

Drought Research Initiative 1st Annual Workshop

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - 11-12 January 2006

Breakout Sessions

Themes-4/5 - How can we move ahead with (unfunded) Themes 4/5?

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Summary of Discussion of the Main Questions

1. Do we do themes 4 and 5? Yes.
 - ? These themes are very relevant for many reasons. Theme 4 puts drought in context and Theme 5 relates to on-the ground planning and context, then results in action.
2. Next Steps?
 - ? Main issues of importance were discussed, including drought forecasting, hindcasting, and multi year drought
 - ? Develop a partner advisory group for DRI to work with PARC as a bridge for facilitating Themes 4 + 5. For example, MB Hydro funding is possible for targeted and relevant parts of Theme 4. Other possibilities include CWN (Canadian Water Network), NCE-NI (National Centres of Excellence, New Initiatives), IPY (International Polar Year).
 - ? Theme 5 needs a communication plan. The Advisory Group can use federal and provincial outreach resources e.g. AAFC NAIS.
3. Current work?
 - ? Link current relevant projects with DRI. These projects include Canadian Climate Impact and Adaptation Directorate (CCIAP) work (e.g. the Adaptation to Drought project led by the Saskatchewan Research Council and Environment Canada, PARC's work, SSHRC Canadian-Chilean project led by the University of Regina and others.
4. Products/ Deliverables?

Changes in drought characteristics and areas of coverage. Drought planning needs information about frequency of different droughts. (See Bart Oegema's risk management list in his presentation at the workshop)

- ? Change in drought drivers
- ? Better prairie hydrological model and gridded products
- ? The "Bottom Line" is a need for better descriptions of and dealing with future droughts. Are droughts becoming more frequent and/or severe?

Working Group Notes

Question #1 Do we do themes 4 and 5? Yes

- ? We can re-spin the objectives to meet partner needs, e.g. planning for the future, for context and application, information for trends
- ? Climate change aspects could be an add-on
- ? Take advantage of and leverage similar work e.g. US, CCIAP

Question #2 What needs to be done. What are the next steps?

- ? Questions include: Can GCMs/RCMs simulate the past droughts (include paleo information)? Drought analogue – best times? Multi-year drought frequencies? Effects of land-use change on drought? Effect of aerosols on precipitation?
- ? Develop a drought task force plus planning and links with PPWB.
- ? Theme 4 is needed as a bridge to theme 5.
- ? These themes (4-5) will help ensure relevance and use of the Themes 1-3 information!
- ? Other funding agencies (e.g. socio-economic) are likely more suitable for leverage. Themes 4 and 5 are necessary to achieve benefits to society.
- ? Structure suggestions:
 - ↳ Partner group would form an advisory group to DRI
 - ↳ Hydro companies, water agencies, federal and provincial agencies would provide

input

Question #3 What current work should we link with?

- ? Agencies include Environment (e.g. AB, SK), Utilities (targeted), Projects (other) – link with DRI e.g. Arctic Net, Can. Water Network – synergies, NCE New Initiatives, IPY, CFS/NRCan, GEOS projects, and various other networking capabilities.
- ? Public awareness/training is needed for watershed planning, for example. Use existing processes. A communication plan should be developed. We could work with NAIS people to do this and link with various partner websites.
- ? PARC's role would include
 - ↳ hosting workshops, links from Themes 1-3 to 5 and back using Theme 4
 - ↳ use a risk management context
 - ↳ Governmental role
 - ↳ 2 or more partners to make the case
 - ↳ Benefits/cost determination, including environmental costs

Question #4 What deliverables are required? Refer to the summary.

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