

**North Slope Science Initiative**  
**Science Technical Advisory Panel and Senior Staff Committee Meeting**  
**University of Alaska Fairbanks – Butrovich Building, Room 109 a-b**  
**June 12-13, 2014**

**MEETING NOTES**

The **Meeting Agenda** as well as **Assignments and Recommendations** are appended to these meeting notes.

After review and approval of the agenda and introductions, NSSI Executive Director John Payne gave an overview of the history and function of NSSI and explained the role of the Science Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), the Senior Staff Committee, and the Oversight Group for new members of the panel. He also discussed his recent attendance at a meeting of a research panel associated with the National Petroleum Council and its relevance to NSSI. He provided an update on the upcoming Canada-United States Northern Oil and Gas Forum, to be held Nov 4-6, 2014 in Yellowknife, Canada. Jess Grunblatt provided a brief presentation on the North Slope Science Catalog. There are currently over 4,000 records in Catalog, including roughly 200 long-term monitoring projects.

Olivia Lee provided an update on the Scenarios Project, including an overview of the scenarios process, background on the NSSI Scenario Project, project components and a timeline. She provided updates on identifying the drivers of change and the development of background materials and fact sheets. She also discussed opportunities for STAP contributions. STAP members were asked to identify potential resources for background materials and to recommend expert reviewers and participants for upcoming project workshops.

Bill Streever provided information on the June 11 workshop organized by the Wildlife Conservation Society and BP on long-term monitoring on the North Slope. He shared a booklet BP has produced for the past 10 years that provides data summaries, written in layman's language, on long-term monitoring projects. Several STAP members complimented the booklet as an excellent example of how to report back to communities on the science being done on the North Slope. BP is apparently likely to cease production of the book and Streever suggested that NSSI or other entities may want to take on the project in some form.

John Payne led a discussion on progress towards addressing recommendations made in the Emerging Issues Summaries. He noted that the Oversight Group has asked about the extent to which they are still valid; whether they should be systematically updated; and whether there are some issues that weren't considered in the past that may be appropriate to include next time around. STAP members generally agreed with the need to revisit the summaries in the light of the Scenarios findings and that an important first step would be revisiting the management questions that drove the individual summaries. It was also noted that some of the summaries varied in some aspects of their format and it was suggested that if/when they

are redone, inclusion of the management questions would be useful even if it had not been possible to directly address them in the summary. Several STAP members agreed to review the summaries and provide feedback by Sept. 1 on any projects they are aware of that have contributed to addressing concerns raised in the summaries' recommendations (see Assignments and Recommendations Appendix).

The meeting was open to public comment at 3 PM, however no public comments were offered.

Serena Sweet, BLM Planning Supervisor, gave a presentation on the new Department of the Interior Mitigation Policy and how it could be applied on the North Slope. The new policy gives BLM a new framework for the mitigation that will be required on projects. The agency will be taking a landscape approach to mitigation, rather than project by project. In addition, it will require early integration of mitigation in project planning. She said BLM is looking at a broader range of resources and resource objectives and expanding the scope of compensatory mitigation.

Robyn Angliss gave a presentation on the NOAA Arctic Action Plan and included a brief overview of the structure of NOAA. NOAA provides science, service and stewardship in the Arctic through a broad range of activities. NOAA's national strategy for the Arctic Region is to advance U.S. security interests, pursue responsible Arctic region stewardship and strengthen international cooperation. Strategic goals in the Arctic include forecasting sea ice conditions; improving weather and water forecasts and warnings; strengthening foundational science to detect climate and ecosystem changes; improving management of ocean and coastal resources; advancing resilient Arctic communities and economies; and enhancing international and national partnerships.

Carl Markon of USGS gave a presentation via teleconference on the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure. The Arctic SDI is an initiative among ten National Mapping Agencies from Canada, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States. The project seeks to establish technical collaboration among mapping agencies so that geographic data can be used for analysis and monitoring of environmental and climate change across the Arctic.

Scott Pegau and John Payne led a discussion on NSSI communications. STAP members were in general agreement that they would like to see the development of a communications plan for the NSSI that identifies audiences and approaches to deliver information; resumption of a newsletter, perhaps on a quarterly basis; and the development of a document that provides guidelines for scientists working in the Arctic.

Denny Lassuy wrapped up the meeting lauding the strong attendance and participation by the new appointees, commending all for the good discussions, and asking about setting future meeting times. STAP members expressed a desire that to the extent possible meetings be scheduled three months in advance and that more focus be put on participative action items and fewer informational presentations at upcoming meetings.

