



MONTANA CLIMATE SOLUTIONS COUNCIL

CLIMATE ADAPTATION, INFORMATION AND DECISION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

MEETING INFORMATION

January 8, 2020

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Montana DNRC Headquarters (1539 11th Ave, Helena) & Conference Call

THEMES

Introductions: Tubbs kicked off the meeting thanking everyone for their efforts over the holidays to get whitepapers generated. Patrick Holmes talked about planning details noted below so that when we get to the January Council meeting everyone should have had a chance to see what each committee has developed to date.

Whitepapers are all due by January 20th so they can be shared with everyone prior to the January 27 and January 28th council meeting.

Both the Key Issue and Key Recommendations statements from each whitepaper will be dropped into a single document for the Council Meeting. These statements should be no more than 1 to 3 sentences and should capture the main point of each recommendation. This will help to see all of the recommendations in one smaller space to identify overlap between recommendations. Each author should review the key issue and recommendations statement to make sure they satisfy this and identify the two-tier approach described below, prior to the January 20th deadline.

Whitepaper authors should also have recommendations broken out into two tiers. The first being those recommendations that can be implemented “now” - taken to mean within this administration. Second, those recommendations that either need more definition or require other not yet available resources to implement. Recommendations that are in the “now” tier, should be identified as such in the statement line.

Recommendations requiring more analysis should be flagged as tentative, and should identify what is missing in order to be able to bring forward as a full recommendation. The group did vote that these first two papers once finalized will be brought forward to the full council.

Main authors of each whitepaper summarized the main points of their respective whitepapers. The two introductory whitepapers were discussed at length because they focus on climate services and the group is very aware that housing these solely within state agencies makes them “less durable” for long term sustainability. General consensus was that they may be best residing within the Montana University System structure. These two papers will be updated to reflect the most recent thinking about how to leverage existing resources and frame the language about the hierarchy of those services. The authors and others met before the main CAID meeting to try a common approach.

There was also some brief discussion about what level within the University system hierarchy provides the most durability for long term-sustainability. A statement was made that MSU would be well suited under the “land grant mission” of the University, because the missions applies to much more than agriculture.

Also, some discussion around which existing programs have shown success when both DNRC and academia are involved and which have not been very successful in bridging between these two. Some agreement that this needs to be thought out and picking those elements which create a good partnership.

Tribal discussion: Some time was spent on how best to insure tribal perspectives are supported in the final report. Some differing opinions on how best to do that but overall everyone was in favor of including tribal language within individual whitepapers, and then likely an additional whitepaper that could focus on primarily tribal concerns. Bottom line here is to make sure Gerald has been asked for input.

Kelsey spent a few minutes identifying what the Climate Office currently does in terms of support services. Also talked about the 79 stations that make up the Mesonet network. Note for Air Quality here, these are Met stations that could be leveraged now for local dispersion forecasting. In looking at the site, I see this is part of a larger network "MesoWest" that has many other stations reporting weather conditions. This is a great site that should be shared across state agencies.

CAID subcommittee doesn't feel there will be many whitepaper topics that won't have near full support from our particular subcommittee – some of the topics are less contentious than other topics being covered by the other two subcommittees.

As updates continue to be made up until January 20th, please copy Sally for communication purposes.