



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

CLIMATE ADAPTATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Thomas Eason (FL)

Vice-Chair: Christie Curley (Ontario)

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: 1 – 4 pm CT

WMI North American Wildlife and Natural Resource

Agenda*

1:00 pm Welcome & Introductions (Chairmen Thomas Eason, FL FWC)

- Minutes from the Climate Adaptation Committee meeting at the 2022 AFWA Annual Meeting in Ft. Worth, TX were approved.
- Update on DEI and next steps
 - At the annual meeting last year we discussed incorporating DEI into our committee work and that conversation is continuing.
 - The Education, Outreach, and Diversity committee is surveying committee chairs to understand what we want to do with DEI and what resources and tools we need to accomplish that. We can expect more guidance from the EOD committee.
 - Jacob will organize two webinars on DEI topics for committee members.

1:15 pm 2022 AFWA Climate Adaptation Survey Report (Jacob Blandford, AFWA)

- Jacob presented preliminary results of the 2022 AFWA Climate Adaptation Survey, highlighting responses by all respondents, US respondents, and Canadian respondents. Regional responses were also collected and will be included in the full report.
- This is the first year the survey was conducted with Canadian provinces and territory members. Previously it was only shared with U.S. states and territories.
- Survey focuses on what state/provincial/territorial fish and wildlife agencies are doing to address climate change, their capacity for adaptation, what barriers exist, and what resources are needed to overcome barriers.
- Full report will be shared later this year

1:35 pm National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Adaptation Network and the Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards (Jacob Blandford, AFWA)

- The National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Adaptation Network (NFWPCAN) is complimentary to the AFWA Climate Adaptation Committee but is open to anyone who is interested in joining. It is not limited to AFWA members. The Network serves as a

central hub for coordinating, collaborating, and communicating about climate adaptation for fish, wildlife, and plants.

- In 2022, NFWPCAN was formalized under a charter signed by AFWA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.
- A working group is revising the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy, which was first published in 2012 by a group of federal agencies. The revision working group includes federal and state agencies, tribal and other NGOs, and academics. The revision will incorporate the last decade of information and knowledge about climate change, its impacts on fish and wildlife, and our efforts to adapt.
- Announced the 2023 Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards for 2023. The awards recognize and celebrate outstanding efforts to increase the resilience of America's valuable living natural resources. The Call for Nominations will be announced in April.

1:55 pm CASC Partnerships to Build Capacity in State Agencies (Olivia LeDee, Acting Federal Director, USGS Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center)

- Olivia LeDee presented on the CASC efforts to work with state fish and wildlife agencies to adapt to climate change in fish and wildlife management.
- Since 2010, when CASC was formed, they have funded 870 projects, produced ~1400 publications, 850 datasets, and trained 200 students.
- Project examples include expanding research capacity of Tribes and Indigenous Communities, develop climate scenario planning tools, update Climate Change Vulnerability Index, support revisions of State Wildlife Action Plans, hosting Grassland-Climate workshops, creating wildlife adaptation menus, developing and implementing Resist-Accept-Direct Framework.
- Reach out to your regional CASC for support for your agency's climate adaptation efforts.

2:15 pm Natural Resource Management and Climate Resilience in Department of Defense (Ryan Orndorff, Director, Department of Defense Natural Resource Program; Emma Ross, Program Manager and Nature-Based Solutions Lead, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

- DoD manages its natural resources in an effort to achieve its mission. This includes addressing climate change and ensuring natural resources are sustainable and resilient.
- DoD has 27 million acres of land, only 5% is developed and the rest is natural.
- Manages 500 listed species, 500 at-risk, align with SGCN in SWAPs
- DoD has authority to work on broader landscapes and has significant biodiversity responsibilities.
- In 2021 DoD issued climate adaptation plan to sustain military mission in a changing climate and ensure global stability. Ensuring resilient built and natural infrastructure. Climate adaptation involves managing for the unavoidable – sea-level rise, drought, heat and wildfire.
- Part of this effort is to mitigate climate change by reducing green-house gas emissions and working towards net-zero emissions.

2:45 pm Department of the Navy and Climate Resilience (Deborah Loomis, Senior Climate Advisor, Department of the Navy)

- Climate and energy are synonymous
- Navy at forefront of putting nature first and carbon sequestration is a priority. Nature is the 3rd pillar of navy strategy.

- Operational forces are being efficient (less fuel). The goal is to draw down 5 million metric tons of CO2 by 2027 and will work with partners to achieve this.
- 2021 – G7 nations signed nature compact – net zero and nature positive! This is the official US position.

3:15 pm Applying Climate Adaptation to Private Lands (Will Newman, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department)

- Will discussed opportunities to implement Inflation Reduction Act funding on private lands to achieve wildlife and habitat management objectives.
- IRA has provided \$20 billion for conservation on private lands in addition to Farm Bill funding.
- Wildlife management of private lands depends on appropriate vegetation in the right place.
- More capacity is needed at state agencies in order to support wildlife management on private lands.

4:00 pm Meeting adjourned