

Initial Statements of the Volunteers  
AMS/CWCE/BEC Committee on  
Climate Change, Improving Communication (CCIC)

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**Call for CCIC Volunteers**

The AMS Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise (CWCE) and its Board on Enterprise Communication (BEC) are seeking volunteers from all sectors of our community to serve on a new committee it is establishing: the Committee on Climate Change-Improving Communication (CCIC).

The mission of the AMS/CWCE/BEC Committee on Climate Change--Improving Communication is to foster greater understanding among members of the weather, water, and climate community about strongly held but divergent views on anthropogenic global warming. To accomplish this mission the CCIC committee will provide forums, which will include face-to-face meetings, for open and respectful discussion of these diverging views.

Current volunteers include:

Dr. Susan K. Avery (2004 AMS President)  
Mr. Raymond (Ray) Ban (AMS Fellow)  
Dr. Alan K. Betts (AMS Fellow)  
Mr. Richard Alan Brenne, M.F.A  
Dr. Elbert W. (Joe) Friday Jr. (2003 AMS President, Past CWCE Commissioner)  
Ms. Jill F. Hasling, CCM (AMS Fellow)  
Dr. Scott A. Hausman  
Ms. Veronica Johnson, CBM (BEC Chair)  
Mr. Ronald N. (Nick) Keener Jr., CCM (AMS Fellow)  
Mr. Paul Gerard Knight, CCM, CBM  
Dr. Heather M. Lazrus  
Dr. James R. (Jim) Mahoney (1990 AMS President)  
Ms. Pamela McCown  
Mr. Edward A. (Ed) O'Lenic (Chair, AMS Committee on Climate Services)  
Mr. Matthew James (Matt) Parker, CCM (Past BEC Chair, Future CWCE Commissioner)  
Dr. Leonard J. (Len) Pietrafesa (CWCE Commissioner)  
Dr. R. Gary Rasmussen (AMS Staff)  
Dr. Richard D. (Rick) Rosen (2002 AMS President)  
Mr. Jeffrey P. (Jeff) Viel (student member)  
Dr. Warren M. Washington (1994 AMS President)

If you would like to volunteer to serve on the CCIC Committee, please respond-all to this e-mail message with a brief statement describing your interest in and thoughts about the mission of this committee.

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**Karen Akerlof**

I was really excited to see that AMS was using this opportunity to attempt to bridge the polarization on climate change, and also noted that it appeared as if you had at least one student on the committee already! Through my work at the Center of Climate Change Communication, I have become extremely aware of some of the divides on climate change that are sharply represented within the membership of AMS, particularly between broadcast television meteorologists and climate scientists. As you know, as these conflicts have spilled over into the public arena, they have made it difficult for audiences to identify areas of climate science in which there is firmer consensus. Certainly the fallout from the emails stolen from the Climatic Research Unit at East Anglia University, as well as recent IPCC problems, have tarnished the images of many who care deeply about this issue as well. Forums in which the science—and probably integrally, the politics—of climate change could be discussed in a more forthright manner between those of differing viewpoints sound like a very positive step.

As a graduate research assistant, I am fairly used to the grunt work of organizing field research sites, meetings and events so would be happy to assist in the practical aspects of setting up the forums in whatever ways were helpful for the committee!

**Susan Avery**

**Ray Ban**

Clearly, this is one of, if not THE most significant challenge facing our community today. I never cease to be amazed by the power of the political and emotional components of this subject. On both sides of the anthropogenic issue, I can recall no other area where so many intelligent, reasonable and logical members of our profession have been rendered incapable of objective discussion/debate. It's as if they become "possessed" and all the scientific experience and diligence that they exhibit in other areas is completely eclipsed. As a result, constituencies that have come to trust and respect the input, counsel and advice of our community are now justifiably questioning that trust and respect. Frankly, to a lot of folks, we, as a community, look somewhat immature and silly right now.

So, what are we, as a community going to do? At the meeting in Atlanta I expressed skepticism about the prospects for success of the CCIC effort and still believe we have to carefully manage our expectations. However, after further thought, I feel pretty strongly that the "do nothing and hope this resolves itself" option is an abdication. We have to try to do something to restore some sanity to this critically important area. Establishing forums "which will include face-to-face meetings, for OPEN and RESPECTFUL discussion of diverging views" seems like a reasonable and logical way to begin this journey.

When a group of us proposed the CWCE five years ago and asked AMS Council for approval, I don't think we envisioned this particular type of issue. The emphasis at the time was to enhance the communication/collaboration on issues involving differences among the "sectors" of the Enterprise. The differences in the case of anthropogenic climate change are not sector-specific. This is a full blown, Enterprise-wide challenge. But if the CWCE doesn't take a shot, who will?

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This issue is going to require "a village" effort with strong leadership. The team will have to possess a broad range of skills and competencies. Members will have to check any parochial agenda at the door and leave the room with a shared consensus. It will be hard to recover from screw-ups. This is a BIG opportunity. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to express some thoughts.

**Steve Bennett**

Okay, so I know I'm over committing myself to AMS activities this year but this is one that I feel EXTREMELY strongly about. If there is room on this committee, I wouldn't mind being a part of it. I think this will dovetail with some of the work I'd like to accomplish in the Energy Committee also. If there is room, I would certainly make time to participate.