**AGENDA**  
**North Slope Science Initiative**  
**Science Technical Advisory Panel & Senior Staff Committee**  
**University of Alaska Fairbanks**  
**Butrovich Building, Room 109 a-b (910 Yukon Drive)**

**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

9AM-5:30PM            WCS-BP Workshop on Long-term Monitoring (optional, but encouraged)<sup>1</sup>

**Thursday, June 12, 2014**

09:00 – 09:10 AM	Open Meeting, Review/Approve Agenda	Scott Pegau
09:10 – 10:00 AM	Welcome/Introductions (“get to know you” time for new and continuing STAP & SSC members)	Scott Pegau/All
10:00 – 11:00 AM	NSSI Background <sup>2</sup> & Director’s Report	John Payne
11:00 – 11:15 AM	Break	
11:15 – Noon	Scenario Planning (update & STAP/SSC role)	Olivia Lee
Noon – 01:15 PM	Lunch	
01:15 – 01:45 PM	Review of WCS-BP L-T Monitoring Workshop	Bob Shuchman
01:45 – 03:00 PM	Emerging Issue Summaries’ Recommendations (progress in meeting priorities, further input needs)	John Payne
03:00 – 03:15 PM	Public Comment	Open
03:15 – 04:00 PM	DOI Mitigation Policy & the North Slope	Serena Sweet (BLM)
04:00 PM	Adjourn	

**Friday, June 13, 2014**

09:00 – 09:30 AM	NOAA Arctic Action Plan	Robyn Angliss
09:30 – 10:00 AM	Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure	Carl Markon, USGS
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 – 11:30 AM	NSSI Communications	J.Payne/M.Clark
11:30 AM – Noon	Wrap-up, action items, preliminarily set next mtg	Denny Lassuy
Noon	Adjourn	

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<sup>1</sup> See attached summary and draft agenda for WCS-BP Workshop

<sup>2</sup> Background materials to review prior to the STAP-SSC meeting include: the annual NSSI Reports to Congress, which provide information the formation and function of the NSSI as well as updates on NSSI activities (2012 & prior reports posted at: <http://northslope.org/reports>, and DRAFT 2013 report is attached); the STAP-SSC Emerging Issue Summaries (see: <http://northslope.org/issues>); a “connectivities” paper on the commonalities across Emerging Issues published in “Arctic” journal (see: [http://www.northslope.org/media/doc/Streever\\_et\\_al\\_2011.pdf](http://www.northslope.org/media/doc/Streever_et_al_2011.pdf)), and the NSSI Oversight Group Retreat Summary (attached).

## STAP Assignments & Recommendations from June 12-13, 2014 Meeting

- All STAP Members – help identify resources for background materials and expert reviewers for the background summaries on drivers of change for development scenarios
- Review the Emerging Issue Summaries by Sep. 1 to identify actions that have been taken to address summary recommendations; the following STAP members have already volunteered to review specific summaries:
  - Bill Streever – Rehabilitation and Restoration of Disturbed Tundra
  - Robyn Angliss – Weather and Climate; Changing Sea Ice Conditions; Species of Interest: Marine Mammals and Their Prey
  - Robert Meyer & Robyn Angliss – Species of Interest: Fish
  - Elizabeth Hodges Snyder – Contaminants, Social and Economic Dimensions of North Slope Communities
  - Jerry McBeath – Social and Economic Dimensions of North Slope Communities
  - Brian Person – Species of Interest: Caribou
  - Jeffrey Organek – Hydrology and Lake Drying(Carol Fairfield said Dee Williams, BOEM, might offer to review some of the summaries, particularly the Social and Economic Dimensions of North Slope Communities summary)
- NSSI Staff (Maureen Clark)
  - Post *National Strategy for the Arctic Region and Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region* on the NSSI website.
- NSSI Staff, in collaboration with STAP/SSC
  - STAP recommends that NSSI staff start drafting a communication plan that identifies audiences and approaches to deliver information.
  - STAP recommends that the communications plan consider the development of a document describing best practices for researchers interacting with local communities.
  - STAP recommends renewing the NSSI newsletter, possibly on a quarterly basis.
  - STAP recommends that as first step towards eventual revision of the Emerging Issue Summaries, the NSSI staff set aside time for STAP and SSC to meet jointly to assess whether the management questions used to drive the initial Emerging Issue Summaries are still the most relevant for management questions.