

## Surface temperatures steering committee call 25/1/11

**Present:** Peter Thorne (PT), Michael de Podesta (MdP), Greg Strouse (GS), Akiyo Yatagai (AY), Xiaolan Wang (XW), Matilde Rusticucci (MR), Jay Lawrimore (JL), Antonio Possolo (AP), Blair Trewin (BT), Kate Willett (KW), Rob Allan (RA), Richard Chandler (RC)

**Apologies:** Thomas Peterson, Peter Stott

1. Introductions
2. Updates on action items from last call

### *Membership*

ACTION: KW to chase Indian representation DONE. Noted that

ACTION: BT to pursue African representation suggestions through WMO channels. Suggested to approach African meteorological organization. Will take on as subsequent action.

ACTION: PT to contact named metrologists and see whether any of them are interested. Need one representative only. DONE. Subsequent discussions highlighted the value of multiple perspectives so we ended up with three metrological perspectives

ACTION: PT to invite Rob Allan in first instance. DONE.

### *Mode of operation*

ACTION: PT to instigate regular calls. DONE. Next call will be March 8<sup>th</sup>.

ACTION: PT to instigate web area for steering committee and investigate an email alias. DONE

ACTION: KW and Jay Lawrimore to provide PT with contact lists for their teams. DONE

ACTION: RC to share some information on this and PT to consider technical feasibility of taking on this in addition to website / blog. DONE. Currently seen as a backburner issue.

ACTION: PT to enable admin privileges for KW and BT. DONE.

### *Open issues*

Data access and visualization group

ACTION: ALL to feedback to PT specific suggestions for people to invite. Deadline Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> NIL BY RESPONSE ISSUE REMAINS OPEN. Addendum: KW pointed out after the call that she had suggested some names and PT was being disingenuous. Mea culpa.

ACTION: RC to lead production of 2-pager for soliciting funding calls. ALL to review and provide input. PENDING

ACTION: BT to ascertain presence at WCRP conference and report back. Answer still pending. Will follow up in person next week.

KW suggested investigating Poster Clusters – submission of 10+ posters in a self-organised group that are under a common theme – later suggestion that this could link up with common activities from the Climate Code Foundation.

### 3. Reports from sub-groups

#### i) Databank - Jay Lawrimore

Kicked off activities a couple of months ago. Development of a small test dataset get feel for different stages is an initial priority. Using data that was recently digitized. Dominican Republic, Vietnam. Also putting out stage 2 +3 GHCN-D and GHCN-M through World Data Centre Asheville [wdc-a.org](http://wdc-a.org). Some activities also on new data with JMA and Spain but subteam on this yet to get started. Subteam on data provenance instigated. ICOADS provenance and qc protocols as starting point. ISO 19905 investigated. Tracking at the record level. WMO interaction decadal to annual WWR updates. Inquiring about whether can support annual updates.

#### *Questions*

XW: Do we have a time window of interest?

JL: Go back as far as possible. Improve spatial and temporal coverage. Daily a focus.

RA: Images up on the BADC site from UKMO archives. Will send url. We need coordination for what is being digitized by who?

PT: UK FCO funding is a possibility for zooniverse visit to NCDC. Will follow up with Arfon Smith next week. Could be a logical follow on to [old-weather.org](http://old-weather.org)

KW: Data issue was highlighted in Nature recent article. Will email article to JL - done.

JL: Will consider whether any response would be appropriate.

#### ii) Benchmarking – Kate Willett

10 members in group set up. Not great international representation. First telecon scheduled for tomorrow. Set up a blog site (<http://surftempbenchmarking.blogspot.com/>).. No concrete achievements yet. Kate has worked on analog cases with UNSW. CASE studentship PhD funding. EGU and MARCDAT abstracts.

PT: Blog private or public?

KW: To be decided by the group members.

iii) Governance - Peter Stott [Given by KW]

KW has a tracked changes document. They are happy with it as it stands. They want to pass it on to us to take on. Should we decide our own terms of reference? Who certifies these?

ACTION: KW to circulate and solicit input – done, input deadline Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.

JL: Should develop terms of reference? Do we need governance long term and how do we move to formal governance?

KW: How do we approach the BIPM / WMO / TIES?

RC: Informally.

PT: Need terms of reference + tidied up governance document first.

RC: add suggested names of people to approach the potential overarching sponsors as an appendix?

MdP will meet with relevant BIPM representative soon (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>) and AP will also chase BIPM angle.

4. Discussion of governance report and implications

PT: Terms of reference drafting? General agreement that we need these prior to going to probable long-term sponsors.

