- The final five committee members are being drawn from within the SCIPP 6-state region and will likely include several members involved in local and community level decision making processes. Each SCIPP state will have at least one representative (and no more than 2 per state) thus establishing a majority influence from within the region.

- The committee provides their review and evaluation of the program through an annual 1-day committee meeting held within the SCIPP region, with a different state hosting the meeting each year. Plans are being developed for the Year 1 meeting which will be held in Norman, Oklahoma at the National Weather Center on June 19, 2009. Several agenda items for the June 2009 meeting include the selection of SCIPP pilot communities, review of the regional hazard awareness survey, review of Year 1 activities, and recommendations for any unfilled committee positions.

D. Applied Research

The following applied research projects are underway by members of the SCIPP team:

- **A Climatology of Protracted Periods of No Rain in Louisiana** (Roberts, Keim)

  This project is centered on an analysis of dry day frequencies across Louisiana, with the goal of informing decision-makers regarding the spatial and temporal patterns of drought events in the state. Twenty-nine stations have been selected for an analysis that covers the period 1931-2008. Included among the specific objectives are: the identification of the average length of time between rain events; an analysis of trends in the average length of consecutive dry days over time; and the production of return periods of 15-, 20-, 25-, and 30-day dry periods at each station.

- **A Quantitative Description of the Urban Heat Island in Oklahoma City** (Schroeder, Crawford, Shafer)

  The primary research thrust of this project is to examine the magnitude and circumstances under which strong urban heat islands develop and dissipate in Oklahoma City, OK using data from the newly established Oklahoma City Micronet (OKCnet) during the warm seasons of 2008 and 2009. Research during year 1 has centered on quantifying past temperature trends near Oklahoma City utilizing COOP data for a 54-year period. Future work focuses on utilizing the higher resolution OKCnet data to further investigate the urban heat island effect at finer spatial and temporal scales.

- **Calculating Storm Surge Return Periods Along the Gulf of Mexico** (Needham, Keim)

  During the past year, significant storm surge-level database development was undertaken in support of this project. Datasets obtained and processed include annual high-water data for 54 USGS coastal water gages and 14 NOAA tide gages. All water gages are located along the Gulf of Mexico and consist of at least 30 years of annual data. Initial analysis of the database has identified 80 Gulf of Mexico storm surges of at least 4 feet from the