**Randall Benson**

I would be honored to serve on this committee which aims to address a fundamental challenge to society at large and that is the correct interpretation of scientific information. The challenge amongst scientists is to have the ability to translate often complex processes with understandable oral, written and visual communications. Along with this challenge is to help manage sometimes unfounded perceptions regarding scholarly research and/or opinion. Further, the mission of the committee should be to help identify the natural uncertainty associated with the multiple factors that are contributing to global climate change and to provide some insight into the attribution of each to the problem generally. Consistent education and outreach is needed to help overcome knowledge barriers and this has been shown to be effective in shaping public opinion on scientific and environmental issues in the past. With a diverse academic background in the visual arts and post-graduate degrees in meteorology and atmospheric science and teaching experience in global climate change, I believe that I would be an asset to serve on this esteemed committee.

**Ed Berry**

I look forward to having polite, respectful discussions with all of you on this topic. I think this is a much needed task and I compliment the AMS for providing this opportunity.

**Alan Betts**

I have been concerned about our responsibility for the Earth system for more than thirty years. In the past few years, I have spent a lot of time speaking to groups in Vermont about climate change issues, from kindergarten to college level, to business, citizen's groups and churches, and to the legislature. I write a column for the Sunday Environment page of two Vermont newspapers (Rutland Herald and Barre/Montpelier Times/Argus) and I am a Vermont Public Radio commentator on these issues. A statement of my views on our ethical responsibilities as environmental scientists was published last year (Betts, A. K., June 2009, Scientists' Responsibility to Society. Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 90, p. 759).

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**Carl Bjerkaas**

I volunteer if I can be of help.

**Andrea Bleistein**

I have just begun a new position with NOAA Communications and External Affairs. With the recent announcement on Feb. 8, 2010 in which the Dept. of Commerce and NOAA proposed establishing a NOAA Climate Service, improving communication to foster greater understanding among the weather, water and climate community is crucial to the establishment of a Climate Service. The mission of the CCIC is a much needed component to moving forward in addressing the impacts of climate change within a Climate Service and I look forward to assisting with and providing ideas in support. Thank you.

**Richard Brenne**

**Heidi Centola**

I have an interest in participating on this Committee. I believe that it's important to bridge the gap between the differing views on Climate Change and open the lines of communication so we can better serve the meteorological community as a whole as well as public and private sector.

**John Christy**

The topic of climate change has been my consuming interest for the past 25 years, though I built my first climate dataset when I was only 13 years old deep in the last century. I interact with the essentially the full range of interests, some quite influential in the economic, legislative and judicial realms, concerning this issue. I believe "official" reports about the science of climate change have been interpreted with much too much confidence when in fact the answers to fundamental questions (i.e. what is the climate system really doing and why) are still somewhat murky. My recent comments solicited by Nature express some of my frustration with how the issue has developed and how it has been distorted by current modes of operation with the popular scientific assessments. I hope the AMS will attempt to return to the status of serving as an honest broker of all information regarding climate rather than appearing to be a gatekeeper as it has become in the eyes of many of us. I would find serving on such a committee an interesting challenge, as I'm sure the other members would as well regarding me.

**Jim Coakley**

I'm compelled to offer my assistance with the AMS effort to improve the communication of human caused climate change. I'm approaching forty years of experience in climate research. I focus primarily on radiative forcing and cloud-aerosol interactions, thus at the center of the links between human activity and climate change and the areas for which we're most uncertain about the way humans might affect the climate and how the climate is likely to respond. Over ten years ago, I

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started a course for undergraduates at OSU "Man's Impact on Climate" (titled after the SMIC report). In recent years this course has been largely based on Houghton's book, "Global Warming." So, I've had some experience trying to improve communications concerning climate change.

**Lis Cohen**

I am interested in volunteering for this committee. I think it is valuable to discuss the science of climate change amongst our community. I have heard many misinterpretations of climate science that have come from scientists who do not understand the data. It would be helpful for us to discuss climate science in a productive way and talk about our disagreements. My background is in atmospheric science and earth system science. I have been communicating science information to the public, through the media and in the classroom. I look forward to working with all of you on this topic.

**Kerry Cook**

I would like to volunteer for the CCIC committee. University professors provide effective interfaces with the public and the media, and we have special responsibilities within our communities to improve the level of understanding of climate change issues.

My work is in climate dynamics, and I often use regional climate system models. I am a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, an experienced speaker on climate change, and a member of the UCAR Board of Trustees. Besides teaching climate dynamics classes at both undergraduate and graduate levels, I have given numerous public talks on climate change, at venues large and small.

**Paul Croft**

Please accept this email as my request to serve as a volunteer on the new AMS CCIS Committee. Communications have always been key to both education and understanding that lead to appropriate and prudent actions and responses by collective communities. My research efforts and service activities have focused on operational aspects of meteorology and climatology for use in prediction, application, and determination of causative factors as they relate to any of the affected economies, communities, or end-users and decision-makers.

In my work in academia over the past 20-some years the communication of scientific information, data, and results for use and application by professionals and the general public has always required a 'meeting at the table' to ensure that our dialogue was productive. This meeting was to ensure that we could build a common and shared language and understanding in order to move forward. Such a setting pre-disposes the participants to better acknowledge one another's interpretation of data in order to better define its credibility and 'error bars' as needed.

