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National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Executive Council Meeting

Hall of States Building, Room 233/235, 444 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Thursday, April 25, 2024

8:30am - 3:30pm EST

Purpose of the NIDIS Executive Council: NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Executive Council provides the NIDIS Program Office with an opportunity to engage in individual consultation with senior resource officials from NIDIS's Federal partners, as well as leaders from state and local government, academia, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

Goals of the Meeting:

- *To exchange information related to the drought-related initiatives of individual member agencies/organizations.*
- *To learn from Federal interagency leadership about priorities in 2024 around building greater drought resilience across the nation, including the Colorado River Basin and the Mississippi River Basin.*
- *To discuss the challenges of managing for both too much and too little water across water resource management disciplines, and possible solutions*

Read-Ahead Materials (for reference and skimming purposes)

- [*NOAA National Weather Service 2023-2033 Strategic Plan*](#)
- [*NIDIS 2023 Flash Drought Workshop Report*](#)
- [*What is an Integrated Information System?*](#)

AGENDA

8:30 - 9:00am **Welcome, Goals, Introductions**

- Review Outcomes of Fall 2023 EC Meeting, Meeting Logistics and Agenda, Introductions of guests, Housekeeping (*Cindy Nickerson, Deputy Chief Economist, USDA; Tony Willardson, Executive Director, Western States Water Council; Roger Pulwarty, Senior Scientist, NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory*)
 - John Nielsen-Gammon, President, American Association of State Climatologists

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- Michelle Mainelli, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Weather Service
- Save the Date: Fall NIDIS Executive Council Meeting - October 24, 2024 (*Veva Deheza, Executive Director, NIDIS*)
- NIDIS Updates (*Veva Deheza, Elizabeth Ossowski, NIDIS*)

9:00 - 9:30am Legislative and Administration Updates

Updates on NIDIS Reauthorization, USDA Farm Bill, and Federal Interagency Coordination on Drought (*Mackenzie Solomon, NOAA/OLIA; Mark Brusberg, Chief Meteorologist, USDA; Tom Graziano, Director, NOAA/NWS/OWP*)

9:30 - 10:30am Regional Drought Early Warning Systems (DEWS): Partnership Opportunities

- Lightning Talks on Interdisciplinary, Interagency Partnerships in the Southeast, Midwest, CA/NV, and Southern Plains Regional DEWS (*Meredith Muth, Molly Woloszyn, Amanda Sheffield, Joel Lisonbee - Regional Drought Information Coordinators, NIDIS*)
- Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (*Mayor Belinda Constant, Gretna, LA*)
- Economic Impacts of 2022, 2023 Drought in the Lower Mississippi River Basin (*Cindy Nickerson, USDA*)
- Discussion: *What do you get with a regional DEWS? Where are there opportunities for greater collaboration with partners within regional DEWS networks?*

10:30 - 10:45am Break

10:45 - 11:15am Discussion with NOAA Leadership: NWS DAA Michelle Mainelli

Learn about NWS's new 10-Year Strategic Plan and how NIDIS and partners can support those efforts to meet the challenges and seize emerging opportunities of the next 10 years. This will be followed by Q&A with meeting attendees.

11:15 - 12:15pm Managing Too Much and Too Little Water: Water Resource Planning for Multiple Hydroclimate Extremes

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- Advancing NOAA's Water Resources Prediction Capabilities (*Tom Graziano, NOAA/NWS/OWP*)
- NIDIS-NIFIS Collaboration (*Veva Deheza, NIDIS; Tom Graziano, NOAA/NWS/OWP*)
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (*David Raff, Chief Engineer, US Bureau of Reclamation*)
- AWWA Water 2050 and Planning for Cascading Hazards (*Dave LaFrance, CEO, American Water Works Association*)
- NOAA/OAR Physical Sciences Laboratory: Advancing Research on Atmospheric Rivers and Drought Amelioration (*Robin Webb, Director, NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory*)
- *Discussion: What does greater coordination on both drought and flood information mean to your stakeholders?*

12:15 - 1:15pm **Working Lunch**

1:15 - 2:15pm **Modernizing and Accelerating Drought Early Warning Advances into the Regional DEWS: Research & Development**

- National Coordinated Soil Moisture Monitoring Network (*Veva Deheza, NIDIS; Michael Cosh, USDA*)
- Outcomes from the 2023 National Flash Drought Workshop (*Molly Woloszyn, NIDIS*)
- NOAA/OAR Physical Sciences Laboratory: Modernizing Drought Early Warning (*Andy Hoell, NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory*)
- *Discussion: How do soil moisture, flash drought, and drought early warnings impact your stakeholders? How can the NIDIS partnership build better research to action pathways to serve your stakeholders?*

2:15pm - 3:00pm **Member Updates relevant to Drought, Water, Climate, and Fire**

3:00pm - 3:30pm **Setting the Stage for Fall 2024 Meeting, Public Comments**