

NWS Spring 2019 Partners Meeting Summary

On March 26, 2019, the National Weather Service conducted a one-day Partners Meeting ahead of the American Meteorological Society's Annual Washington Forum. This meeting was held in Washington, D.C. The full agenda is available [here](#).

The meeting provided a means for the NWS Director to officially roll out the new [NWS Strategic Plan](#) directly to Partners and for participants to engage on specific activities of the NWS, including a panel of NWS and NESDIS subject matter experts that spoke to a variety of topics relevant to the Partners.

The overall objectives for the meeting were as follows:

- Collaborate with the Weather Enterprise to achieve the NWS mission to protect life and property and grow the U.S. economy.
- Identify emerging issues and future opportunities for collaboration
- Clarify and leverage the unique roles and capabilities of Enterprise partners to respond to the increasing demand for actionable weather, water, and climate information.
- Expand public-private partnerships that fast-track private Enterprise innovations, strengthen relationships, eliminate barriers, and share best practices to focus continuous improvements.
- Discuss key timely and topical issues of interest to the Weather Enterprise and afford the opportunity for face to face interaction and discussion.

The participants who attended this meeting represented a broad range of expertise from across the weather, water and climate enterprise from industry, government and academic sectors.



Summary of Meeting Sessions and Activities

[NWS Leadership Remarks - Louis Uccellini, NWS Director](#)

Louis Uccellini provided opening remarks by noting his candidacy for World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Presidency and highlighting the important link to the international community not only by the NWS but also by the broader weather enterprise from the United States. Louis then officially rolled out the NWS Strategic Plan to the Partners focusing on the three goals of the plan and reinforcing the vision for a Weather-Ready Nation. Louis discussed the FY19 budget and breakdown across the NWS and then made brief remarks on some key areas of interest to the Partners, including examples of recent major weather events and the NWS provision of IDSS in support of those events.

Partners reacted in support of the NWS through the context of being a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador and offered some suggestions for expanding the participation of the Partners meeting to include groups from the non-profit community as a way to help implement the NWS vision for a Weather-Ready Nation. Partners also suggested that the NWS consider how to work with small businesses in support of impact-based decision support services (IDSS). Finally, some discussion was had around the recent flooding both in urban and rural areas across the country.



[Panel and Discussion on NOAA/NWS Updates](#): Kevin Cooley, NWS OPPSD Director; Michelle Mainelli, NWS DIS Director; Ame Fox, NESDIS Office of Satellite Ground Services; David Michaud, NWS CP Director; and Brian Gross, NCEP EMC Director

Peyton Robertson introduced the panelists and noted that the subject matter experts participating were a result of requests we heard from Partners since our last meeting in August 2018. Partners requested other NOAA line office participation and a head's up on any planned changes or tests as well as ability to participate in strategic dialogue.

Michelle Mainelli provided a status update on the NWS Integrated Dissemination Program (IDP). Ame Fox provided an overview of NESDIS and highlighted some upcoming opportunities that would be of interest to the Partners, such as pilot projects and demos. David Michaud discussed the AWIPS Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN) capacity management and a status of the

Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System. Finally, Brian Gross discussed the vision for the Unified Forecast System (UFS) as a community-based modeling system and highlighted the elements needed for a successful Community Modeling Enterprise.

Partners engaged in dialogue with the panelists and among each other. Some highlights include:

- Discussion on some of the challenges for disseminating fire warnings related to the Camp Wildfire that occurred in late 2018 in California and the need for reliable communications as well as consistency in the use of fire weather products disseminated across the country.
- Discussion on the next generation for warnings tool. Partners are interested in innovating together on additional parameters that the enterprise can collaborate on (coding emergencies vs. warnings, etc.) and desire to make the connection with data and the Enterprise.
- Discussion and questions about cloud computing strategy at NOAA. Panelists stated that NOAA CIO has the lead for capabilities, governance and contract components for cloud computing. NOAA CIO is also conducting studies on code and cost performance and feeding this back into the efforts to build a collaborative community. For coordination, there are conversations on how to utilize HPC in the cloud and increasing collaborative capabilities. It was noted that the objective for NOAA is not to move everything to the cloud; it's to get more efficient and effective technologies (get the right tech on the right platforms). [NOAA's Big Data Project](#) was also referenced.
- Discussion on the need for common operating picture (COP) shared by Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), IDSS providers, Emergency Managers (EMs), and external members of the weather enterprise - effectively communicating the meaning of watch/warning to a local area and being able to relay demographic, street level info, or other societal data in that area. (Inundation mapping, etc.).
- Partners asked about [NOAA's Ecological Forecasting Roadmap](#) and NWS leadership acknowledged the partnership with NOS to disseminate critical ecological forecasts and modeling. More information on NOAA Ecological Forecasting can be found [here](#)

Some takeaways also include:

- Partners expressed the desire for a focused partner workshop around fire weather warnings with key players of the weather enterprise (e.g. EMs, state/local fire, NWR, industry) and in particular related to rapid dissemination of information to people in harm's way. Other agencies at the Federal and State level also play a lead role in real-time fire emergency management, and would be relevant to this discussion.
- NOAA should continue to engage with Partners on its cloud computing strategy and community modeling efforts.
- Partners are continually interested in expanding the NOAA presence at future Partner Meetings such as other line office subject matter experts (e.g. NOS).

