

Surface temperatures initiative

Steering committee call

3/8/11

Present: Kate Willett (KW), Michael de Podesta (MdP), Rob Allan (RA), Peter Stott (PS), Tom Peterson (TP), Greg Strouse (GS), Jay Lawrimore (JL), Xiaolan Wang (XW), Blair Trewin (BT), Antonio Possolo (AP), Richard Chandler (RC), Jayashree Revadekar (JR), Akiyo Yatagai (AY)

Apologies: None received

1. Update on actions agreed at last call (all)

For context please see previous meeting report.

ACTION: KW to circulate governance group report and solicit input
DONE

ACTION: PT to draw up initial terms of reference and circulate for comment. Aim for agreed version by next call.
IN PROGRESS Initial version circulated. Further discussion later.

ACTION: KW and JL to draw up their drafts of terms of reference for the subgroups after Steering Group Terms of Reference are drafted as these should refer to/be governed.
PENDING

ACTION: BT will ascertain timeline for congress.
Already an item that covers the data issues we are primarily interested in submitted to congress.

ACTION: MdP and GS to take metrologia article forwards.
In progress. Editor is very interested.
ACTION: KW/PT to send relevant documents that have been published / support the effort
DONE

ACTION: RC to reply in affirmative regarding Environmetrics article and lead article development enlisting others as necessary to help.
IN PROGRESS Has replied, drafting still pending.

ACTION: GS to go forwards with putting a session in ITS9.org meeting and enlist relevant convenors and work with them to make this happen.
IN PROGRESS. PT has joined as a convenor.

ACTION: RC will circulate abstract draft for statistics conference talk for comments.
DONE Received feedback. Has been submitted and accepted.

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

ACTION: PT will contact GCOS.
DONE

ACTION: ALL to comment on AOPC report submission to PT by end of Wednesday.
PT will circulate the submission version.
DONE. Blair presented in person at Atmospheric Observations Panel for Climate (AOPC) (see later).

2. Update from working groups (Jay / Kate / Peter)

Peter Stott. Governance group have had comments on document.

i) Where do we seek endorsements and who do we report to?

General agreement that we would seek sponsorship through ISI (International Statistics Institute) environmetrics, BIPM (International office of weights and measures), CCI (commission for climatology).

RC: Environmetrics once ToR is resolved RC can follow up with them with the terms of reference and solicit reactions.

MdP, GS: Hd BIPM visited both NPL and NIST. They are very interested. Report to CCT (Consultative Committee on thermometry)? Joint committee on metrology and climate with WMO with surface temperatures as a pilot? BIPM recognizes the interdisciplinary nature and role that metrology has to play. Very interested in metrologia article draft.

ii) Need an explicit checkpoint? Sunset clause? Does it make it sound like we are not convinced. We need a cyclical checkpoint.

RC: We are seeking endorsement so they don't want it indefinitely, would be useful for a specified period of time. Everyone agreed.

PS: Plan is for another iteration of the document. Agreed end of March target for finalization recognizing short term constraints on PS.

ACTION: PS to circulate proposed final version of governance document for comment by months end.

Databank

Continue to make progress largely as two task teams. Establishing data through stage 0 to 3 for a handful of sites is the current focus. Additional stage 1 sources e.g. Spain. Raises that data we receive but don't hold is an issue.

Data provenance task team is having provenance tracking issue resolution discussions. Tracking flags. Format questions: ASCII or netcdf? Developing a netcdf test file at present that would hold the flags. Will have a call later this month.

Data rescue task team. Stuart Lynn is visiting tomorrow thru Friday and will be investigating crowd sourcing following oldweather.org. Data rescue subteam has been instigated. PT will look to reengage in next week or two. Expand membership. Look at getting collated information on ongoing efforts.

Benchmarking

Had initial teleconference, establish aims and motivations, mode of operations. Lively blog has been set up – linked from main website. Minutes posted. Began to draft manuscript on known error structures. Exploratory discussions. Second telecon due.

Role for metrologists? They have long heritage of software testing expertise that is germane? Possibly. At present the main issue is whether to go purely statistical or based upon GCM (General Circulation Model) output.

Poster at EGU (European Geophysics Union) planned.

3. Discussion of draft Terms of Reference circulated previously

KW: Good start. Do we need to be more direct? Bullets?

MdP: Looks good.

RA: Looks fine thus far.

TP: Reporting who is the target audience? Reporting should be more general than sponsors.

GS: Likes reporting section with web presence needed

XW: Nothing in addition

BT: Should membership include regional representation

AP: Reporting would be helpful to list sponsors and define what being a sponsor actually means. Add deliverables to the reporting bullets

RC: Haven't had time to think deeply. Would be helpful to reduce to bullet points that are measurable for clarity. Need to be careful that we want to return when we get confused ourselves. Need to be explicit and clear.

JR: Nothing in addition

AY: No specific comments. What is the two years clause?

PT: Two year clause forces us to reassess our mode of operation, remit and membership periodically ensuring fit for purpose.

ACTION: PT to redraft based upon feedback and send out by 3/23

ACTION: All to provide comments by 4/13

Propose adoption at next conference call

4. Update on early draft of Implementation Plan

PT outlined draft status. Very early strawman with KW and JL for comment. Will need to iterate. Agreed realistic to send this to all before next call.

ACTION: PT, KW, JL to iterate for 15th April send out to SC.

5. Presence at meeting on metrology of temperature (Greg)

Webpage to go to for all information its9.org. July 15th abstract submission 350-500 words, peer reviewed abstracts and papers. Oral and poster presentations. One or two sessions on surface temperature measurements. March 2012 in Disneyland, CA. 4 to 5 oral talks per session. High end presentations go into oral session. Several hundred posters. Surface temperature measurements focus. Come up with a targeted list of areas that a session can focus upon. Two or three primary areas we want the focus to be upon. Make list and put on website. Advertise its9.org widely. Focus on metrology or statistical analysis? CCT and BIPM will be well represented.

ACTION: All provide Greg with suggestions.

MdP: Meteomet is appropriate to involve? Includes surface air temperature. Is European metrology for climate / weather initiative. MdP will flag with the organizer.

6. Update on interactions with BIPM (Greg / Michael)

MdP: How can we best take this forwards? Write to Michael Khuna (Hd BIPM) and ask who we should answer to?

GS: Will work with MdP to decide how to take forwards.

7. Update on interactions with WMO (Blair)

Congress, the main thing we may be interested in that is up for discussion is leveraging data access. Resolution being put to congress in context of climate services. Data openness. Lobby national delegations?

TP will be at congress

AOPC felt CCI rather than GCOS would be most obvious sponsor. Daily CLIMATS not supported at this stage as monthly CLIMATS are hard enough to get. Annual WWR

(World Weather Records) update was viewed favorably. Not seen as a way to unlock a lot of data though.

ETCCDI (Expert Team on climate change detection and indices) meeting end of February was briefed. Keep lines of communication open.

Data openness on GFCS (Global Framework for Climate Services) might help. What is in it for countries that put in data?

TP: CCI need clarity on what the expectations as a sponsor would be.

8. AOB

Next call agreed for April 20th 9am EDT (13Z).

WCRP (World Climate Research Program) open science meeting: What do we do?
CCI will have a management committee? Poster describing the work could be done.
ACTION: TP, KW, PT will take forwards

RC: Acronym usage is difficulty. People should be clear about what they are talking about. [Note attempt made to spell out acronyms in these notes]

PT: Communication options more generally is an issue we might want to revisit: blog etc.

ACTION: PT create a 1-sider on communication options for discussion in next call.