

How Can the Weather Enterprise Make Decisions?

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Outline

- Diversity within the “Weather Enterprise”
- Recognition of Enterprise Diversity by AMS Ad Hoc Committee
- Federal Agency Realities
- We CAN work together

Diversity in “Weather Enterprise”

- “Government” sector includes:
 - Federal Agencies
 - State Agencies
 - Local Agencies
 - Intergovernmental bodies at international, national, regional, and local levels
- “Academic” sector includes:
 - Public universities
 - Private universities
 - Various collaborative models for research
- “Private” sector includes:
 - Media
 - Consultants (Internal and External)
 - Commercial weather service companies
 - Equipment suppliers
 - Weather risk management industry
- Not to mention the diversity in “Users”

AMS Ad Hoc Committee Report

- AMS Commission terms of reference must recognize:
 - *Private sector participants* have shareholders, investors, and governing boards which must provide direction to their activities, and all participants must be mindful of restrictions traceable to antitrust statutes;
 - *Academic institutions*, whether public or private, operate under various charters and typically have governing boards (e.g. a Board of Regents) which provide overall direction;
 - *Federal agencies* have specific oversight provided by Congress and the Executive branch and operate under various legal restrictions on their activities (e.g. the Federal Advisory Committee Act) -- state and local governments have similar, though varied, limits on their participation.

Federal Agency Realities

- Operate within basic checks and balances including oversight by political appointees, OMB, and Congress
- Can't discuss budget details until released by President
- Can't comment on pending legislation except to give Administration position
- Can't seek consensus advice from a group unless it is an approved Federal Advisory Committee
- Federal employees have numerous restrictions to assure they have no conflict of interest in carrying out their duties

We CAN work together!

Although the sectors are different, their differences should be viewed as strengths – they result in the diversity of weather services and products enjoyed by the American public.

The key is for the weather enterprise to work together better and find more effective means to share perspectives, set directions, and better meet America's needs.