

Virtual Workshop Agenda - Climate considerations for DNR-owned Properties in the Scuppernong Basin

Virtual workshop dates

Session 1: September 22, 9am – 12pm CT

Session 2: September 23, 9am – 12pm CT

Workshop purpose & objectives

In a facilitated workshop, participants will use the [Adaptation Workbook](#) structured decision-support process to intentionally integrate climate change considerations into management planning and activities for DNR-owned properties in Kettle Moraine State Forest that lie within the 'Scuppernong Basin,' a geological feature associated with ancient Glacial Lake Scuppernong. This includes some state forest parcels plus two 'embedded' State Natural Areas (SNA) -- [Scuppernong Prairie SNA](#) and [Kettle Moraine Low Prairie SNA](#). This will assist DNR property managers in the near term as they consider how to address climate change in their day-to-day management, as well as the larger state forest master planning process which is slated to begin in 2023. Using this approach, the project team will:

- Outline current baseline conditions at the Scuppernong Basin, including specific cover types, aquatic features, and taxa, and project area goals (either explicitly stated goals in existing plans or currently accepted standards)
- Consider climate change impacts to the Scuppernong Basin, outline climate vulnerabilities, and describe how those vulnerabilities might influence specific cover types, aquatic resources, and taxa, and the ability to meet conservation goals.
- Identify potential adaptation actions to address key climate vulnerabilities while meeting conservation goals and objectives, and review relevant [climate adaptation strategies and approaches](#) (forest, wildlife, non-forested wetland, grasslands, forested watershed, fire-adapted ecosystems).
- Consider challenges and opportunities for managing ecosystems (particularly wetlands) across a large landscape.
- Discuss how to monitor specific adaptation actions to evaluate success over time.
- Provide a platform for future engagement on the topic of climate change and adaptation within the Scuppernong Basin, the entire Kettle Moraine State Forest, and other properties in the Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape.

Facilitators

- **Amy Staffen** (amy.staffen@wisconsin.gov), Wisconsin DNR, Heritage program
- **Danielle Shannon** (dshannon@mtu.edu), **Adrienne Keller** (kellerab@mtu.edu) both of Michigan Technological University, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS), USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub

Note: This two-day workshop integrates methods, tools and resources drawn from the USFS GTR, Swanston et al, 2016. [Adaptation Workbook](#), the [Adaptation Quick Guide](#) and [Adaptation Strategies and Approaches](#).

PRE-Workshop work - Before the workshop, kindly take some time to complete the readings linked below, as a self-study on relevant climate research available for Wisconsin.

Please take ~ 1 hour to review climate impact & vulnerability information developed by WICCI that can inform Scuppernong SNA workshop discussions.

Suggested resources:

1. [**WICCI Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment briefs \(~2 pgs\):**](#) Forest ([upland](#), [lowland](#)), [Wetland](#), [Grasslands](#).
2. [**Pre-recorded video.**](#) We are recording a climate change presentation for the Scuppernong Basin and will email you a link before the workshop. Please set aside ~30 min to view this presentation before the workshop.

***** Optional *****

If you have the time and interest, you can also review detailed assessments for various natural communities [here](#) (find: Southern Sedge Meadow, Emergent Marsh, Calcareous Fen, Shrub-carr, Wet-mesic Prairie, Mesic Prairie, Oak Opening, and Oak Woodland are found in the project area).

Information on climate change and [Fisheries](#), [Wildlife](#), and [Infrastructure](#) are also available; if your interests align with those topics, you may like to review information on those webpages.

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Day 1 (3-hour meeting): September 22, 2022

Pre-work (more information on page 1)

- Please set aside ~1 hour to consider climate change impacts relevant to the project focus (see links in previous section).
- Review Adaptation Workbook process: <https://forestadaptation.org/adaptation-workbook>

8:30 am CT	OPTIONAL opportunity to view climate video	Viewing of climate presentation (sent out initially as pre-work). This will be a time for those that have not viewed the climate presentation to view the video.
9:00 am CT	Welcome, and introductions.	** Workshop kicks off ** Purpose: Review agenda, round robin introductions
9:15 am CT	Step 1: Review and define key characteristics or desired future conditions for each Ecosystem type/topic	Purpose: Summarize key characteristics of the site, clarify information with the group as needed. Guest speakers: Amy Staffen, Anne Korman, Pete Duerkop
9:45 am CT	Step 2: Identify and assess climate change impacts of concern of each Ecosystem type/topic to climate change, assess SNA vulnerability to climate change.	Purpose: Identify climate change impacts of concern and the influence of climate impacts on specific ecosystems/cover types/taxa; evaluate climate risks and vulnerability across the Scuppernong Basin Review purpose of Adaptation Workbook Step 2 Activity and Discussion (30 min) – “What climate change impacts are most important, and may have the greatest influence on the specific characteristics of Scuppernong Basin?” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How susceptible is the Scuppernong Basin to the adverse effects of climate change (including climate variability and extremes)?• What climate impacts present the greatest risks to the project area?• Discuss characteristics of the Scuppernong Basin that may amplify climate effects or buffer and moderate changes.• Evaluate and rank key climate impacts that will influence specific characteristics/taxa on the Scuppernong Basin.• Rate risk of each climate impact on an x/y axis for the entire Basin based on severity and likelihood.• Determine the vulnerability of the Basin’s DNR sites to climate change.
10:45 am CT	BREAK	
11:00 am CT	Step 3: Evaluate challenges and opportunities to meeting desired future condition of the project area.	Purpose: Evaluate how climate change will affect meeting conservation goals and objectives on the Scuppernong SNA.
11:50 am CT	Prep for next meeting	Purpose: Review homework prep materials and agenda for next meeting
12:00 pm CT	Adjourn	

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Day 2 (3-hour meeting): September 23, 2022

Pre-workshop work to complete:

- **Complete Day 2 worksheet** to brainstorm existing and new management actions that can be taken to protect and enhance the Scuppernong Basin given climate change vulnerabilities and risks.
- **Browse** the Strategies and Approaches (1pg versions) for topics of relevance (<https://forestadaptation.org/strategies>)
- **Optional:** [View presentation](#) outlining adaptation concepts and options for responding to climate change (~18 min).

9:00 am CT	Welcome and Recap	Purpose: Review agenda, recap previous meeting. Quick discussion with group.
9:15 am CT	Adaptation Concepts overview	Purpose: Define Step 4 terminology and definitions related to adaptation approaches. Presentation: Overview describing key terms and concepts: adaptation, adaptation strategies and approaches.
9:45 am CT	Step 4: Identify adaptation strategies, approaches and tactics.	Purpose: Identify existing management actions, and brainstorm new management actions (or interventions) that can be taken to sustain ecosystems/topics given climate change vulnerabilities and risks. Use Menus of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches to support this thinking. Break out rooms and activities to support brainstorming
10:35 am CT	BREAK	
10:50 am CT	Step 5: Monitor the effectiveness of implemented actions.	Purpose: Identify potential monitoring items that can be monitored to measure success of adaptation actions Discussion and activity: Brainstorm potential monitoring items that can be used to understand if an adaptation actions/intervention is necessary. Monitoring items can also be used to measure the effectiveness of actions/interventions.
11:50 am CT	Next steps: Identify near term opportunities	Purpose: Explore and define next steps
12:00 pm CT	Adjourn	

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