplemental grants of up to \$30K. AO language, selection process, and timeline are under development. Currently (subject to change), the intent is to release information on this opportunity in January.

DRICOMP PIs will be expected to attend a workshop in 2008. I am working under the assumption that the Drought WG will be organizing this workshop which will provide opportunity for both DRICOMP PIs and Drought WG to communicate their respective results and identify some paths forward.

The delays by Congress to approve FY07 budget is not good news overall, but because we have firm commitments from most of the agencies, the CMEP-drought activity will happen (barring some major unforeseen budgetary catastrophe). Only the number of funded projects is expected to be impacted by actual availability of funding.

*NIDIS

Roger gave a brief overview of NIDIS. The NIDIS authorization bill passed the senate yesterday and now awaits approval by the President. The focus is on developing a drought early warning system. Current focus is on developing an implementation plan that consists of a 1) Monitoring and prediction subsystem, 2) Risk assessment subsystem, 3) Preparedness subsystem, 4) communication subsystem). The drought portal is an example of how some of this would be done. An important focus initially will be on developing a number of Pilot projects (several large watersheds throughout the US e.g. the Colorado river basin). The challenge for the WG is to help determine what can be done in terms of forecasting capabilities on the scale of a large watershed.

*other connections/projects to coordinate with (GEWEX, NCAR CVWG, C20C project? Also mentioned IPCC WG1 and WG2. Need to determine how to best formalize these connections.

g. working definition of drought – Dave

- will discuss at next telecon

f. plan coordinated set of model experiments and data analysis

(NCAR CVWG, C20C, other projects)

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- will discuss more next time
- - a) Further C20C Runs
 - b) Coupled runs
 - c) Idealized runs (model dependence, impact of SST, mechanisms, role of soil moisture, etc)

3) Planning

AGU special session on Drought: 11-15 Dec 2006

a) First working group meeting in 2007:

It appears that the second week in May is best (will finalize dates next time)

b) Workshop in 2008- joint with CMEP (DRICOMP) activity

DC area?

?Spring 2008 – May, June?

or

?Fall 2008 – August, September?

Discuss further at next telecon