



SUMMARY OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING #5
Florida Adaptation Technical Work Group (TWG)
May 12, 2008
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST

Attendance:

1. TWG Members: Gary Appleson, Camille Coley, Beth (for Richard Crotti), Diana Ferguson, Debbie Harrison, Barry Heimlich (for Jim Murley), Jim Murley, John Ogden, Secretary Pelham, Harvey Ruvin, Doug Shaw, and Hillary Swain.
2. Stephen Adams and Kelley Smith, Florida Department of Environment; Paul Lowry, Florida Public Service Commission; Kathy Baughman-McCleod and Melanie Weaver Carr, Florida Department of Transportation; and Doug Parsons, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
3. Center for Climate Strategies: Ken Colburn, Joel Smith, and Joan O'Callaghan.

Background materials:

(Posted at www.flclimatechange.us)

Documents for this call:

- Notice and Agenda
- Teleconference PowerPoint
- Call #4 Summary
- Adaptation Framework Outline v4
- Florida Adaptation Catalog v6
- Potential Adaptation Criteria for Florida

Discussion Items and Issues:

This was the fifth 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. The Call #4 Summary was approved without revisions.
2. Comments on the Potential Catalog Framework Outline:
 - Harrison recommended consolidating policy options ADP-8 through ADP-15 and asked what the difference is between ADP-10 (Human Health Concerns) and ADP-11 (Social Effects). Appleson responded that with regard to protecting beach and coastal resources, the social issues—e.g., property rights, public trust—are dramatically

different from health issues. Colburn explained that the process calls for casting as wide a net as possible to benefit from the TWG's expertise, and then to identify the most important issues for Florida. Adams added that the Climate Action Team (CAT) will be providing its recommendations to the newly created Florida Energy and Climate Commission.

- Harrison asked why ADP-6 (Transportation and Other Infrastructure) isn't under ADP-5 (Built Environment, Infrastructure and Community Protection). Colburn explained that the built environment was directly focused on communities and buildings, rather than the linkage between ADP-5 and ADP-6.
 - Murley noted that for the foreseeable future, most of the issues the TWG is considering involve planning, versus investment, issues. He suggested that the TWG look at how Miami-Dade County consolidated these issues. Heimlich mentioned that he sent Linda Schade a copy of the final Florida Atlantic University (FAU) policy framework (conference.ifas.ufl.edu/CIMR/poster.htm) and the Miami-Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force report (http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/climate_change.asp). Swain recommended that the TWG try to develop a conceptual model of how the various policy options relate to each other and interact.
 - Adams recommended not trying to perfect the outline but to revisit it as needed in the future. The TWG approved this approach without objections.
3. Comments on the Draft Catalog of State Adaptation Actions:
- Colburn briefly explained the catalog and noted that the introductory text reflects the principles in the FAU report.
 - Harrison suggested that the TWG consult a NOAA report being produced by The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, and a host of other academic and scientific organizations on Florida's reef ecosystem. It includes case studies, data, and analyses of best management practices that could be implemented and are being implemented to improve Florida's resiliency to climate change. She will send the report to Linda Schade when it is available.
 - Murley recommended the TWG review the Tufts University report *Climate Change—The Costs of Inaction* (ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/Climate-CostsofInaction.pdf). The report has estimated the gross state product losses associated with climate change. The Notes column of the catalog will reference this report. With regard to ADP-1 (Advancing Climate Data and Analysis), Murley mentioned that House Bill (HB) 7135 created the Florida Energy Assistance Consortium, a type of supercenter of all of the state's universities and colleges that will examine the issues the TWG is considering and coordinate research efforts and share data. He also noted that at a recent conference sponsored by Pew and CERES (at which Kathy Baughman McLeod spoke) should be a good source of information Regarding ADP-8 (Insurance – Property and Casualty). An additional source of information is a climate change

policy paper presented at the American Planning Association conference in Las Vegas a couple of months ago (<http://www.apa.org>).

