

National Weather Service January 11, 2018 Partners Meeting Summary

On January 11, 2018, the National Weather Service (NWS) conducted a Partners Meeting with a range of participants from the Weather Enterprise, including America's Weather Industry, Academia, and NWS leadership from regions and headquarters. This meeting was held in concert with the American Meteorological Society's Annual Meeting which brings representatives from across the weather, water, and climate enterprise together in one location.

The meeting provided a means for the NWS to gather initial external input for a new strategic plan and provided a means for enterprise Partners to dialogue with NWS portfolio leads on specific programmatic updates and information.

The overall objectives for the meeting were:

- NWS continues to collaborate with the Weather Enterprise to achieve the NWS mission to protect life and property and grow the U.S. economy.
- NWS meaningfully engages partners to contribute input into an update of the NWS Strategic Plan.
- NWS shares programmatic and informational updates with Partners and engages in dialog on future directions.

The Partners began by answering a live polling question which asked: What is the most significant theme, driver, or trend from this week that should inform National Weather Service strategy? The following word cloud was the result:



Opening Remarks:

Louis W. Uccellini, Assistant Administrator of the NWS, offered brief remarks affirming the messages and recommendations already received from the previous Partner meetings beginning in Seattle in 2017, including the request for more strategic dialog and facilitated discussion focused on specific topics and issues. Dr. Uccellini also affirmed 1) the invaluable contributions of the WRN Ambassadors, provided status on dissemination advances (with 24/7 monitoring by Station Duty Meteorologist - SDM) and emphasized the critical role of local presence for the provision of IDSS and sustaining observation networks and the NWR during the immediate pre-Harvey period.

Mary Erickson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, offered remarks on key takeaways from the Partner workshops as well as one-on-one partner calls which she has been conducting. Key takeaways for the DAA included the value of hearing from new and varied perspectives; wide interest in exploring solutions; need for paradigm shifts in some areas; and interest in sector or targeted meetings/workshops in the future. The DAA also pointed attendees to the December 2017 Partners Workshop summary (weather.gov/WRN/calendar) and noted that the workshop discussed the need for IDSS shared values and standards; the request to include new participants; and the desire to leverage AMS for broader engagement on enterprise topics. The DAA then provided a brief overview of how comments and input received from Partners are being incorporated into the draft IDSS Service Description Document which is going through NOAA review.

Finally, the DAA provided a brief review of the strategic planning process underway in NWS and introduced Lynne Carbone of Lynne Carbone & Associates, Inc., the firm responsible for facilitating the input session and supporting the larger process to formulate a new NWS strategic plan.

Strategic Planning Input - Straight Talk: Lynne Carbone & Associates, Inc.

The following two questions were asked of partners, who were grouped at tables, as a means of collecting input to inform the development of a new NWS Strategic Plan:

Enterprise Partner Capabilities

1. Which of your capabilities are **NOT being leveraged** or **could be better leveraged** to tangibly contribute to achieving the vision of *A Weather-Ready Nation*?

Enterprise Partnership

2. With a vision of the Enterprise partnership being based on mutually beneficial relationships, shared goals and a foundation of trust, what suggestions do you have for the **NWS to enhance its role as a fully committed partner in the Enterprise**?

A collaborative approach was used to respond to these questions, including brainstorming, asking questions of clarification, and then voting. A NWS member at each table documented the

top two items selected within a Google Docs, all of which was presented during a report out period.

The major messages and input offered by Enterprise Partners during the strategic planning input session were the following:

- Fully understand and appreciate each other's needs, motives, requirements, and capabilities to advance a WRN.
 - Clarify and understand roles, requirements, relationships, and capabilities of all Enterprise partners to advance the WRN.
 - Develop a better understanding of private sector needs, capabilities, and reach to optimize Enterprise partners.
- Implement effective mechanisms and operating practices to support collaboration and true partnerships.
 - Establish meaningful and effective engagement mechanisms.
 - Eliminate barriers to collaboration and a true team approach.
- Take full advantage of private sector proven capabilities and capacities in technology innovation, communications, and outreach.
 - Accelerate the pace of innovation by leveraging technology advances, cloud solutions and other capabilities from the private sector.
 - Leverage the private sector to expand the reach of communications and existing solutions.
 - Advance visualization and communication of alerts, watches and warnings with industry standards and more tailored products and data.

Information Session - Panel of NWS Leaders

Following the strategic planning input session, a panel of NWS portfolio leaders provided some programmatic updates to the Partners and addressed questions and participated in open dialogue.

- [Observations](#) - Kevin Schrab, NWS Office of Observations
- [Dissemination](#) - Michelle Mainelli, NWS Office of Dissemination
- [Central Processing](#) - David Michaud, Office of Central Processing

Some high-level takeaways were the following:

- Clarity was requested on how partners who want to do business with NOAA should best engage with NOAA leadership.
- More advanced collaboration was requested in advance of new hazard products being released.
- More transparency on National Mesonet information is required.

Conclusion:

The meeting wrapped up with commitment by NWS to continue hosting Partner engagements and attendees were reminded to take an evaluation form for feedback on the meeting. All presentations from meeting are posted at: www.weather.gov/wrn/calendar