



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SCHOOL OF MARINE AFFAIRS

VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]
Room 5128
14th St & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

September 10, 2008

VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher:

The NOAA Science Advisory Board [NOAA SAB] has exercised its oversight of the excellent work of our standing committee Climate Working Group's [CWG] review of NOAA's Climate Services Strategic Plan. We concur and approve its assessments and recommendations and we submit them to NOAA as a contribution in this important and rapidly evolving issue arena. We look forward to continued dialogue and to detailed discussion of implementation of NOAA's Climate Services Strategic Plan.

Quoting from the record of the Climate Services Workshop,

“participants in the Climate Services Workshop demonstrated a deep appreciation of the magnitude of the task of creating a national climate service and articulated the importance of addressing a full range of current and future needs. Workshop participants recognized that our approach will have to be transformative and will require substantial leadership. This service must incorporate the breadth of partners that are needed to ensure success, have sustained funding, and must be based on a vision, strategy, and implementation plan that allows it to fully serve the diverse but critical functions of enabling informed decisions in the face of climate change and variability. Given the perspective of the Workshop participants, the External Review Committee believes strongly that the “model” for climate services in the United States must go well beyond that of the current Strategic Plan.

The NOAA SAB took action of this recommendation in its motion as follows: “The Science Advisory Board accepts the Draft Report from its Climate Working Group on the Climate Services Workshop, and endorses the recommendations.

In our role as the NOAA SAB we see our endorsement of the Working Group's assessment and recommendations not as criticism for the emerging Strategic Plan but as encouragement to be bold to address the full magnitude of the challenges associated with development of a Climate Service. If NOAA is to lead the development of a Climate

Service, as we believe it should, NOAA must express a vision to inspire its partners in the academic, private sector and other state, federal and tribal entities to join in the effort, to share responsibility, and to carefully engage with multiple stakeholders as adaptive learning takes place. We believe that the recommendations resulting from the CWG's Climate Services Workshop can be a positive contribution to NOAA's development and implementation of a Climate Service.

As always, the NOAA SAB stands ready to elaborate on our recommendations and looks forward to hearing preliminary response to these recommendations at our October 2008 meeting and more definitive responses in 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Fluharty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "F".

David Fluharty, Chair NOAA SAB
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