

**North Slope Science Initiative  
Science Technical Advisory Panel & Senior Staff Committee  
March 20-21, 2107  
International Arctic Research Center  
MEETING NOTES**

**ATTENDEES**

**STAP Members**

Robyn Angliss, Chair  
Robert Meyer, Vice Chair  
Bob Bolton  
Linda Brewer  
David Cairns  
Lorene Lynn  
Robert Shuchman  
Robert Suydam  
Sheyna Wisdom  
Scott Pegau  
Gerry McBeath – Call In

**Senior Staff Committee**

Sue Rodman, ADF&G  
Brian Person, NSB  
Heather Cowley, BOEM  
Lois Dalle-Molle, NPS  
Gordon Brower, NSB Planning  
Wendy Loya, Arctic LLC/FWS  
Matthew Whitman, BLM

**NSSI Staff**

Sara Longan – Executive Director  
Mark Miller – Deputy Director  
Scott Guyer – Outgoing/Acting Deputy Director  
John Payne – Advisor  
Jess Grunblatt – Data Manager  
Lisa Gleason – Communications

**Oversight Group**

Bud Cribley, BLM  
Mark Fesmire, BSEE  
Cheryl Rosa, USARC  
Mark Fesmire, BSEE  
Scott Marsteller, DOE-NETL  
Dee Williams, USGS  
Sharon Warren, BOEM (for James Kendall)  
Greg Dudgeon, NPS (for Bert Frost)  
Kaja Brix, NOAA  
David Rogers ADFG  
Ed Fogels DNR

**Guests/Public**

Megan Godfrey, UAF  
Sorine Seeley, UAF

**Monday, March 20, 2017**

**08:30 – 09:00 AM**

**NSSI Advisor Payne** opened the meeting with introductions of new staff members and introductions of all STAP, SSC and Oversight Group members present. There are six STAP member appointments expiring on 16 April 2017. Key takeaway noted was the need to complete the Federal Register Notice process for nominations, appointments and reappointments so that STAP can function at full capacity with minimum disruption and a full quorum.

**09:00 – 09:30 AM**

**NSSI Advisor Payne** continued the meeting with a presentation on the value of the NSSI.

**SSC Member Brower** noted that the value to one agency might not have value to North Slope Borough.

**NSSI Advisor Payne** noted that there are places that one agency may benefit another agency.

**STAP Chair Angliss** requested further information on the High Priority Recommendations slide.

- Ecosystem-based habitat status and trend monitoring basic approach:
  - Terrestrial Components: BLM to review agreement with ANHP to see if there is opportunity for expanding the work to include an inventory and synthesis of current monitoring activities. Senior staff and STAP would then review the synthesis to provide additional recommendations on moving forward
  - Marine Components: BOEM, NOAA, NSB and Interagency Working Group have a good background for doing the work for the marine component. The senior staff and STAP would review the synthesis and provide additional recommendations on moving forward
  - The Oversight Group needs to provide additional guidance with the basic approach including recommending an approach to funding
- Document Traditional Knowledge – Problem Statement
  - Need a review of current TK work and experience including where using TK led to successful outcomes and where TK included but not successful, or was not of use to the project
  - Recognize there are times when western science and TK are not possible to integrate
  - Reference protocol for working with TK has proven elusive
  - All federal agencies are mandated to include TK in their projects, but no guidelines currently exist

**SSC Member Loya, NSSI Outgoing/Acting Deputy Director Guyer and NSSI Data Manager Grunblatt** discussed the hiring process for the University of Alaska (UAA) post doctorate position that is funded with BLM Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) dollars through an assistance agreement between BLM and UAA / Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS). Key outcome:

NSSI Deputy Director Mark Miller will obtain the scope of work associated with this position, discuss with Scott Guyer and UAA / ACCS staff, and provide recommendations concerning potential role for STAP.

**NSSI Executive Director Longan** offered that more coordination should continue to go through STAP Chair Angliss to help ensure transparency and coordination are achieved with the post-doctorate hiring.

**STAP Member Suydam and NSSI Outgoing/Acting Deputy Director Guyer** discussed the documentation of traditional knowledge and science in decision-making.