Noted that in the long term we need these for the subgroups as well as steering committee.

ACTION: PT to draw up initial terms of reference and circulate for comment. Aim for agreed version by next call.

ACTION: KW and JL to draw up their drafts for the subgroups after Steering Group ToR are drafted as these should refer to/be governed by the Steering Group ToR.

PT: Propose that steering group endorse these sub-group terms of reference. Generally agreed.

PT: Who endorses the governance document and terms of reference?

BT: CCI? Would make sense as they were the originating WMO body.

PT: Also need to think as to who endorses for stats community and metrological community. RC offered after call to follow up on the statistics community angle.

5. Update on progress with reports / papers arising from Exeter (Me)

PT / AY: Two Japanese pieces have been published now.

KW will double check BAMS status, believes that copyright form issues have been resolved and that it is now in review.

WMO TD draft status. KW advised that second draft being written following feedback from PT and Stephan Bojinski. Will send to all. Not likely to be in near future given other commitments.

PT queried whether it would be ready to be submitted to WMO congress and raised importance of ensuring this is somehow on WMO radar. Another option is to append the BAMS submission as an inf.

ACTION: BT will ascertain timeline for congress.

[Postscript: May have to be raised as a national delegation inf item so perhaps best that Simon Gilbert as UK delegate party member be consulted?]

PT: Missing link is anything in metrological literature. Is there a suitable mechanism?

MdP: Meteorologia: Meeting letter? GS agrees it's a great way to create interest.

ACTION: MdP and GS to take this idea forwards.

PT: Please enlist help from other members of steering committee as felt necessary.

ACTION: KW/PT to send relevant documents that have been published / support the effort - done.

RC: Peter Guttorp is co-editing a special issue of *Environmetrics* on climate and statistics; RC has discussed with the editors the possibility of submitting a short article. Editors are enthusiastic – article length would be about 2 pages. As the international journal of TIES, *Environmetrics* potentially reaches a wider audience than *Significance* which is distributed to members of the Royal Statistical Society and American Statistical Association. The two are synergistic.

ACTION: RC to reply in affirmative and lead article development enlisting others as necessary to help.

6. Potential involvement in conferences etc.

i) WCRP open science conf – BT will chase

ii) 9th International Temperature Symposium

GS: This is held once every ten years, March 2012 in Disneyland in conjunction with 2012 measurement science conference. Create a session either oral or poster session? [www.its9.org](http://www.its9.org).

MdP: Will be there. Real insights are needed. Was fascinating to come to Exeter, need some folks from those areas. Would share knowledge and highlight issues to a wide audience.

GS: Opportunity on the Monday before for committee meetings.

KW: Is this something that we would need to advertise outside the usual participants in this conference?

GS: No objections.

ACTION: GS to go forwards with putting a session in and enlist relevant convenors and work with them to make this happen.

Others? Is there a statistical conference we should target?

RC: BT had eye on the ball. ISI conference in August in Ireland. We are into a special session there with one talk even though post-deadline. We need to send an abstract in the next week or two. Given the session we need public trust and transparency angle.

PT: Need to also emphasize what is new – daily or even sub-daily resolution, finer spatial scales to meet climate services requirements.

ACTION: RC will circulate abstract draft for comments.

MARCDAT III – attended by Peter Thorne, Rob Allan, Kate Willett, Albert Klein Tank and John Kennedy – focus on working with/learning from similar marine efforts.

EGU – KW has submitted an abstract

## 7. Defining milestones / deliverables

GS: What list of deliverables? Do we have any at all? Sometimes useful for entraining input.

PT: Need to ensure against drift. Deliverables can be small, not huge.

JL: Should have targets, quite often it'll be down to subgroups. Hard to give strict deadlines, particularly at this point in time. Will focus attention.

KW: Agree that having firm deadlines / targets will help.

ACTION: PT, JL and KW to produce initial draft of imp. Plan for circulation prior to next planned call.

## 8. AOB

Proposal to NERC. PT outlined how at short notice he had been approached to write a letter of support for a bid to the UK NERC mechanism regarding primarily remotely sensed observations. As at present time there was no news on success or otherwise.

GCOS (Global Climate Observing System) AOPC (Atmo. Obs. Pan. For Clim) written and verbal report due in coming fortnight. BT will be in WMO and could present or be present to help with Q&A. MR will also be present.

ACTION: PT will contact GCOS.

ACTION: ALL to comment on AOPC report submission to PT by end of Wednesday. PT will circulate the submission version.

Agreed that next meeting will be at 9am EST March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Agreed that minutes be circulated and implicit endorsement after a period for queries / adjustments and that they then be posted on the website.