

Joint CCM-CCS Webinar on Climate Services to the Water Sector

AMS Committee on
Climate Services (CCS)
September 16, 2009

Members: R. Boyles, R. Cohen, J. Dutton, C. Hakkarinen, H. Hartmann, K. Hubbard,
P. Llanso, E. O'Lenic (Chair), K. Redmond, E. Shea, G. Simpson

Climate Information and the Water Sector

Kristen Averyt
University of Colorado at
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AMS Webinar
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*"Long term, I'm worried about global warming—
short term, about freezing my ass off."*

Kirsten Averyt's presentation, entitled "Climate Information and the Water Sector" addressed 1) cognitive challenges, 2) integrated frameworks, and 3) climate information needs. She noted that climate variability and change have disrupted the notion of stationarity of the precipitation record, which is one of the staple assumptions of the water community in making predictions. She noted that it is important to bring together tool developers and users in an iterative process. This takes time, because trust is also essential to the relationship, and that takes time to build.

Eileen Shea discussed "Climate Services for Water Clients: User Needs and Data Availability". Eileen described how the various government members of the climate community (PRODUCERS of climate information in the form of observations, monitoring, research, modeling, and assessments) might, through the National Climate Service, address the needs to the USER community, including resource risk management and adaptation and mitigation. She narrowed her focus even more to discuss services to the water community, noting that CCMs and other service partners address key user needs, and are in a position to develop trusting relationships with users.

Climate Services for Water Clients: User Needs and Data Availability

Eileen Shea
NOAA National Climatic Data Center

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Climate Services for Water Clients: User Needs and Data Availability Existing Climate Services in the Engineering Sector

Sep 16, 2009
John Henz, C.C.M., SPA
Atmospheric Science Practice Leader
HDR Engineering, Inc
Denver Colorado



John Henz's presentation, entitled "Existing Climate Services in the Engineering Sector", provided insight into the climate services provided by the engineering company employing him. These services ranged from the development of drought management plans for reservoirs, predictions of climate impact on river water supplies, to assessing the climate change impacts on EIS/EIR studies. He offered ways the weather enterprise members can work together rather than compete in climate services. Eileen Shea of NOAA agreed and provided examples.

Baxter Vieux: Water availability is profoundly affected by many different factors at the same time. Among his conclusions are:
Understanding changes in precipitation and streamflow climatology is important in assessing future conditions, design of urban infrastructure, managing water quality, or forecasting the impacts of climate change.
Usefulness in climate and water services could be improved through access to data from multiple agencies with documented accuracy and metadata having a sufficient period of record to detect trends adequate geographic distribution of homogeneous sensor data continuity in sensor type (discontinued sensors or changes).
Metadata that describe sensor conditions often missing or inconsistent.
Forecasting water availability, flooding, or low flow characteristics relies on understanding the accuracy, and trends of long-term measurements.

Climate Services for Water Clients: User Needs and Data Availability

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1:00–2:00 P.M., 16 September 2009

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<http://www.ametsoc.org/boardpges/cwce/docs/BEC/index.html>