**NSSI Executive Director Longan** offered that collaboration must come from the local source first and then shared. Traditional knowledge (TK) should be part of the primary foundation of NSSI's core mission and objectives. Tools for activities tracking already exist with the NSSI (although there are areas for improvement and growth). Long term monitoring is a critical need to understand Arctic ecosystems over-time. TK can be a very informational contribution to long-term monitoring needs and outcomes. It is important for the STAP to advise the Oversight Group on how the NSSI can enhance current TK integration and long-term monitoring efforts.

## **10:00 – 10:45 AM**

**NSSI Data Manager Grunblatt** presented an overview of the GINA Catalog. Key points presented were:

- While it is difficult to quantify the number of total users, using Google Analytics we can see that we get 500-700 new hits per month
- The Scenarios project is a TOP download
- Interest in oil exploration is generating 1300 downloads per month
- Highly technical data is a big download
- Most data are not maintained in house, but instead we leverage existing content elsewhere
- Continued development is planned to improve visualization throughout the site, improve search and expand communication potential
- Recommendation was made for a system be set up to find out whether the hits are successful

## **11:00 – 11:45 AM**

**STAP Member Lynn** presented on a summary of the document that the STAP/SSC developed which listed communication priorities and issues for consideration by the OG. The status of the communications document is draft and not yet ready for review by the Oversight Group. **NSSI Communications Gleason** asked to prepare a short brief for the following day on the future of NSSI Communications. Key points presented and discussed were:

- Sub-committee members are:
  - Robyn Angliss
  - Lorene Lynn
  - Scott Pegau
  - Jess Grunblatt
  - Bob Bolton
- Mechanisms for communicating to our audience as well as techniques for our audience to communicate with us.
- Status on use of the term “climate change” in our communications
- Defining types of audience-based message content and types of delivery systems
- Impact of communications (especially to local residents impacted by work being performed).

## **12:00 – 01:00 PM**

**Break for Lunch**

## **01:00 – 01:30 PM**

**NSSI Advisor Payne** presented on the topic of Clarification of Roles for the NSSI. Overarching takeaway on this topic was the role of the Oversight Group to set the direction and develop a clear vision for the NSSI.

## **01:30 – 03:29 PM**

**Group Dialog** held to discuss the next steps for the STAP. Key discussion points were:

- Identification of products relevant to the North Slope residents
- Possible Barrow Workshop 2.0 (last workshop was 6 years ago)
- Aircraft disturbances and their causes
  - **ACTION ITEM** - Develop a statement with regard to Aircraft Operations. The STAP will request permission to engage in the working on the problem from the Oversight Group. Recommendation of a STAP ½ day meeting followed up with an onsite interactive meeting in Barrow. Subcommittee recommended include **STAP Chair Angliss, STAP Members Suydam and Wisdom, SSC Member Brower, NSSI Staff Guyer and Grunblatt.**

There was discussion about the role of the NSSI on the North Slope. **SSC Member Brower** stated that the NSB has some specific needs that the NSSI might help to address:

- Residents would like to have fewer meetings. Use resources like a community calendar to coordinate meetings with each community.
- Consider AEWC concerns about areas that should be protected from human use.
- More coordination among groups doing research: for example there are 10 entities conducting caribou studies and surveys. Are these being coordinated?
- Provide a way for industry or the communities to find studies that have already been done that relate to their projects so that fewer industry studies have to be done.

### **03:30 PM - PUBLIC COMMENT TIME BEGINS**

**Note:** No members of the public present in person or on teleconference line. During public comment period, group dialog continued while teleconference line was held open for potential callers.

**STAP Member McBeath** recommended including visual information for people calling into the meetings. Without meeting materials, the discussion can be difficult to follow. Additionally, the March 21 agenda has no reference to academic institutions in state of Alaska. Is this because academic research is reported through funded agencies? With two paths for academic research, funded and non-funded, it appears there is not a method for capturing the non-funded research that pertains to the North Slope. Finally, there seems to be an absence of unifying themes for NSSI's engagement in monitoring of and reporting. Many of the other items discussed were controversial and divisive. Better coordination might improve the common purpose.