Conclusion

Peyton Robertson, OOE Director, concluded the meeting with a request to Partners for the next meeting being held in Albany, NY on August 15, 2019 to self-organize a session as part of the Partners Meeting and as a linkage to the AMS Summer Community Meeting happening on

August 13-14, 2019. OOE will reach back out to the Partners with this request and will look forward to working collectively with Partners to design an interactive and productive session.

Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Graeme	Aggett	Lynker/NOAA NWC
Carlos	Aguilar	Leidos
Philip	Ardanuy	INNOVIM
David	Bacon	Leidos
Jim	Bailey	Integrated Systems Solutions
Richard	Bandy	NWS AFS
Shubha	Barriga	ERT
Charles	Bell	NOAA NWS
Don	Berchoff	TruWeather Solutions
Sunjit	Bir	Northrop Grumman
Andrea	Bleistein	NOAA NWS
Janice	Bunting	National Weather Association
Anthony	Bush	Raytheon
Bill	Callahan	Earth Networks
Marie	Colton	Hydros, LLC
Kevin	Cooley	NOAA NWS
Eirik	Cooper	IBSS Corporation
Rebecca	Cosgrove	NOAA NWS
David	Cronk	Leidos
Thomas	Cuff	NOAA NWS
Katie	Edwards	NOAA NWS
Pamela	Emch	Northrop Grumman
Gina	Eosco	NOAA OAR OWAQ (contractor)
Joseph	Facundo	SID
Ame	Fox	NOAA NESDIS
Heather	Frazier	NOAA Contractor
Donald	Gerrety	Verizon
Linda	Girardi	ERG
Ron	Gird	PLAN!T NOW

Bob	Goldhammer	WeatherCall Services LLC
Thomas	Graziano	NOAA NWS
Michael	Grogan	The Weather Company, An IBM Business
Brian	Gross	NOAA NWS
Erica	Grow	WNBC-TV
Elyse	Hagner	NOAA NWS
Garry	Harris	Center for Sustainable Communities
Douglas	Hilderbrand	NOAA NWS
William	Hooke	American Meteorological Society
Eli	Jacks	NOAA NWS
Carmen	Jenkins	IBSS Corporation
Dave	Jones	StormCenter Communications, Inc.
George	Jungbluth	NOAA NWS
David	Kalen	SAIC
Conrad	Lautenbacher	GeoOptics, Inc
Bill	Lapenta	NOAA NWS
John	Lazorisak	Leidos
Renee	Leduc Clarke	Narayan Strategy
Marie	Lovern	Accenture Federal Services
Jeff	Lupfer	NetApp
Michelle	Mainelli	NOAA NWS
Bob	McCormick	Verizon
David	Michaud	NOAA NWS
John	Murphy	NOAA NWS
Danielle	Nagele	INNOVIM
Brad	Nelson	DTN
Doug	Newlon	Alpha Omega integration
Carolyn	Pasti	RedLine Performance Solutions
Maria	Pirone	Harris Corp
Don	Pitts	Northrop Grumman
Jon	Porter	Accuweather
John	Potts	NOAA NWS
Isha	Renta	NOAA NWS
Julie	Roberts	NOAA

Peyton	Robertson	NOAA NWS
Bob	Ryan	Broadcaster (retired)
Mary Jean	Schmitt	NetApp
Barrett	Smith	NOAA/NWS
Jennifer	Sprague-Hilderbrand	NOAA NWS
Gerald	Stark	GAMA-1 Technologies
Amanda	Staudt	National Academies
Andrew	Stern	NOAA NWS
Dan	Stillman	Harris Corporation
Susan	Sutherland	S2S Solutions LLC
Gregory	Swirdovich	Alpha Omega Integration
Matt	Taylor	Raytheon
John	Ten Hoeve	NOAA NWS
Melissa	Topper	General Dynamics IT
Bruce	Thomas	Midland Radio
Louis	Uccellini	NOAA NWS
Mike	Van Woert	The Aerospace Corporation
Rebecca	Wagner	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Elizabeth	Wilson	Synoptic Data PBC
Stephen	Woll	Synoptic Data PBC
Kathryn	Woodward	Accenture
Jingli	Yang	ERT, Inc.