- Swain noted that it would be helpful to know the literature references that help to frame the policies so the TWG knows what data are available and doesn't duplicate efforts. She also noted that Florida's wetlands have enormous potential for carbon credits. Colburn added that this could be a groundbreaking area for Florida leadership and will coordinate with the Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management TWG to make sure they're looking into this issue.
 - Adams' office has materials from the Department of Transportation and Fish and Wildlife Commission. His staff is analyzing the major energy and climate bill that just passed to identify issues that relate to the TWGs. The staff will also review the Florida Forever bill (HB 542) and provisions of the state building code. Secretary Pelham clarified that although the building code doesn't expressly address the impacts of sea level rise, it has implications for this issue.
 - Appleson noted that poorly managed inlets cause 60%–80% of coastal erosion. Legislation (HB 1427) has been passed to improve the management of the state's 56 navigable inlets, which should reduce the volume of sand needed for beach renourishment. This is a classic adaptation strategy.
 - Ogden mentioned that the Florida Ocean and Coastal Council, which was established under the oceans bill, is creating a document for the CAT regarding how climate change will affect Florida from a marine point of view. It will examine greenhouse gas emissions, atmospheric and water vapor, water temperature, and sea level. The document is expected to be published by the end of June 2008.
 - The TWG next discussed the need for members to take responsibility for developing (drafting) policy options that relate to their particular areas of expertise and interests. Ogden volunteered to be responsible for everything related to the marine environment, and Secretary Pelham offered to be responsible for ADP-2. The general assignment to the TWG is to incorporate specific comments, revisions, and additions in the far left or far right columns of the catalog, along with references, Web sites, etc.
 - Adams reminded the TWG that consistent with Florida's sunshine law, members may not interact outside of the TWG meetings.
4. Presentation of Criteria for Evaluating and Selecting Options: Joel Smith of Stratus Consulting presented three broad criteria for the TWG members to keep in mind as they consider the policy options:
- Benefits—This criterion addresses the extent to which the adaptation policy reduces vulnerability and provides other benefits

- **Costs (or capital intensity)**—In addition to the initial costs of implementing an adaptation policy, this criterion includes costs over time (e.g., operation and maintenance, administration and staffing, etc.).
- **Feasibility**—This criterion addresses the difficulty or ease of implementing the policy option.

Two additional criteria that may be useful in evaluating the policy options include ***adaptive capacity*** which describes the ability of a human or natural system to cope with the consequences of climate change, and the ***timing or urgency*** of the climate impacts that are expected to occur. Smith noted that the more criteria the TWG chooses to consider, the more effort is likely to be involved. The point is to be transparent in the effort, making the TWG's decision-making process clear.

In response to a question from Swain, Smith clarified that the benefits criterion would probably best fit the cost of inaction. Murley mentioned that the Australians are focusing on geographic adaptive capacity. They're developing a map of the Great Barrier Reef that identifies the places most vulnerable to sea level rise. Shaw added that in Queensland, the Australians are looking at local climate change adaptation strategies that emphasize risk assessment. This work contains useful schematics (<http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au>).

5. **Public Comment:** Chris Short, a member of the public and a businessman, advised the TWG to resist striving to catch up with what other states are doing. He expressed skepticism about modeling that shows rising global temperatures. He recommended that the TWG consult atmospheric scientists in addition to policy experts, and insert a sunset clause to review any recommendations to the Governor after a certain number of years to determine if they're still an appropriate approach, given changing conditions.

Next Steps

- Adams invited the TWG to attend Governor Christ's 2008 Climate Summit on June 25–26, 2008, which will focus on economic development and the greening of Florida's economy. Interested individuals can register at <http://www.myfloridaclimate.com>. It was noted that the summit is selling out quickly.
- The next meeting of the Climate Action Team is May 29–30, 2008.
- TWG Call #6 is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.