**STAP Member Robert Suydam** offered that over the last few months, folks in North Slope Borough (NSB) have talked about NSSI. Their primary question has been "What's in it for the NSB?" For a long time the NSB has been an avid supporter of the NSSI, financially and politically. The reason the NSB has been supportive is that it sees potential in the NSSI. There is no other venue crosses so many agencies and boundaries. However, there are concerns that the NSSI has not been relevant to the NSB residents. Why should the NSB continue to invest time and money? The NSB is hopeful as the NSSI moves forward that it can move in a direction that can address the concerns and issues of the residents. The NSB hopes to see the NSSI participate in more unified science and provide agencies with enhanced abilities for making decisions. The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) is in a similar position and there is a recommendation for further discussion with them. HOW can ASRC contribute to NSSI successes? Ultimately, the NSB should stay involved with the NSSI and though it is not a forgone conclusion; he believes they will.

**STAP Member Robert Shuchman** shared his concerns about the expiration of many of the STAP members' terms and worried about much business "grinding to a halt" as a result. Additionally, he

offered that the NSSI could coordinate the independent energy companies who may be much more willing to work collaboratively. He suggested that some STAP members might volunteer or attend meetings remotely or as invited subject matter experts during the lengthy period of time required for recruiting and appointing new members.

**STAP Member Robert Meyer** indicated that most of Mr. Suydam's concerns mesh well with the scenarios being presented to the Oversight Group.

#### **04:00 PM – PUBLIC COMMENT ENDS**

**STAP Chair Angliss** spoke on the BLM progress made on the terrestrial component and marine component.

#### **04:53 PM**

#### **Day One Adjourns**

#### **Tuesday, March 21, 2017**

#### **08:45 AM – 09:00 AM**

**NSSI Data Manager Grunblatt** presented on Project Tracking. Recommendations were made to include data on the web to include aircraft information, permit requirements and other relevant documents. A subcommittee is required to compile the necessary information and warnings.

#### **09:10 AM – 09:30 AM**

**NSSI Communications Gleason** presented on the future of NSSI Communications. Recommendations made:

- Maintain existing statements (Scope/Mission/Vision)
- Expand on:
  - Who is the NSSI?
  - What does the NSSI do?
  - Why does the NSSI do what they do?
- Develop more robust audiences

A communications plan will be drafted and sent to the Sub Committee before June meeting. Subcommittee members include Lorene Lynn / Scott Pegau / Mark Miller / Jim Hemsath / Linda Brewer / Robyn Angliss.

#### **09:30 AM – 10:40 AM**

**STAP Chair Angliss** briefed the recommendations from the Scenarios Project. Significant feedback was provided for edits to be to the summary report. The group discussed the need to clarify possible next steps for reviewing and/or implementing outcomes from the scenarios projects.

**STAP Member Meyer** reminded the group of the core objective to understand science needs for infrastructure planning development and suggested that outcomes from the scenarios planning and future implementation phases of those outcomes could greatly inform those efforts.

**10:40 AM – 11:45 AM**

### **Senior Staff Committee Individual Presentations**

Early each calendar year, NSSI member agencies present short summaries of the planned field projects for the upcoming year. This exchange of information between agencies provides a few key benefits:

- Federal, state, and local agency staff gain an improved understanding of projects occurring on the North Slope
- Researchers may see new project piggyback or collaborative opportunities
- Information provides the basis for updates to the GINA online system.

Senior staff from the agencies listed below provided presentations; these are posted on the NorthSlope.org website at:

USFWS – Wendy Loya / USFWS Projects  
USGS – Grant Hildebrand / USGS Projects  
BOEM – Heather Crowley / BOEM Projects  
BLM – Matthew Whitman / BLM Projects  
NPS – Lois Dalle-Molle / NPS Projects  
NOAA Fisheries – Ron Heintz / NOAA Fisheries Projects  
North Slope Borough – Brian Person / NSB Department of Wildlife Management 2017 Projects

**11:45 AM – 12:00 PM**

**STAP Chair Angliss** provided a summary of the topics to send forward to the Oversight Group and the STAP concurred. Additionally, it was agreed that expiring members' expertise areas should be retained through the Federal Register formal nomination process, and that additional expertise in industry and subsistence harvest would be helpful. **STAP Member Pegau** was nominated to the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Co-Chair. The nomination was seconded by **STAP Member Shuchman** and was passed. The next meeting is slated for June 2017 in Deadhorse, AK.

Topics for the next STAP/SSC meeting include:

- Revisiting the Barrow Workshop and identification of products that would be relevant to the North Slope community
- Initial work on new priorities identified by the OG

**12:00 PM**

**Day Two Adjourns**