

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Executive Council Meeting

Hall of States Building, Room 383/85, 444 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Thursday, April 27, 2023

9:00am - 3:30pm EST

Purpose of the NIDIS Executive Council: The 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 expand upon key areas of the NIDIS 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and identify new opportunities and considerations around focused investments in drought planning, low-flow hydrologic prediction services.*
- *To exchange information related to the drought-related initiatives of individual member agencies/organizations.*
- *To learn from Federal interagency leadership about priorities in 2023 around building greater drought resilience across the nation, including the Mississippi River Basin.*

Read-ahead Materials: [NIDIS 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) (in particular, pages 22-32 where areas of focused investment are enumerated)

AGENDA

- 9:00 - 9:30am **Welcome, & Goals & Breakfast**
- Review Outcomes of Fall 2022 EC Meeting, Meeting Logistics and Agenda, Introductions of new members and guests
 - NIDIS Updates: 2022 in Review; 2023 Reauthorization
- 9:35am **Climate-Adapted Drought Planning for Long-Term Resilience**
- 9:45am **Existing Research to Action to support Climate-Adapted Drought Planning**

- Leveraging Existing Research on Drought Indicators and Triggers
- Advances in Understanding and Quantifying Drought Impacts to Inform Planning
- How can existing research be best leveraged to incrementally improve drought planning?

10:30am Break with refreshments

10:45am **Developing a Research Agenda to Advance our Understanding of Drought Impacts**

- Earlier Warning of Drought through Drought Impact Data
Leveraging advances in AI/big data to identify trends in existing impact data that may provide earlier warning of drought
- Improved Risk and Vulnerability Assessments through Drought Impact Data
Determining the needs of the business sector around drought impact data. Accessing reliable, robust impact data to better assess drought risk.

11:30am **Expanding Decision-Support Resources for Drought Planning**

- Existing programs that support locally led, watershed-level drought, climate, and hazard planning (FEMA, USACE, USDA)
- Helping local planners take a proactive approach in the development, evaluation, and improvement of drought plans (NACo)
- Discussion on online decision-support platforms for drought planning. What is already available to leverage? What more is needed? Do you have existing products that could inform this effort? Do you have data that could be critical to this effort?

12:00pm **Working Lunch: *US Army Corps of Engineers Jaime Pinkham/Stacey Jensen (Confirmed)***

- Spotlight on the Mississippi River Basin 2022 Drought - Early Warning, Response, and Long-Term Resilience

1:00pm **Strengthening Low-Flow Hydrologic Prediction**

- Understanding Executive Council Member Organization priorities related to low-flow prediction services (Round-robin)

- Identifying opportunities to enhance low flow hydrologic prediction services in partnership with the National Water Center and the new National Integrated Flood Information System
- USGS Drought Prediction and Out Year Water Availability Projections: Partnership between NOAA and USGS
- Utilizing advances for decision-making purposes

2:15pm

Interagency Drought Resilience Partnerships (*Kristen Averyt, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Invited*)

2:45 - 3:15pm

Member Updates

- National Weather Service: National Hydrologic Ensemble Forecast Service update; NextGen Water Modeling Framework; CIROH
- Western States Water Council: WestDAAT Database Release on March 22 (World Water Day), Ag Outlook Forum, Building an API for Soil Moisture, Snow Survey, data - scoping with Internet of Water

3:15pm

Public Comment

3:30pm

Wrap up and Next Steps