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Terms of Reference for a CWG/EISWG Climate Partnership Task Force

GOAL:

Create a 10-member CWG/EISWG Task Force (the “Climate Partnership Task Force”) that provides input to the SAB on the proposed NOAA Climate Service from the perspective of the private climate information provider community.

TIMELINE:

January 24, 2011: Conference call to identify co-chairs and agree on charge

January 31, 2011: Ray provides status update to SAB during conference call.

Early February: CWG and EISWG each identify and confirm a Task Force co-chair.

February 14-15: CWG discusses and selects 4 members of Task Force.

Mid-February: Nancy/Walt conference call to select 4 members of Task Force.

End of February 2011: formally invite candidates

March 9-10, 2011: Ray/Heidi provide brief update at SAB meeting

April, 2011: first meeting of ad-hoc group (assuming funding)

June (or earlier): CWG and EISWG review the report from the Task Force

July 2011: Task Force findings are presented to the full SAB

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SUMMARY:

The US Department of Commerce estimates that, of America's \$11 trillion economy, \$3 trillion is directly affected by weather. Depending on how we choose to manage the risks associated with climate variability (i.e., ENSO, NAO, PDO) and change (anthropogenic global warming), our overall weather risk can either grow or shrink. With this in mind, NOAA has established the framework for a National or NOAA Climate Service that will assemble the data, tools, and expertise needed to proactively manage the risks on seasonal to decadal timescales.

Engagement with the private sector is key to ensuring the success of this new Climate Service. At the December 2010 SAB meeting, the topic of how best to secure private sector input received considerable attention. Out of this discussion, Ray Ban and Heidi Cullen took the action to work with CWG and EISWG to form an ad hoc sub-working group that would, through CWG and EISWG, provide the SAB with input on the proposed Climate Service from the private climate provider community.

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TASK FORCE CONSTRUCT AND CHARGE:

EISWG has been charged to provide input to NOAA on effective collaborations with the entire weather and climate enterprise in the context of environmental information services. The CWG has been engaged in strategic planning for the Climate Service. It seemed logical to have a subgroup of both Working Groups to provide input that represents the collective voice of the private sector. This group of about ten members could also include individuals outside the WGs, i.e. non-members. It is expected that the task force will have one in-person meeting and several teleconferences. The task force will report its findings to the CWG and EISWG, which will present them to the summer 2011 meeting of the SAB.

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TASK FORCE CONSTRUCT AND CHARGE:

1. Articulate a vision for how a NOAA Climate Service would interact with industry (e.g., What are the current touch points between the NOAA/NCEP/CPC and industry and how might these change in a climate service era?).
2. Identify potential inputs from the private sector that would create effective partnerships for providing the nation with world-class climate services.
3. Identify possible mechanisms through which the private sector might engage with the development and implementation of the new NOAA Climate Service.
4. Compile a starter list of US companies providing climate observations/products/services.
5. Identify the lessons learned from engagement with the private sector on the weather time scale that would apply to climate. Conversely, in what regard may the approach for climate be separate and distinct from that for weather?