Given this sort of understanding of the importance of communication in science, the mission of the new committee to "foster greater understanding among members of the weather, water, and climate community" requires more than a collection of science professionals. It demands involvement of associated communities (including non-science disciplines and other professionals) in order to

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provide perspective that shapes our understanding with regard to the context in which the data or information is being applied. This allows later portability when having conversations with 'citizen scientists' and others with interest in, or who are affected by, climate variability and change.

**Jon Davis**

I would be happy to volunteer for the CCIC committee. As chair of the AMS Energy Committee during the past 4 years, the issue of climate change/global warming continues to be an area of intense interest and intrigue. It seems to me that if anything, the divergent views on the subject have actually increased during the past few years. Because of this, it is crucial to have a forum/medium for intelligent discussions on the issue. I applaud the AMS for organizing this effort since lately, the exchange of information has been more and more polarized with rhetoric and misinformation bantered about rather than intelligent discussions with peers.

**Mike Farrar**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate. First off, I fully endorse the goal of this committee; the current situation has reached the point where a forum is badly needed where respectful, civil debate can occur, and I believe the AMS is the logical organization to assume a leadership role in this area. Several key areas need to be addressed, not just to educate the public or provide context for policymakers, but also to remind or train some of our own on how to better deal with people outside of our own scientific community.

During my career as a meteorologist in the Air Force, I have had the pleasure of working closely with colleagues in the other military Services and agencies, as well as with NOAA, NASA, UCAR/NCAR, AMS, Department of Energy, academia, industry, and several international counterparts. And even though the bulk of those I worked often had similar backgrounds and disciplines to my own, there were still vast differences in professional and organizational culture that had to be bridged in order to form effective working relationships. With the implications of climate change being felt in many sectors outside just our own community (particularly in the energy sector, of which I have a keen interest), it is of growing importance to help bridge these gaps so that we can communicate more effectively. My personal interest in the committee would be to be a part of helping make that happen.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to volunteer, and I look forward to serving in whatever capacity I can.

**Joe Friday**

I believe that the climate change question is potentially one of the biggest issues facing the world population today. There has been so much extreme rhetoric to cloud the issue that the public, and in some cases the scientific community, has become confused as to the true nature of the climate change, especially the potential for anthropogenic change. The committee is striving to provide a forum for calm scientific exchange on the subject, something in which I would like to participate.

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**Jim Giraytys**

I would like to serve on this committee for two reasons (1) I have a wide list of colleagues, associates, and friends in the Shenandoah Valley (many are non-scientists, a number are local elected officials) who have asked me repeatedly to explain what is going on with the debate, and I need to have the latest information, and (2) I give some three to five formal presentations annually to civic groups, like the Lions Clubs, on weather and climate. The climate change issues head the list of questions they want answered.

I believe that there should be a "COMET-like" tool assembled for people like me who can inform and perhaps influence the debate at the "grass roots" level. This tool needs to be well documented and much easier to understand than the IPCC reports. This need is especially great now that the polls show a rapidly increasing number of people who are turned-off by the apparent scientific infighting.

**Krish Gounder**

Climate change has been one of the most pressing challenges faced by our society during the brief history of mankind on this planet. Such an important issue is presently perceived by the public as a controversial one at best. The grass root communication of the challenges of the climate change by the climate community has not been as effective as it could have been. All the scientific evidence for climate change has not been effectively disseminated by the climate scientists to the general public at large. The total evidence for climate change needs to be collected and exhibited without any bias and complete transparency to the entire scientific community not just to the climate community. Many of the technical interpretations of the evidence as well as the scientific process of reaching the relevant conclusion needs to be articulated to the needy public without suppression of any contrary interpretation.

**George Greenley**

I am a volunteer for the AMS/CWCE/BEC Committee on Climate Change. Because of the strongly held but divergent views on anthropogenic global warming a committee such as the MS/CWCE/BEC is sine qua non for rational dialog on the subject and I believe the mission statement, as currently stated is spot on!

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**Dave Gutzler**

It seems to me that you have a rather well-stocked committee already, but I would volunteer to join you if you'd like. It is indeed unfortunate that climate change science has generated so much irrational rancor that otherwise collegial meteorologists snarl at each other (as happened not-quite-openly at the CCM breakfast at last month's AMS meeting). Part of the challenge for our community is that some researchers believe strongly that their science has been politically distorted or 'politicized'; another group believes just as strongly that partisan politics have become 'scientized', in which political agendas are cloaked with a mantle of scientific respectability. It would be nice if AMS could help distinguish physical science, with all the uncertainty associated with attempts to predict a chaotic system, from policy prescriptions, fraught with messy tradeoffs among stakeholders with different values.

I'm sure nothing I've written above is new to you. I carry out federally funded climate research, teach university courses in climate science, advise state agencies in New Mexico, present lots of public talks on the subject (one this evening, another on Thursday) and work with clients as a CCM, so I get lots of feedback from a rather broad cross-section of the public. I don't, however, have nearly the AMS pedigree exhibited by most of your current committee members (and I have a very limited travel budget).

**Gannet Hallar**

This email is to express my interest in serving on the Committee on Climate Change-Improving Communication (CCIC).

The mission of this committee fits well with my previous outreach experiences, including directing a community program at Storm Peak Laboratory, giving field trips to all 5th grade students in public elementary schools within North-Western Colorado. This program provides a three day lesson on the topics of weather and climate.

