

DOE Award Number DE-SC0006012

Recipient: NCAR

Project Title: The Interface between Earth System Models and Impacts on Society

Name of principal investigator: Jim Hurrell

Executive Summary:

This proposal funded planning activities to determine the readiness for a new working group on societal dimensions for the Community Earth System Model (CESM) project. This is in recognition of the potential that Earth System Models have to play a central role in the provision of information to support decision-making in the context of climate prediction and future climate change.

With support from this award, a workshop was held at NCAR in May, 2011 on the Societal Dimensions of Earth System Modeling. Funding provided under this award covered participant travel to this workshop. A resulting white paper (http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/working_groups/Societal/white.paper.pdf) identified substantive connections between Earth System Models (ESM) and various societal issues with a particular focus on ESM linkages to Integrated Assessment Modeling and Water-Climate issues. It also provided recommendations on how to establish and pursue projects related to IAMs and Water Management issues. Based on the outcomes from this meeting, the workshop organizing committee requested that the CESM Scientific Steering Committee establish a new CESM Societal Dimensions Working Group. Following this recommendation, the CESM Scientific Steering Committee established the Societal Dimensions Working Group (SDWG) in August, 2011. The first meeting of the SDWG occurred in February, 2012 (and included joint sessions with the Land Model, Biogeochemistry, and Chemistry-Climate Working Groups). Funds from this award covered some participant travel to this inaugural meeting.

The establishment of the SDWG is a direct outcome of the planning activities that resulted from this award. The new SDWG is a promising development that will provide new opportunities for extending applications of the CESM and allow enhanced interactions and collaborations in the realm of societal dimensions.