



Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change

State of Florida

SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #4

Florida Adaptation Technical Work Group (TWG)

April 21, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT

Attendance:

1. TWG Members: Camille Coley, Stephen Boutelle, Debbie Harrison, Doug Shaw, Gary Appelson, Hilary Swain, Paul Johnson, Richard Owen, Jerry Sansom, Julie Brashears-Wraithmell, Barry Hemlich on for Jim Murley, and Charlie Gotier for Secretary Pelham.
2. Stephen Adams and Kelly Smith, Florida Department of Environment and Doug Parsons, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
3. Center for Climate Strategies: Ken Colburn, Linda Schade, and Joel Smith.

Background materials:

(Posted at www.flclimatechange.us)

Documents for this call:

- [Notice and Agenda](#)
- [Teleconference Powerpoint](#)
- [Call #3 Final Summary](#)
- [Adaptation Framework Outline v3](#)
- [Draft Policy Framing Template](#)
- [Veith-Colburn Decision Matrix for Adaptation Options](#)

Discussion Items and Issues:

This was the fourth call of the Florida Adaptation TWG.

1. Ken Colburn of CCS called the meeting to order, called roll, and reviewed the agenda for the call. One edit was offered to Call#3 Summary was to add Barry Heimlich's last name.
2. Steve Adams reviewed the Draft Policy Framing Template for the TWG. It was suggested to add to the Framing Template the 'costs for action and costs for in-action. It was further suggested that those elements might be done for the Section level or individual strategy/policy. A second suggestion was to flesh out one of the ADP-x options in the framing template to help the TWG further evaluate the template.
3. Steve Adams provided an update on the energy and climate package in FL legislature. Legislation establishing a new nine-member Energy and Climate Commission which would replace FL Energy Commission looks promising. The new Commission would include some Department of Environmental Protections and Energy Office functions, and would centralize grants, rebates, and other incentives. The new Commission would

provide annual recommendations to the Governor for any needed changes to the law; they will also do adaptation and use the deliverables created by this TWG.

4. Doug Parsons raised the issue of policies he had submitted for inclusion on the draft Adaptation Policy Catalog. Doug Johnson of the Florida Coastal and Oceans Coalition will also send suggestions to Linda to get entered into the catalog. Barry Heimlich Miami Dade Climate Action Task Force has a report they are presenting tomorrow. He'd like to propose some as well from that report.
5. Comments on Framework Outline
 - a. Take out 'Research on' Intersection of Climate Change and Human Behavior.
 - b. Change ADP-4 title to Water Resource Management: Water Levels, Water Flows, Water Quality, and Flooding Control.
 - c. Request that the next version of the Bollman report get circulated to the TWG.
 - d. Include: Protection of well fields and aquifers.
 - e. ADP-6 Title changed to: Protection of Ecosystems and Biodiversity with i) uplands, ii) iii) marine systems and iv) species as sub-categories under ADP-6.
 - f. Suggestion to provide additional lands for Adaptation
 - g. There was a discussion about pulling out coastal policies but ultimately coasts will be reflected in all categories given their importance in Florida.
 - h. Confirmed that Tourism should be a category under Economic Development (it is now 10.2. Tourism).
 - i. ADP-3 Land Use aspect is redundant with ADP2, and ADP-3 Building Regulation shifts to ADP-16.
 - j. Relocate ADP-4 Water next to ADP-6 and other relocations as Ken and Linda see fit based on discussion.
 - k. Remove 75% and 25% from ADP-2.
6. Presentation of Criteria for Evaluating and Selecting Options: Joel Smith of Stratus Consulting has done a lot of work in this area and offered the following:
 - a. Effectiveness of the option? How much does it reduce risk?
 - b. Cost
 - c. Feasibility – considers government process as well as 'will people do it?'
 - d. Uncertainly – SLR yes but how much; uncertainty about drought;

- e. Timing: Are we already seeing some impacts of climate change, while other impacts are longer term.
7. Issues raised during discussion of policy criteria included a concern about where the TWG should look guidance on climate science, how difficult choices and priorities may be required, and how planning in the face of uncertainty is a challenge. For example, while Sea Level Rise is already occurring, it is unknown how much it will rise further and how fast. The rate of GHG emissions increase is uncertain and so is the Earth's response to those factors. It cannot be determined exactly how climate in Florida is going to change. However, adaptation actions are more localized and the State of Florida is in an excellent position to take action on this.

The discussion proceeded to discuss ancillary benefits for undertaking adaptation measures. Many adaptation policies fall into a 'no regrets' category which means that those policies would have positive benefit even without climate change. Other adaptation efforts are solely climate change-driven. Mal-adaptation is yet another category that refers to cases where adaptation to current weather is unaddressed. It was noted that doing a cost-benefit analysis is difficult when facing a large range of uncertainty. However, there is lead time to adapt which is where the 'urgency' criteria comes in.

Joel Smith agreed to draft a memo on criteria elements for the next call which will also include a starting point catalog, and a paragraph on each criteria just offered. One member suggested the Pareto Principle: 80/20 rule which calls for identifying 20% of the events that would generate 80% of the impacts. This would be a useful screen to evaluate policies, it would not replace the criteria.

At some point difficult choices might be faced such as protecting the built environment or protecting species. In practical terms for this TWG, we may only want to make ten early action priority recommendations yet we have 15 or 16 sections in our framework. Another approach would be to look at which impacts are more or less important to address and which actions are most important to take.

Next Steps

The next Adaptation TWG Call#5 is scheduled for May 12, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Call #6 is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to noon.