**Lee Harrison**

I spend a fair amount of time trying to do this "communication outreach" informally. I'm a radiation and transfer and instrumentation guy, and this gives me a somewhat different view on the problem than many who are focused on the empirical climatology, time-series reconstructions of the global mean surface temperature etc.

My views of the matter are as follows:

1. I think that the whole "debate" has been very badly polarized by an excessive attention to the statistics of "the Hockey stick" and battles over that.
2. The best evidences that AGW is real and of worrisome magnitude come from two places:

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2a. rather "basic" (but not trivial understand) quantum mechanics, observed spectroscopy of the gases, and radiative transfer. One does not need GCMs to demonstrate the consequences, and

2b. The geological/geochemical record

3. The IPCCv4 "Physical Science Basis" report is beyond most people's abilities or patience to read, so most don't. This report also does not provide a simple "first order" understanding of the physics.

4. Most meteorologists are not "radiation types." They emphasize the primacy of the dynamics because it dominates the problems they think about. One of the important things they are missing is that most of the radiative flux from the planet leaves in the upper troposphere and above (indeed this is why there can be a cold tropopause). The effect of this is that when you get down to it, the atmospheric dynamics really only matters to:

- driving the meridional circulations (which we can treat pretty well with simpler equations)
- make clouds!
- drive/control the atmospheric hydrological cycle

For the purposes of the planetary heat balance most of the "weather" processes are nearly irrelevant EXCEPT to the extent they make/control clouds.

5. Clouds are perhaps the largest remaining uncertainty in the atmospheric part of the climate system, but there is no evidence for "Gaian" cloud feedbacks (strong negative feedbacks), and rather good evidence that the cloud feedbacks are not sufficient to abate AGW.

My opinion is that what is needed here is an attempt to shift the discussion from "ClimateAudit" rancor about data in the "hockey stick" and arguments over "urban heat island effects" etc into a broader discussion of the physics of the system.

I also think it is important to make it clear to those who disbelieve that CO<sub>2</sub> really is a substantial greenhouse gas, that to prevail in a scientific argument they must provide a comprehensive counter-hypothesis, not merely "audit" this datum and that datum.

If I can help make this argument more broadly, I would be happy to do so.

**Colleen Hartman**

I would like to enthusiastically volunteer to serve on the Committee on Climate Change-Improving Communication (CCIC).

By developing multiple opportunities for members of the weather, water, and climate communities to respectfully discuss anthropogenic global warming views, this approach provides a pathway to understanding that appears to be currently lacking. Without a pathway to understanding, rational national policy will remain elusive. While community members may have vastly different institutional backgrounds, these forums will allow individuals to show a common respect for divergent viewpoints by carefully listening, responding, and moving the conversation forward.

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I would particularly enjoy working on the CCIC with a group of such knowledgeable and energetic colleagues such as Jim Mahoney and Rick Rosen, with whom I had the pleasure of working with while at NOAA. I have thirty years experience in the federal government and university, spending time at the White House, NASA, NOAA, and the Indian Health Service. My current position as professor at George Washington University exposes me to younger members of our community and the new methods of communication they sometimes favor.

Setting a civil tone and reaching out through various modes of communications will open the pathway to progress. Please don't hesitate to call or drop me a note if you have questions.

**Jill Hasling**

The American Meteorological Society should be a place where an atmospheric scientist feels comfortable and safe to express their position or ask a question on an atmospheric topic without being labeled or judged. I am not sure if the current atmosphere in the Society allows this to happen. I have noticed many fellow scientists in the Society judging and labeling their peers for questioning the science of "Climate Change". Another disconcerting activity I have notice is a feeling by some meteorologists in the Society that they must change the "beliefs" of broadcast meteorologists and require that they accept that the science of Climate Change is settled and they must educate their viewers to that fact without question. As a scientist, these actions make me very uncomfortable. The Society should be a place where atmospheric scientists can come together and question the science and debate Climate Change with respect for fellow scientists.

Climate Change is a very emotionally charge subject and the Society needs to create a place where scientists can come together and discuss the science. This forum should be a place where scientists could pose questions and have a non-emotional discussion of the state of the science. This forum needs to be open to all scientists no matter what their position is on the subject. Labels such as "Alarmist", "Skeptics", "Believers" and "Non-believers" would need to be left at the door. The discussion at the organizing meeting demonstrated how important this is. When questions were asked, words and labels were immediately used "evolution", "creationist", "believe", "must convince", "must accept" and "angels" where used. As a scientist I feel that "Climate Change" is a scientific theory with assumptions, premises, and method and not a religion which must be accepted and not questioned.

The first gathering to discuss Climate Change should be open to all interested scientists and moderated by an outside facilitator to keep the discussion civil and scientific. There should be words and phrases band from the gathering and definitions of terms. The Facilitator will then help the group create a list of questions, list of premises, list of assumptions, list of models, list of initial conditions, list of data sets, etc. The next step would be to prioritize these lists and set up future discussions where scientist can give varying points of view on the state of the science of climate change.

I really hope this is something the Society can accomplish so that we can return to an atmosphere of respect for fellow scientists and a forum for scientific discussion which advances the state of the art of the science now and in the future.

