

**North Slope Science Initiative
Oversight Group Meeting Notes
October 9, 2015**

Oversight Group Members

Taquilik Hepa, NSB-DWM	Jim Kendall, BOEM	Bert Frost, NPS
Cynthia Jacobson, USFWS	Marlo Draper, BLM	Ed Fogels, ADNR
Mark Fesmire, BSEE	John Kurland, NMFS (phone)	David Rogers, ADF&G (phone)
Carl Markon, USGS (phone)	Amy Holman, NOAA (phone)	Jamie Robinson, USCG (phone)

NSSI Staff

John Payne, Director	Dennis Lassuy, Deputy Director	Maureen Clark, Public Affairs
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Chair Taquilik Hepa welcomed participants. Participants introduced themselves.

Discussion of selection of a vice chair: This position rotates annually between federal and non-federal members and the vice chair then moves up to become Chair the following year. Margo Draper volunteered BLM to take on the vice chairmanship for the coming year, and thus Chair the following year.

Discussion of 2015 NSSI Report to Congress: Denny Lassuy noted that, at the request of the OG, much of the annual report to Congress is focused on the status of science on the emerging issues and progress made toward recommendations. OG members were asked to have their agency provide edits and comments on the report by Oct. 23. John Payne noted that Michael Johnson with the DOI office in Alaska has agreed to shepherd the report through the review process to the Secretary's office. It should be signed by the Secretary in early January and can be distributed during Hill visits in March. Jim Kendall suggested the addition of the Arctic Council logo on the front of the document but no decision was made pending OG comments on the report and clarification of whether there were any State Department concerns with the use of the Arctic Council logo for this purpose.

Discussion of status of Science Technical Advisory Panel appointments: John Payne talked about the difficulty of getting STAP appointments approved in a timely fashion. Current appointments are apparently stuck in the White House liaison's office. We cannot hold STAP meetings without a quorum and we need the STAP for the final scenarios workshop because it is this final workshop that translates the scenarios into the science needs that North Slope resource managers may need to make future decisions under these scenarios. Taquilik asked how the OG can help. John said he and Denny would draft a letter for her signature to expedite the process. Others noted their various points of contact in DC that may be able to help move the process along and volunteered to follow up. There was a discussion of the importance of moving ahead with the final scenario workshop and the possibility of holding the final scenarios workshop with or without the STAP. Mark Fesmire noted that STAP appointment terms are staggered, so this will remain an important issue when the next batch of appointments runs out. Remaining STAP appointees expire in June 2017.

Discussion of Model Arctic Council: Denny suggested that budget cuts at UAF may have affected the university's ability to support this effort. An exercise is still planned but it will focus on college students, and with a reduced slate of activities from what was originally envisioned. Denny stated his opinion that it's important to have North Slope students be among the participants. He has been in contact with the North Slope Borough School District and Ilisagvik College. Taquilik suggested getting in touch with Rural Student Services at UAF, which frequently connects rural students to similar programs. Denny agreed to follow up with this suggestion.

Meeting breaks at 9:45 a.m. prior to start of Executive Session.

Agenda
North Slope Science Initiative, Oversight Group Meeting
Friday, October 9, 2015 8:30 – 11:30 am
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, #1260-Director's Conference Room
Anchorage, Alaska

Dial In Number: 1-866-566-6183 Passcode: 3067503#

8:30 am	Welcome and Introductions	Taqlik Hepa, Chair
8:45 am	Agreement on Vice Chair/Chair Elect (Federal)	Oversight Group
9:00 am	Presentation/Discussion of 2015 NSSI Report to Congress	Denny Lassuy
9:45 am	Break	
10:00 am	Status of Science Technical Advisory Panel Appointments	John Payne
10:15 am	Model Arctic Council	Denny Lassuy
10:30 am	Executive Session*	Oversight Group

*Executive Session only for Oversight Group members and Executive Director