

Charting New Waters: Exploring the Intersection between Water Infrastructure and Climate Change

April 17-19, 2013

Agenda

The Johnson Foundation (TJF) is initiating a new phase of work for Charting New Waters focused on helping to catalyze the widespread adoption of more sustainable and resilient water infrastructure systems in the United States. As part of this effort, a series of meetings will examine different aspects of how water infrastructure can be re-imagined, redesigned and/or managed differently to generate beneficial environmental, economic and social outcomes. This first meeting in the series will focus on the intersection between urban water infrastructure and climate change. Participants with expertise in drinking water, wastewater treatment and stormwater management will explore ways in which revamped water infrastructure of all kinds can help communities address climate change and its impacts. Promising opportunities to mitigate climate change, address climate adaptation needs and devise integrated response strategies that encompass both mitigation and adaptation will be examined.

Objectives for the meeting include:

- Develop a cohesive picture of key opportunities and needs at the intersection of water infrastructure and climate change;
- Outline pathways to advance implementation of promising mitigation opportunities and catalyze action to address adaptation needs;
- Identify information and data needs to support more in-depth evaluation of emerging opportunities;
- Generate ideas about complementary information and products to package with the report from this meeting; and
- Identify related topics to consider for additional exploration or future convenings.

Day 1: Wednesday, April 17, 2013

- 12:00 p.m.** Buffet luncheon available for those arriving early
*Living Room—
Guest House*
- 3:45 p.m.** Gathering and Orientation to Accommodations
*Living Room—
Guest House*
- 4:00 p.m.** Welcome to The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread
Lynn Broaddus, Director, Environment Programs
The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread
Participant introductions.
- 4:15 p.m.** Review of Agenda and Meeting Framing
Molly Mayo, Facilitator, Meridian Institute
Provide overview of proposed agenda, objectives and desired outcomes, and review framing and parameters for the substance of the discussion.
- 4:30 p.m.** Plenary Discussion: Scoping the Range of Opportunities
Following a round-robin format, each participant will share up to four minutes of thoughts and reflections about the discussion questions shared in advance of the meeting:
- *How can our water infrastructure across the nation be revamped to help mitigate climate change via reduced energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and/or renewable energy generation?*
 - *How do you think water infrastructure can be designed, constructed (or rebuilt) and managed to help communities adapt to the emerging and future impacts of climate change?*
 - *Which opportunities or strategies encompass both mitigation and adaptation? Group discussion about the knowledge or expertise gaps among the group.*
- Desired Outcome: Generate list of opportunities and needs for further discussion.
- 5:45 p.m.** Day 1 Wrap-Up and Preview of Day 2 Agenda
- 6:00 p.m.** Hospitality
Wingspread

6:30 p.m.

Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Remarks

John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, WI on local water infrastructure initiatives and national-scale engagement on relevant policy making. Followed by group discussion.

8:30 p.m.

***Living Room—
Guest House***

Evening Hospitality

Day 2: Thursday, April 18, 2013

Breakfast will be available from 6:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. in the Living Room of the Guest House.

8:30 a.m.

***Living Room –
The House***

Welcome, Agenda Review and Reflections on Day 1

Review outcomes from Day 1 to build upon in Day 2 discussions.

8:40 a.m.

Plenary Discussion: Mitigation Opportunities

Develop and narrow a list of mitigation opportunities that seem most promising in terms of potential to reduce the energy or greenhouse gas footprint of water infrastructure and/or generate renewable energy and have potential for widespread implementation/adoption.

Desired Outcome: Identify subset of 3-4 promising mitigation opportunities to explore in-depth in small group sessions.

9:40 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.

Plenary Discussion: Adaptation Needs and Opportunities

Develop and narrow a list of adaptation needs and opportunities that seem most promising in terms of recovering from recent crises and increasing resilience in the face of climate change and have potential for widespread implementation/adoption.

Desired Outcome: Identify subset of 3-4 promising adaptation needs and opportunities to explore in-depth in small group sessions.

11:00 a.m.

Introduce Small Group Sessions

Break into three small groups organized by expertise or interest in drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, respectively. Each group will focus their discussion on priority opportunities and needs pertinent to their area identified during plenary. Groups will address the following questions:

- *Who are the innovators and early adopters of these practices?*
- *What are the building blocks for advancing widespread implementation? What hurdles must be overcome to advance this opportunity/innovation?*
- *What policy changes are necessary to achieve or replicate success?*
- *Who are the key decision makers that must be influenced or involved? At what scale? At what point in the pertinent decision making process?*
- *What are the unresolved questions or data needs that would allow better evaluation of certain opportunities?*
- *Are there additional needs or opportunities to consider?*

Desired Outcome: Outline potential pathways to advance implementation of promising mitigation opportunities or catalyze action to address adaptation needs.

12:00 p.m.

Wingspread

Luncheon

1:15 p.m.

***Living Room –
The House***

Small Group Sessions Continued

Small groups continue examining their assigned topics.

1:45 p.m.

Small Group Session Highlights and Discussion

Present and discuss outcomes from breakout groups.

3:00 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.

Plenary Discussion: Seeking Synergy and Robust, Co-beneficial Opportunities

This discussion will focus on illuminating intersections between mitigation opportunities and adaptation needs across the different areas of water infrastructure and management. Discussion questions include:

- *Which opportunities are synergistic such that they can bridge mitigation and adaptation, creating “integrated response strategies”?*
- *What are the most compelling “one water,” multiple-benefit opportunities?*

Desired Outcome: Identify novel or newly emerging opportunities or strategies to highlight or examine further through Charting New Waters.

5:00 p.m. Day 2 Wrap-Up and Planning for Day 3 Agenda

5:30 p.m. Leisure

6:30 p.m. Hospitality and Optional Tour of Wingspread
Wingspread

7:00 p.m. Dinner
Wingspread

8:30 p.m. Evening Hospitality
*Living Room—
Guest House*

Day 3: Friday, April 19, 2013

Breakfast will be available from 6:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. in the Living Room of the Guest House.

8:30 a.m. Welcome, Agenda Review and Reflections on Day 2
*Living Room –
The House*

9:00 a.m. Plenary Discussion
Focus on framing and packaging outcomes – “painting the picture” of what is possible and “charting the course” to the future.

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Plenary Discussion: Building the Case for Action
Group discussion about how to build the case to catalyze action around the promising opportunities discussed. Possible topics for discussion include:

- *Key decision makers and partners for outreach and/or engagement;*
- *Potential CNW products (e.g., op-eds, case studies, site visits, virtual tours, etc.);*
- *Additional participants TJJF could engage; and*
- *Related convening topics TJJF should consider.*

11:30 a.m. Closing Comments
All participants have an opportunity to share closing thoughts and reflections.

12:00 p.m.
*Living Room—
Guest House*

Adjourn to Luncheon

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