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**Scott Hausman**

When I first heard that AMS was forming the CCIC, I immediately wanted to volunteer. If we are to solve the complex challenges of climate change and communicate them to policy makers and the public, we must preserve our credibility by being open to all defensible scientific arguments and remaining objective in our presentation of the facts. Science stagnates under conformity, but flourishes when challenged by new ideas. My hope is that this group will redirect our passions away from each other and back to solving the many challenges of climate change together.

A simple mission statement for CCIC might be: to create opportunities and arrange venues that foster a respectful, open dialog on climate change science.

I'm proud to be a charter member of this group and look forward to getting started.

**Bob Henson**

I am interested in serving on this committee. As someone experienced in meteorology and journalism who has written and spoken about climate change in a variety of formats to a variety of audiences, I can attest to the challenges involved. These have only multiplied in the last few months, as "Climategate," the severe mid-Atlantic snows, and other events have polarized the public and helped swing people toward skepticism about whether humans are affecting climate. I believe this is a critical point in time, and with representatives from across the enterprise, I think this committee could serve a valuable role as a mediator. As one example, the committee might help establish ground rules and expectations for open, transparent, properly nuanced, and respectful discussion of anthropogenic global warming. I'm interested in hearing what others think.

**John Henz**

My name is John Henz, Chair, Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists, and Atmospheric Science Practice Leader, HDR Engineering, Inc. Recently I was a member of the BEED and participated as part of the team that wrote the AMS Statement on Water resources and Climate Change. I resigned from the BEED to focus on my duties as Chair, BCCM and as Atmospheric Science Practice Leader of a 8,500+ national engineering company.

However despite and, perhaps because of, those responsibilities, I would welcome the challenge of participating in what could be one of the most important and seminal AMS committees asked to function in the coming decade. The CCIC is needed to assist in the understanding and cooperation between the engineering and water communities and the climate change community. I face this dialogue issue on a daily basis both within HDR and between its many clients.

I have participated in AWRA, ASFPM, AMS and NHWC conferences on an annual basis and have been exposed to many of the divergent views that beg for respectful dialogue. My project responsibilities have included many climate change-water supply projects in the East and West and recently in the Bay Delta CP EIS/EIR. These experiences have educated me both in the science and

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political science. As long as the contributions of both natural variability and anthropogenic to global warming are discussed – I am interested.

**Vickie Johnson**

I would like to volunteer. I work for COMET, and in the last year I've been the project lead on the two modules we've developed so far on Climate Change: Climate Change: Fitting the Pieces Together and The Amazon Rain Forest and Climate Change (in English and Portuguese). I'm very interested in how to better communicate about this complicated, emotionally and politically charged, and ever-changing topic, and I'm glad to see that the AMS is taking on the challenge of trying to develop a framework in which a constructive conversation can be held. If you need any more information about my background, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

**Nick Keener**

My background as a meteorologist working within the energy sector provides me with a unique perspective on both the communication aspects of the science of global climate change and the politics behind the debate. Based on a just released Gallup poll which indicates that 48% of Americans now believe the seriousness of global warming is generally exaggerated would leave one to believe scientists are doing a poor job of communicating this complex issue to the public. With "climate gate" and other misleading news articles about the science and scientists doing the research it is clear that the atmospheric sciences community needs to provide a forum for an open discussion on the complexities of this issue with the goal that we can reach some consensus of fact on what we know and define the level of uncertainty within the science. The AMS should provide the leadership through this committee to bring differing views on the uncertainty aspects of global climate change from scientists in the weather, climate, and hydrology communities through forums, round table discussions, and open town halls at future AMS venues. This will foster an inclusive spirit within our community allowing differing voices from scientists to be heard in the context of fostering a more open respectful discussion of one of the most serious environmental challenges we as humans will face in our lifetimes. I hope I can make a contribution serving on this committee to foster within our community avenues of open discussion on such a complex issue.

**Dan Kirk-Davidoff**

I'd like to help out with this. I do a fair amount of public education on climate issues (testified to the the Maryland legislature, community fora, etc.) as well having taught weather and climate classes for a number of years at U. Maryland.

I think there's a lot of room for gentle education about climate science to be very productive. A lot of lay people have a sense that there's some kind of scandal out there since the CRU emails, and I think would be reassured to have a little more understanding of the basics of the science: energy balance, intuitive ways of thinking about the greenhouse effect, the differences and connections between weather forecasting and climate forecasting, etc.

As of this month, I'm now an adjunct faculty member at Maryland, and Chief Scientist for Weather Services at MDA Federal in Rockville.

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**Conrad Lautenbacher**

I volunteer quite enthusiastically! As you know, I spent considerable time and energy during my tenure at NOAA to further this cause and we still have a long way to go. I would be happy to help in any way possible!

**Heather Lazrus**

**Peggy LeMone**

I would like to join for at the least the on-line discussion.

**Ron Lowther**

My strong interest in this committee lies in fostering a greater knowledge among community members and translating that knowledge into the language of the public. It is my belief that our inability to do that has led to our own strongly held and divergent views on anthropogenic warming and a lower level of public trust in our profession. To accomplish this task, I would propose the CCIC begin with forums to address and formulate a common language, even among differing views. Next, the committee should include face-to-face public forums where feasible, for open and respectful discussion for further refinement of this common language and its use in education.

A classic example is our inability today to use stochastic weather forecasting for the public since we lack a common language for the public to understand them or the techniques behind their use. Yet, at the same time, we provide probabilities of future climate scenarios and blame it on the public for not being able to understand them.

