Climate Working Group (CWG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

To provide scientific advice and broad direction to NOAA's climate program, in the context of national and international activities. The CWG will focus on the broad research and operational components of the climate program, as well as on the underlying observations and data management issues. The CWG will assist in establishing plans, reviewing progress, and setting priorities on a continuing basis. In all its activities the working group will take into consideration the eight themes set forth by the NOAA Science Advisory Board: 1) Quality, Creativity and Credibility; 2) Timeliness and Scale; 3) Science Connected to the Application and Operational Implementation of Policy: 4) Capacity Building; 5) Education; 6) Efficiency; 7) Social Science Integration; and 8) Diversity.

The CWG, in its role as a sanctioned working group of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), advises the SAB on the condition and capabilities of NOAA's climate activities and supporting NOAA observing systems/data management systems and submits formal reports to the SAB that identify current issues, deficiencies, recommendations for remedial action, and proposed initiatives.

1. Brings to its parent body, the NOAA Science Advisory Board, a broad view of national and international climate research and operation activities and their implications for monitoring requirements

2. Evaluate on an annual basis the status of current and proposed climate observing and/or data management systems including integrated and optimal observing and data management strategies.

3. Advise on broad scientific programmatic guidelines for a NOAA climate program focusing on observations and understanding, forcing, predictability, impacts, projections, and recognizing the information needs of public and private decision makers.

4. Provide guidance on ways for NOAA to interact constructively with other agencies or institutions in promoting high quality climate monitoring.

5. Assist in defining an efficient and cost effective program for NOAA that will complement those of other agencies and international activities such as the WCRP, IPCC and IGBP.

6. Examine ongoing NOAA activities, present plans, and institutional arrangements relative to the goals and objectives of the NOAA climate effort and its connections to U.S. Climate Change Science Program and the Climate Change

Technology Program.

7. Provide continuing review of NOAA climate efforts to assure high quality science and operations and the transition of new science into operations, directly and through various *ad hoc* and standing subcommittees (see below).

8. Help establish effective mechanisms for regional analysis of climatic variability and change and foster linkages to societal decision frameworks.

9. Provide advice on the integrated activities to meet the goals of the climate program and the provision of effective services.

At a more specific level, Working Group activities will include:

1. Addressing the role of NOAA's operational elements as they contribute to the climate research program and vice versa;

2. Report annually to the NOAA Science Advisory Board regarding NOAA's current capabilities and opportunities in climate monitoring;

3. Provide advice on climate product lines that are useful to scientists and decision makers and providing a pathway for feedback from these user communities.

4. Provide guidance on national data management and data archive priorities.

5. Evaluate means for employing NOAA's research capability in national programs and setting out appropriate research strategies.

6. Establish and dissolve Subcommittees, as appropriate, that address specific issues related to the overall Climate Program.

The CWG shall be composed of outstanding scientists and leaders with a broad interest in NOAA climate program. Working group members will be appointed for three-year terms with the opportunity for one additional term. The working group will provide suggestions of new candidates annually to the NOAA Science Advisory Board for consideration.