

Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate

Spring 2026 Meeting – Open Session

1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

MONDAY, 1 JUNE 2026 | All Times ET

From Forecast to Action: Closing the Gap in Extreme Event Response

1:00 PM **Welcome and Introduction to the Session**

April Melvin, Earth Systems and Resources, The National Academies

Brad Colman, Chair, Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate

Bernadette Woods Placky, Moderator and Member, Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate

1:15 PM **Speaker Introductory Remarks**

Amanda Savitt, Argonne National Laboratory

Kim Klockow McClain, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, supporting National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Nick Bassill, New York State Weather Risk Communication Center

Ted Buehner, Chair, Washington State Emergency Communications Committee

1:40 PM **Moderated Panel Discussion**

2:30 PM **Audience Questions**

2:50 PM **Final Thoughts from Speakers**

3:00 PM **Adjourn**

Speaker and Moderator Bios

Brad Colman: Brad R. Colman served as Director of Weather Strategy for Bayer/The Climate Corporation (retired 2022) where he oversaw and guided the design and execution of the Bayer global enterprise weather programs. Most recently, Colman served as President of the American Meteorological Society (AMS; 2023). Before joining Bayer/Climate, Colman worked on a new Microsoft consumer weather service team to consolidate and serve weather information across the entire Microsoft ecosystem. Previously, Colman had a diverse career with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) where he worked at The National Weather Service's forecast office in Seattle, Washington; NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratory; and was the Acting Director of NOAA's Meteorological Development Laboratory in Silver Spring, Maryland. Colman is a member and Fellow of the AMS, a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences, co-chair of NOAA's Science Advisory Board's Environmental Information Services Working Group. and a member of NOAA's Science Advisory Board. Colman received a B.S. in Earth sciences and mathematics from Montana State University and an Sc.D. in atmospheric sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He currently serves on the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Macroeconomics and Climate Change and the workshop planning Committee on Advancing Risk Communication with Decision-Makers for Extreme Tropical Cyclones.

Bernadette Woods Placky is a meteorologist, climate science communicator, and network builder with more than 25 years of experience translating complex science into stories that move people and institutions to act. She is a leading expert on the connections between weather and climate change. Most recently, Bernadette served as Vice President of Engagement and Chief Meteorologist at Climate Central where she built and led Climate Matters, an innovative climate journalism and communication program. Through convenings, data analysis, content creation, and sustained engagement, she grew and supported a network of more than 3,000 meteorologists and media professionals across the United States and internationally. Bernadette also cultivated partnerships across media organizations, nonprofits, academic institutions, government agencies, businesses, and more, while representing Climate Central at major global platforms including United Nations Climate Conferences, Aspen Ideas: Climate, and Climate Week in New York City. Before Climate Central, Bernadette spent more than a decade as a TV meteorologist, earning an Emmy for Best Weathercaster. She is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, earned the Certified Broadcast Meteorologist seal, and was elected to its Council. She serves on the National Academies Board on Atmospheric Science and Climate, as an advisor for C-Change Conversations, the Watershed Institute's Advisory Board, and on the Princeton Wrestling Club Board. Bernadette graduated from Penn State University with a BS in Meteorology and a minor in French.

Amanda Savitt is an emergency management analyst at Argonne National Laboratory. She has a PhD in emergency management from North Dakota State University. At Argonne, Dr. Savitt conducts research on emergency management practice, and supports FEMA programs, notably including the National Integration Center's When Minutes Matter: Alert and Warning Technical Assistance. Outside of her work with Argonne, Dr. Savitt publishes regularly on topics spanning emergency management audiences and phases, including evacuation decision-making, hazard insurance, and theory development for key concepts.

Kim Klockow McClain is a University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Senior Scientist supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS) as an Innovation and Strategy Advisor. She also works in a part-time detail under the NOAA Administrator to improve the U.S. severe weather warning system. Prior to this, Kim worked with the National Weather Service (NWS) as the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Coordinator for Social Science Applications. In this role, Kim provided social scientific support within and across the National Centers, especially to improve the communication of forecast uncertainty and decision support services. Prior to joining NWS, Kim developed and led the Behavioral Insights Unit at the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL), where she and her team conducted a number of evaluations of warning system performance in tornado outbreaks as well as experiments with new technologies in the Hazardous Weather Testbed. Prior to her time at NSSL, she founded the Weather Program Office Social Science Program, and she spent a year as a Congressional Science Fellow in the U.S. Senate. Kim's research background involves behavioral science applied to weather and climate risk, especially in the communication of forecast uncertainty and design of weather warning systems. She holds a PhD in Human/Hazards Geography from the University of Oklahoma, a Master's degree in Professional Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics (with honors) and Synoptic Meteorology from Purdue University.

Nick Bassill is the director of the New York State Weather Risk Communication Center (NYSWRCC). Nick is an atmospheric scientist with a background in numerical weather prediction, forecasting, data science/analysis, data visualization and a desire to apply those skills to emergency management and other public-sector uses of weather. His current position requires a significant amount of public outreach to organizations such as state agencies, utilities, educational entities, and others to engage them on how weather affects their operations and their stakeholders. In 2014, he joined the NYS Mesonet before they began deploying a \$30M weather observing network. Afterward, Nick moved to the UAlbany Center of Excellence, where he conducted a series of research and product development projects with area utilities. Nick pushed for the creation of the publicly funded NYSWRCC. This Center was successfully created in 2023, and Nick currently serves as the director while continuing his role at the Center of Excellence.

Ted Buehner is a meteorologist, spending 41 years at the National Weather Service (NWS) before retiring in 2018. More than 23 years of this time was spent as the NWS Seattle Warning Coordination Meteorologist. Now retired, Ted continues to help protect local communities through a variety of roles. He is Chair of the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee, past Chair of the Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference Committee, an instructor with the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, and a volunteer with Emergency Management Group – Washington as their staff meteorologist supporting Special Olympics, Seafair, and other major outdoor events. Ted also works with the two Snohomish County, Washington radio stations doing traffic and weather, sports reporting, and producing weather minute Podcasts and news stories on everettpost.com. He has also joined KIRO-FM as their staff meteorologist, traffic reporter, and writes weather stories on mynorthwest.com. He is a licensed amateur radio operator with the Snohomish County Auxiliary Communications Service and Department of Emergency Management, and also volunteers with the American Red Cross. Ted has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Atmospheric Sciences from Oregon State University. Go Beavs! @tornadoted6