**Jim Mahoney**

**Kelly Mahoney**

I am currently in my first year as a postdoctoral fellow in UCAR's Postdocs Applying Climate Expertise (PACE) fellowship program. The mission of the PACE program centers on fostering greater understanding and communication of climate science between scientists and stakeholders in the weather, water, and climate communities. My own research truly works at the interface of these areas, as I am investigating extreme precipitation in future climates and the associated implications for flood risk, dam safety, and water availability. A major goal and challenge of this work is the clear and efficient communication of the spectrum of possible physical and social repercussions in the face of complex questions involving global climate change, causality and regionality of physical changes, socio-economic considerations, political consequences, and more. I am pleased to see an AMS committee dedicated to fostering the communication of these very issues among the relevant communities, and I believe that the diverse backgrounds and affiliations of those already involved on this committee is a very promising and important step toward achieving the group's mission. If an

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opportunity exists to do so, I would be pleased to serve as part of this group, and certainly look forward to seeing the committee grow and develop the means with which to work toward its mission. Thank you for your consideration.

**Gordon McBean**

I would like to volunteer for the AMS CCIC Committee. I am an AMS Fellow, former member of AMS Council (1991-94) and also former President of CMOS, head of the Meteorological Service of Canada (1994-2000), and then PR to WMO. I am an IPCC participant—lead author for 1990, 1995 assessments, review editor for 2007, and convening lead author for present Special Report on Climate Extremes. I was a member of the US NAS Panel on weather services who prepared the report called Fair Weather and tried to lay out who should do what in the weather system.

At end of 2008, I was made a Member of the Order of Canada (Canada's highest civilian honour) with the citation: "For his contributions to the advancement of climate and atmospheric sciences in Canada, and for his leadership in national and international scientific organizations, helping to generate and disseminate research findings to policymakers and stakeholders."

Now, more than ever before we need to have better and effective communication of climate science and its impacts and possible response strategies. The proposed mandate: "Communication is to foster greater understanding among members of the weather, water, and climate community about strongly held but divergent views on anthropogenic global warming" should go beyond the members but also to the role of informing the general public. When I was head of Met Service of Canada, I spoke that our role was "to inform and where appropriate warn Canadians about changes in the state of our weather, climate, air quality, water and sea ice (our then mandate) on time scales from hours to weeks to seasons to decades." We also need to inform citizens as to what these changes mean or may mean to them and how they can react.

I am now the Science Committee Chair for the new Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Program and think that it is very important to link climate change - weather - "natural" hazards - in our science and policy and also in communicating these issues.

**Pamela McCown**

I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the new AMS Committee on Climate Change - Improving Communication (CCIC), tasked with fostering "a greater understanding among members of the weather, water, and climate community about strongly held but divergent views on anthropogenic global warming".

I believe that the stated mission of this committee is a necessary (and dare I say . . . overdue) part of the services that the AMS should be providing to its membership as the preeminent scientific and professional organization in the atmospheric and related sciences. However, I cannot in good consciousness allow the use of the phrase "anthropogenic global warming" in this context go without comment. I strongly disagree with the continued use of the terminology "global warming" and believe that as long as we continue to do so, we will never be able to effectively communicate among ourselves, or with others outside of the scientific discipline. It is my hope that this committee will

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instead foster open communication and understanding about strongly held but divergent views on anthropogenic climate change.

As a meteorologist who specializes in scientific communication, I have seen a change over the last 10-15 years in the way that scientists and researchers working in the climate change arena interact with one another and exchange information. That, in turn, has changed the way that information about research findings makes its way to lay audiences. As the subject of climate change has become politicized (and so extremely polarized) I believe that there are two key issues for those who work in this field:

- 1) Communication within the scientific community
- 2) Communication with outside audiences

It is my understanding from the mission statement that the CCIC will focus primarily on the 1<sup>st</sup> issue and I would be honored to be a part of helping to restore an environment of open, respectful, and constructive communication. However, I would strongly urge us all to consider the importance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue as well.

Changes to the way that news organizations and bloggers function in today's world of instant access often mean that research findings are now almost instantly accessible (often under misrepresenting headlines), often before the statements can be fully vetted or peer reviewed. While those familiar with the scientific process understand that the cycle of publishing, defending, vetting, and ultimately, the arrival of a scientific consensus is a normal part of how science works, outside audiences often do not fully understand this process. Ultimately, this has helped to create a public perception that climate change scientists may not be working in the best interest of the public. This perception can have long term consequences on the public funding of basic and applied research as well as the continuation of earth observations and data stewardship.

I believe that it is imperative that we address these issues and I would be honored to be a part of the CCIC to help do so.

Thanks for your consideration and leadership.

**David J. McLaughlin**

I am writing to volunteer to serve on the AMS/CWCE/BEC Climate Change - Improving Communication committee. The stated mission of this Committee is "to foster greater understanding among members of the weather, water, and climate community about strongly held but divergent views on anthropogenic global warming."

I view this as an important and challenging topic that is worthy of effort. As I see it, the consumers of information on anthropogenic global warming are widely varied (e.g., including scientists and non-scientists; researchers, educators, policy makers, manufacturers, operational decision makers of various types, insurers, business leaders, etc...). Moreover, the information to be communicated is inherently scientific, discipline-crossing, and uncertain. And the stakes are high. All this makes this communication problem a complex one, and I am pleased to see AMS standing up this committee with such a distinguished group of participants.

