



**Midwest Climate Outlook and Drought Early Warning System (DEWS)
Planning Workshop
Ohio River Basin
Louisville, KY
November 3, 2015**

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

9:55–10:10 Drought impacts comparing 2011 and 2012

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

---- Times and order of agenda items are subject to change -----