Purpose of the Midwest DEWs Planning Process:
- Provide a forum for a diverse group of federal, state, tribal and local stakeholders that represent the water and land-resource-management communities, to discuss the issues regarding the appropriate, relevant, useful and readily available drought, climate, weather and water-related information.
- Develop an understanding of the existing observation and monitoring networks, data, tools and other resources available for a climate extreme early drought warning system.
- Identify the sector specific and geographic needs for future tools and informational resources.

Desired Outcomes of the Midwest DEWS Planning Process:
The following desired outcomes will be used to inform a Work Plan for the Midwest DEWS.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of available data, monitoring activities and decision-support tools for climate extreme events (flood and drought).
- Identification of sector specific and geographic informational needs.
- Identification of communication resources that would be most effective for conveying climate extreme event information among sectors and geographic areas.
- Recommendations for future actions, collaborative research, and decision support to improve warning of extreme climate events in the Midwest.

Session 1: Welcome and Overview
8:30–8:50 Welcome and what is NIDIS and a Drought Early Warning System (DEWS)
8:50–9:05 Background on Key Partners during the DEWS Planning
9:05–9:20 Droughts & Floods and Role of a Midwest DEWS
9:20-9:40 Introductions of those attending
Session 2: Climate, Impacts and Outlook

9:40–9:55  Midwest region and climate vulnerabilities
10:10–10:25  Break
10:25-10:40  High precipitation impacts
10:40–10:55  Climate Outlook – Current Conditions and Seasonal Forecast

Session 3: Critical Issues/Challenges and Existing Resources

10:55-11:35  Break-out Discussion

- What are the critical drought-related information issues/challenges in the region?
  - What are the critical high-precipitation information related issues/challenges in the region?
  - What resources could be used to meet these challenges?

11:35-12:15  Facilitated Discussion on Results

12:15-1:00  Working Lunch: Drought in the Region, A Historical Perspective

Session 4: How can a Midwest DEWS Meet the Region’s Needs?

1:00-1:45  Break-out Discussion

- What are the major needs in your sector and region?
  - What priority activities should the DEWS be engaged in?
  - What partners are critical to include in the DEWS?

1:45-2:00  Break
2:00-3:00  Facilitated Discussion on Results
3:00-3:30  Next Steps and Closing Remarks

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