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To provide some background, I am neither a climate person nor a weather person, but instead am an engineering educator, researcher, and administrator. I direct the CASA Engineering Research Center, which is one of 15 decade-long centers set up by NSF to engineer the nation's most important systems technologies for our energy, health care, safety, and security needs. CASA has as its focus the concept of dense networks of small radars to provide weather data to multiple types of user.

As a result of my work leading this center, I tend to have a systems and technology orientation and tend to be "at home" when dealing with cross-disciplinarity.

**Gary McManus**

I would like to volunteer for the Committee on Climate Change-Improving Communication (CCIC). I am considered our in-house "expert" on climate change here at OCS and lead our office's outreach efforts educating and informing the state's citizens and decision-makers on matters related to climate change. I have given over 50 talks during the last couple of years to a diverse range of end-users. It is certainly more challenging to provide this type of information to groups that are perhaps not as inclined to listen or engage due to pre-conceived beliefs, which is often the case in Oklahoma. I feel I have something to add to the efforts of the CCIC, but more importantly, I have much to learn as well.

**Steve Messner**

This would be an important mission for AMS to try and tackle. I'm wondering if there is an opportunity to take this further and outreach beyond the AMS and more into the general public. I would like to [volunteer for the committee] if it is synchronized with the outreach messages.

**Jim O'Brien**

I volunteer. The past 30 years I have become a very applied climatologist whereas earlier I was an ocean modeler. I have at least 2 media contacts a week on climate change. I am called a skeptic but I am not. I believe in GCC but many of the assertions on extreme events are very bad science. I try to correct this with data not speculation.

**Ed O'Lenic**

Problems associated with weather and climate information:

1. The atmosphere-ocean-land system is complicated in the extreme.
2. A lot of variables, science, and mathematics are needed to describe it.
3. The system's workings are largely invisible.
4. Real-time observations are limited.
5. Historical observations are limited, so the true variability is uncertain.
6. Climate is continually changing, sometimes abruptly.
7. Unexpected things happen often, due to the system's non-linearity.
8. Prediction using models is complicated and uncertain due to Chaos.

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9. Attribution and prediction are uncertain, requiring probabilities.
10. Simple, quick explanations are often inadequate.

I began making 6-10 day, monthly and 3-month forecasts in 1986. Since 2000, I have led CPC's Operations Branch, which is responsible for producing all of NOAA's official extended-range and long-range climate forecasts. During the last 25 years, I have answered numerous questions about these forecasts, and other aspects of climate. Often, a question is posed like this: I need to prepare for some purpose. Can you tell me how much rain/how warm or cold we will have/it will be? But before I can answer such questions, I find it necessary to give a good amount of background information to provide a context for understanding the forecasts. This usually includes the notions of using 30-year averages of observations as a standard against which to objectively determine how unusual a newly observed week or season is, how we divide the climatological observations into terciles, basic probability theory, limits of predictability, use of statistical and dynamical forecast models, and why you cannot use a 3-month forecast to predict how much rain will fall on a wedding day, months in the future.

By the end of these preliminaries, which take time and often include even more questions and answers, questioners seem to be more able to accept that there is, indeed, uncertainty in climate and that probabilities are an appropriate way to describe the situation. Furthermore, I believe that, not only does this activity provide needed information and context, but also, it builds trust. Despite the difficulty of the material for the questioner, and the time needed to mutually discuss it, most of the questioners are patient with the preliminaries, and apparently satisfied with the answers. Underlying all this, I believe, is the notion of "honest brokerage", and trust-building. Time and information, given freely, and with a clear intent to address the user's interest, are the ingredients. Many of the same concepts required to explain these short-term climate forecasts apply equally well to explaining longer-term climate variability, including climate change. Finally, the problem of matching-up forecast probabilities with users' costs and benefits will be a necessary step toward rendering climate information, at all time scales, more useful and, if we can build trust, respected. All the individual interaction required in trust-building with many users takes time. Also, this hard-won trust is fragile, and can be damaged by losing sight of the need to stay connected to users, and to keep our research and decision processes open.

**Shelley Petroy**

I would like to volunteer for the Committee on Climate Change–Improving Communication. As a scientist working in aerospace industry (Ball Aerospace built breakthrough ozone monitoring instruments, including SAGE, SBUV, and the soon-to-be launched OMPS), I bring an additional–and complementary–perspective to the group listed below. In addition, I am serving out a two-year position with AGU on the Committee on Public Affairs, and have been encouraged by AGU to support this effort as a citizen, an aerospace scientist and an AGU COPA member. A willingness to continue the discussion on anthropogenic global warming–particularly in the face of diverging views–is essential if we are ever to come to a level of consensus on what is happening, what can we do, and what should we do. I would like to be a part of the AMS community initiating and supporting this discussion.

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**Gary Rasmussen**

I am concerned about the fracturing of our professional community over differing views about the science of anthropogenic global warming (AGW). We need to do something to address this problem, and standing up the CCIC committee is a step in the right direction. The community needs a forum where people on all sides of the science of anthropogenic global warming can come together to listen respectfully to what others have to say, and to work toward consensus in those areas where consensus is possible.

