

**North Slope Science Initiative
Oversight Group Meeting Notes
June 18, 2014**

Oversight Group

Ed Fogels, ADNR (Chair, outgoing)
Jim Kendall, BOEM (Vice Chair, incoming Chair)
Taqulik Hepa, NSB (incoming Vice-Chair)
Bud Cribley, BLM
Bob Winfree, NPS
Jennifer Kohout, USFWS
Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G
Cheryl Rosa, USARC
Mark Shasby, USGS
Jon Kurland, NOAA (on phone)
Kyle Monkeliën, BSEE (on phone)
Jack Lorrigan, BSEE (on phone)

Visitors

Pat Pourchot, DOI
Olivia Lee, UAF
Ronnie Wilcock, STAP
Heidi Hadley, BLM (on phone)
Gilbert Castellanos, USFWS (on phone)

North Slope Science Initiative

John Payne, Director
Denny Lassuy, Deputy Director
Maureen Clark, Public Affairs Specialist

Introduction, Agenda, Minutes:

NSSI Oversight Group Chair, Ed Fogels opened the meeting with introductions and then passed the gavel to incoming Chair, Jim Kendall. The OG then reviewed the agenda and the minutes from the March 3rd meeting were approved.

Director's Report & Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum Update, John Payne:

John gave a status update on the 2013 NSSI Report to Congress (finally surnamed through BLM, but much delayed this year by the process of going "up the chain" through a single agency, worked more smoothly when handled via the DOI Special Assistant for Alaska's office); discussed the upcoming Canada/U.S. Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum (planning is

proceeding well, forum is slated for Yellowknife, Canada – see: <http://www.nogrf.com>); and noted an invitation from the Northwest Arctic Borough (NWAB) to hold a meeting in Kotzebue.

The NWAB has received \$1.5 million from Shell to form a science initiative and the borough is interested in the structure and functionality of the NSSI as a potential model for their initiative. The effort will be organized under the NWAB's Planning Department, which has not yet defined a scope of work. It's expected to be up and running in six months to one year. It's not clear yet what NSSI's relationship to this body will be, but there are likely to be synergies between the two initiatives.

STAP Meeting Readout, Denny Lassuy (on behalf of STAP Chair, Scott Pegau):

Denny noted the attendance of several of the new STAP appointees at the STAP/SSC meeting, one of whom (Ronnie Wilcock) was in attendance at the OG meeting, and recapped some of the discussions held during the meeting. He also relayed to the OG the following STAP recommendations that emerged from the meeting:

- 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 (after completion of the Scenarios Project), the NSSI staff set aside time for STAP & SSC to meet jointly to assess whether the management questions used to drive the original Emerging Issue Summaries are still the most relevant management questions.

National & International Involvement, John Payne:

John discussed the National Petroleum Council's invitation to him to participate in its "Arctic Research Initiative" to highlight the emerging science issues of concern to NSSI member agencies and our role in arctic science coordination. John and the OG members then also discussed NSSI involvement with the Arctic Council and its Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program. The discussion highlighted the importance of communication in linking such activities to NSSI member concerns that span international borders (e.g., migratory birds and mammals, international sources of pollutants [chemicals, invasive species], ocean currents, and others & the integration of information/data sharing mechanisms relating to such concerns).

NSSI Scenarios Project, Olivia Lee:

Olivia Lee, UAF principal investigator on the North Slope Scenarios Project, gave an update on the status of the project and discussed the development of the background information on the OG-identified drivers that will help inform a broadly participatory Scenarios Formulation Workshop later this fall. OG members were asked for their recommendations for contributors and/or reviewers of the background papers (many names were subsequently compiled and provided to the UAF/GeoAdaptive scenarios team).

Members of the OG went into Executive Session at 4:10 PM.