NIDIS Engaging Preparedness Communities Working Group

Establishing a sustainable network of drought stakeholders
Governance Structure for NIDIS Implementation

**NIDIS Executive Council**
Co-chairs: Director, NOAA Climate Program Office (or designee)
Director, National Drought Mitigation Center (or designee)

**NIDIS Program Office**

**NIDIS Program Implementation Team**

**NIDIS Technical Working Groups**
- Federal, Regional, State, Tribal and Local Partner Leads
- Embedded in national, regional, and local NIDIS activities
- Develop pilot implementation and transferability criteria

- NIDIS Technical Working Groups:
  - Engaging Preparedness Communities
  - Integrated Monitoring and Forecasting
  - Interdisciplinary Research and Applications

**Public Awareness and Education**

**Regional Early Warning Information Systems**
- Design Pilots and Implementation

**U.S. Drought Portal**
Engaging

- Involving groups of people in decisions, services, & design
Preparedness

Drought planning

Pro-active mitigation measures

Public education

NIDIS Implementation Plan, 2007
Communities

- Community
  - A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share a government, & who often have a common cultural and historical heritage.
  - A body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society.

Merriam-Webster
EPC Working Group Goal:

Assist entities in planning for and reducing the risks associated with drought

- Establish collaborative networks
  - Drought coordinators
  - Scientists
  - Policy makers
- Lead development
  - Drought exercises
  - Post-drought assessments
- Highlight success
  - Case studies
  - Best practice documents

NIDIS Implementation Plan, 2007
Collaborative Network

- Network-focused
- Issue-focused
- Multi-stakeholder

Svendsen, 2005

![Diagram showing paradigm shift from Organisation-centric to Network-focused with mechanistic view: 'parts' to systems view: 'whole'.]
Approach

Create & Educate
through the development of a drought plan database

Establish
communication with state & local drought contacts through a series of short surveys

Expand
communication through a sequence of webinars

Engage
stakeholders through an annual workshop

Sustain
communication through virtual communities on the drought web portal
June 2008
• NIDIS Kansas City workshop

Summer 2010
• Began database creation
• Project approval

Winter 2010
• Establish Communication

Spring 2011
• Deploy surveys
• 1st webinar

June 2011
• NIDIS Chicago workshop
Agenda: Survey Results

Planning

- Community level
- Integration of state & community efforts
- Funding strategies

Monitoring

- Using monitoring & prediction products
- Latest innovations
- Techniques for high resolution monitoring or interpolation
Agenda: Survey Results

Climate Change & Uncertainty

- Using paleoclimate records
- Understanding increased climate variability & drought extremes
- **Accounting for climate change & drought frequency/severity**

Collaboration Efforts

- **Sharing information within the drought community**
- Collaborating with stakeholders
Agenda: Survey Results

Limited Resources

• Sustaining resources in underprivileged communities
• Acquiring resources for collaboration

Other

• NIDIS plans & participating agencies
• Impact assessment
• Communicating drought status to the public
Agenda

- Plenary Sessions
- Breakout Discussions
- Interactive Exercises
- World Café
THE WATER COOLER
WHERE MUNDANE CONVERSATION AND POINTLESS INTERACTION RUNS RAMPANT
Questions or additional comments?
Agenda

The Process of Appreciative Inquiry

- Define: Decide what to focus on
- Discovery: Discovering what is working well Positive Core
  - Debrief: Dancing and drumming to celebrate success as we reflect on our work together
  - Dream: Envisioning what might be; shared images for a preferred future
  - Design: Finding innovative ways to create that future; Breakthrough propositions
- Delivery: Sustaining the Change

Positive Change

Investigation

Implementation

Innovation & Integration

National Drought Mitigation Center