**Scott Rayder**

**Alan Robock**

The IPCC report deals with the causes and impacts of climate change, and what we should do about it. This last topic is based on values, and so there is no "correct" view, but such judgment should be based on correct science. I will be happy to explain the evidence in the IPCC report of global warming, the various causes of climate change, and the dominant impact of anthropogenic greenhouse gases for the past half century. Strongly held views should be rooted in quantitative observations and model simulations (based on fundamental conservation of energy principles), and I will provide that information in response to challenges to global warming theory.

**Rick Rosen**

**Dian Seidel**

If the new AMS Committee on Climate Change-Improving Communication (CCIC) could use my experience and expertise, I would be pleased to volunteer to participate actively in this important effort. As a climate scientist, I am acutely aware of the need for clear and accurate communication of climate science, both within our profession and with society at large. Calls for improving communication on climate issues have been made for years but have become more numerous and more urgent in recent months, and I am very pleased that AMS is taking up this challenge.

Here is what I could bring to the committee's deliberations.

- 20-yr experience as a climate research scientist at NOAA, with particular expertise in the analysis of observational data to identify climate variations and change
- Experience with various climate assessment activities, including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the WMO/UNEP scientific assessments of stratospheric ozone depletion, and the World Climate Research Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate (SPARC) assessments.
- Experience in communicating climate science to various audiences including scientific colleagues, the popular press (mainly radio and newspapers), community groups, and schools (K-

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12 and university)

- Various AMS experiences, including service as
  - Councilor (2007-2010)
  - Member (1999-2002) and chair (2003-2006) of the STAC Committee on Climate Variability and Change
  - Member of the organizing committee for the 2005 AMS Short Course on Climate and the Media
  - Member of new Committee on Environmental Responsibility
  - Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM No. 649)
  - AMS Fellow (2003)

Among the issues the new committee might address are:

- How do our individual world views (political, religious, philosophical) influence our views on climate science, and how can we meaningfully communicate with those who may not share those views?
- What are areas of agreed, solid science and what are areas of open debate and research in the field of climate change?
- What are the professional responsibilities of AMS members in communicating climate science (or any other topic)?
- What formal or informal roles can AMS play to foster a more productive conversation on climate science among its members and with the larger society?

**Mike Steinberg**

I believe this is a critical and urgent topic, not only for the meteorological community, but for society in general. Unfortunately, this has become in many ways more of a political or even a pseudo-religious issue than a scientific one.

Extremists on both sides of this issue are the ones who are heard the most in the media, and I believe that it is essential that we provide reasoned scientific information that will help lead to respectful discussion and reasoned decisions. While there are some things we know for certain, there are other aspects of anthropogenic global warming that are not yet known and await additional research. It is important that we provide a clear voice as to what is certain and what needs to be done about it. But it is also important that we provide a clear voice as to what is uncertain, what additional research is needed to provide answers, the level of risk, and appropriate measures to take given the level of risk and uncertainty.

Most of us are old enough so that no matter what the truth is about anthropogenic global warming, we will not be around to feel its full effects. I have five children and do not want to leave them with a world that is worse because we failed to act when we could have made a difference. But I also do not want to leave them with a world that is worse because we took actions that wasted economic and other resources to make ineffective or unnecessary changes.

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The volunteers listed [in the Call for CCIC Volunteers] are a preeminent and divergent group of scientists and scholars who are well-positioned by their knowledge and status to make a positive difference through their efforts and leadership on this issue. I would welcome the opportunity to participate and help in any way possible.

**David Stooksbury**

I am interested since communicating climate information is how I spend most of my day.

**Jeff Viel**

**Stick Ware**

I would like to volunteer for the CCIC Committee.

**Warren Washington**

**Jeff Weber**

I am currently employed at the Unidata Program Center, part of UCAR, as an associate scientist. My field work on the Greenland Ice Sheet was under the guidance of Dr. Konrad Steffen, and he was my advisor as well. I have been at UCAR since 1998 and have had many opportunities to discuss climate change in public forums here in Boulder. I feel that communicating science effectively is a large task, but one that is very important. Scientists owe the public open and productive dialogue on such important topics as climate change.

**Mark Wenclawiak**

I would be interested. I am one of my company's climate change and sustainability service practitioners and this would be directly related to my profession. Thanks.

**Joe Witte**

I would like to try to help with CCIC's conversations about climate change. The issues brought to light by "climategate" will continue to make the public skeptical about the validity of the science. Some serious and challenging outreach by AMS scientists is ahead.

Currently I am a Ph.D. candidate at George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication (4C) with a NSF grant to engage the 850 plus AMS weathercasters as climate science communicators in their local communities. Having worked with journalist Bud Ward on two of his day-long workshop "conversations" between climate-scientists and TV weathercasters

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(Chicago: Midwest regional climate, and Portland: AMS Broadcasters annual meeting) I can see the value of one-to-one discussions.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with the CCIC members.

PS: I've been working for 2 years with NEEF, the National Environmental Education Foundation, on climate change videos for weathercasters. We assisted with NCAR's COMET program on creating the "Climate Puzzle," a 2 hour on-line climate change education lesson for TV weathercasters and line NWS forecasters.

I am currently one of 30 (29 educators + weathercaster) in the NOAA pilot program: "Climate Stewards Education Program".

**Don Wuebbles**

I am interested in doing this. I am heavily involved in regional climate impacts assessment, including being a member of the government task force that published the special U.S. assessment last year.