

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Uncertainty in Forecasts Charter**

### **November 8, 2007**

**Purpose:** The Ad Hoc Committee on Uncertainty in Forecasts (ACUF) was formed under the auspices of the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Board on Enterprise Communication (BEC) of the Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission (CWCE). The purpose of the ACUF is to engage the weather and climate community in establishing goals and plans for forecast uncertainty characterization and communication. In forming this committee, the AMS is responding to the need to communicate more complete forecast information to an increasingly educated user community as reflected in the 2006 National Research Council report: "Completing the Forecast. Characterizing and Communicating Uncertainty for Better Decisions Using Weather and Climate Forecasts", hereafter referred to as the Completing the Forecast Report (CFR)<sup>1</sup>.

**Vision:** The ACUF vision is an Enterprise-wide partnership that generates and communicates weather, water, and climate (hydrometeorological) forecast uncertainty information that meets the Nation's needs for informed decisions protecting life and property, supporting national defense and homeland security, enhancing the economy, and the meeting specific needs of partners, users, and customers.

**Mission:** The ACUF mission is to develop an Enterprise-wide vision, goals, and roadmap for providing hydrometeorological forecast uncertainty information to the Nation, building off the recommendations of the CFR.

**Deliverable:** The primary ACUF deliverable is an Enterprise Implementation Plan for Forecast Uncertainty that has been reviewed and coordinated appropriately with Enterprise partner organizations and includes the following major elements:

1. Needs, opportunities, and benefits of providing hydrometeorological forecast uncertainty products and services to the Nation.
2. Enterprise goals for forecast uncertainty information, products, and services.
3. A description of what is needed to meet the goals and reach the vision.
4. Suggested roles and responsibilities of Enterprise partners, including coordination and governance mechanisms.
5. Enterprise-wide roadmap.

**Term:** The term of the ACUF is from October 1, 2007 through January 31, 2010. The term of the ACUF and this Charter may be revised and renewed as deemed necessary by the AMS, the CWCE and the BEC.

#### **Committee Structure:**

- The ACUF will be Co-Chaired by one government and one non-government representative.

- The Committee will be organized into Topic Workgroups consisting of Co-Leads of topical experts from the general committee membership along the major elements of the plan deliverable described above. One Co-Lead will be from government and the other from non-government.
- Topic Workgroups may further organize into sub-workgroups as needed.
- An Integration Workgroup will consist of the Committee Co-Chairs, the Co-Leads of each Topic Workgroup and other committee members appointed by the Co-Chairs.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- The Co-Chairs, in conjunction with the Chair of the BEC, are responsible for staffing and managing the ACUF.
- ACUF members are responsible for their own committee-related expenses, including travel.
- Topic Workgroups will consider appropriate recommendations from the CFR, other sources of information, and its own deliberations to prepare their plan sections.
- Topic Workgroup Co-Leads are responsible for staffing and managing their Workgroups.
- The Integration Workgroup will review, coordinate, and integrate Topic Workgroup sections of the plan, and address issues as needed.
- The ACUF has no inherent budget. Any proposals to gather, analyze, or otherwise prepare information for plan sections requiring funding must be secured by the ACUF membership by working with stakeholders.

### **Scope of Authority and Limitations:**

The ACUF is bound by the policies governing the BEC and AMS.

### **Decision Making Process:**

- The ACUF Workgroups will strive for consensus in a peer review manner when decisions are necessary. If consensus is not achievable through the Workgroup, the issue will be elevated to the Integration Workgroup.
- The Integration Workgroup will provide recommendations to the full Committee.
- The ACUF deliverables will reflect all options examined for decisions that were made.

### **Meeting Frequency:**

- Plenary ACUF meetings will be held at least once per year at the AMS Annual Meeting.
- Workgroup meetings will be held as necessary in order to meet Workgroup deliverables and milestones.

### **CY 07-09 Activities:**

- Finalize Committee Charter and identify workgroup leads and memberships (Nov. 07)
- Develop draft committee work plan including workgroup deliverables, methodologies, tasks, timelines, and resource needs (Dec. 07)
- Discuss and review workplan at AMS Annual Meeting – Town Hall and Plenary Committee Meeting (Jan. 08)

- Finalize committee workplan (Feb. 08)
- Workgroups meet as necessary accomplish tasks (Jan.–Aug. 08)
- Full committee review of preliminary workgroup deliverables via briefings (Sept. 08)
- First draft of workgroup sections (Oct. 08)
- First draft of complete Enterprise Implementation Plan (Dec. 08)
- Full committee review of first draft of Enterprise Implementation Plan - at AMS Annual Meeting (Jan. 09)
- Stakeholder review and comment of draft Enterprise Implementation Plan (Feb.-May 09)
- Final Draft of Enterprise Implementation Plan (Sept. 09)

## **Membership:**

Co-Chair: Elliot Abrams, CCM, AccuWeather, Inc.  
Co-Chair: Paul Hirschberg, National Weather Service

Dr. Jon Ahlquist, Florida State University  
Lee Anderson, National Weather Service  
Dan Bickford, WSPA-TV  
Matthew Biddle, Ph.D., The University of Oklahoma  
Andrea Bleistein, National Weather Service  
Phil Breuser  
David Bright, National Weather Service  
Peter Browning, National Weather Service  
Gordon Brooks, Air Force Weather Agency  
Barbara G. Brown, University Center for Atmospheric Research  
Dan Collins, National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
Julie Demuth, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Shripad Deo, CIRA at Colorado State University  
Dr. Charles A. Doswell III, CCM, Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies  
Dr. Jun Du, National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
Tom Dulong, COMET/UCAR  
Chris Elfring, The National Academies (K-636)  
Gina Eosco, Cornell University and AMS, Policy Program  
Mary Erickson, National Ocean Service  
John Ferree, National Weather Service  
Greg Fishel, WRAL-TV Weather Center  
John Gaynor, NOAA - Office of Weather and Air Quality  
Bob (aka Harry) Glahn, National Weather Service  
Thomas M. Hamill, NOAA/ESRL, Physical Sciences Division  
Jim Hansen, Naval Research Laboratory  
Pat Hayes, Northrup Grumman Corp.  
Paul O. G. Heppner  
Ross N. Hoffman, Ph.D. (tentative), Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc.  
Eddie Holmes, CBM (tentative)  
Carlie Lawson, Natural Hazards Consulting  
Jenifer Clare Martin, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Chris Maier, National Weather Service  
Bernard N. Meisner, Ph.D. CCM, National Weather Service  
Dr. Betty Hearn Morrow, Florida International University  
Rebecca Morss, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
David Myrick, National Weather Service  
Dave Novak, National Weather Service  
Dr. Paul Nutter (tentative), University of Northern Colorado  
Dan O'Hair, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma  
Brenda Philips, University of Massachusetts  
Carla Roncoli, PhD, The University of Georgia

Scott Sandgathe, University of Washington  
Dan Satterfield, WHNT TV  
John Schaake (retired NOAA)  
Paul Schultz, NOAA/GSD  
Prof Leonard A. Smith, London School of Economics  
John Sokich, National Weather Service  
Alan E. Stewart, Ph. D., The University of Georgia  
Dan Stillman, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
Neil Stuart, National Weather Service  
Zolton Toth, National Weather Service, National Centers for Environmental Prediction  
Steve Tracton, NOAA retired  
Robyn L. Weeks, The Weather Channel  
Dick Westergard, CCM, Shade Tree Meteorology, LLC  
Bernadette Woods, WJZ-TV