

**North Slope Science Initiative
Oversight Group Meeting Notes
September 24, 2014**

Oversight Group Members

Jim Kendall, BOEM, Chair
Taquilik Hepa, NSB, Vice Chair
Ed Fogels, ADNR
Bud Cribley, BLM
Bob Winfree, NPS
Durelle Smith, USGS (for Mark Shasby)
Joel Lindstrom, DOE
Jon Kurland, NOAA (phone)
Amy Holman, NOAA

STAP & Senior Staff Committee

Jerry McBeath
Donie Bret-Harte, UAF
Robert Suydam, NSB (phone)
Brian Person, NSB
Linda Brewer (for Ronni Wilcock)
Robyn Angliss, NOAA (phone)
Ron Heintz, NOAA (phone)

Visitors

Olivia Lee, UAF
Maria Vargas, DOE
Heidi Hadley, BLM (phone)
Eric Kasischke, U.Maryland/NASA

North Slope Science Initiative Staff

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

Oversight Group Chair Jim Kendall opened the meeting, invited participants to introduce themselves and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the last meeting. Past-Chair Ed Fogels noted that the minutes should probably reflect that during the previous meeting to note that the chairmanship was turned over from him to Jim Kendall. The minutes were approved pending that change.

John Payne discussed the NSSI Report to Congress, which is normally accompanied by letters of concurrence from the State of Alaska and the North Slope Borough. Ed Fogels suggested that, in the future, the report should focus more on what our shared research priorities are and identify where progress is being made, recognizing that it would take a major reengineering to change the current report. In reviewing the annual report, Taquilik Hepa suggested NSSI may want to focus its reporting

more directly on the North Slope activities (vs. Arctic-wide activities). Jim Kendall urged all OG members to submit their comments on the report to John Payne or Denny Lassuy. John noted that when edits are completed the report will be routed through Pat Pourchot's office for Department of the Interior approval. OG members then discussed the upcoming Week of the Arctic, which is being organized by the Institute of the North (and being held, for the first time, in the Arctic instead of in Anchorage) and the National Petroleum Council, which is responding to a DOE request to analyze energy-based research needs in the Arctic.

Olivia Lee presented the Oversight Group with an update on preparations and project components for the upcoming Scenarios Workshop. Jim Kendall suggests that if Olivia is having difficulty getting agency staff to review fact sheets, let OG members know.

Bud Cribley noted that he attended a public listening session in Anchorage which gathered public input as the U.S. prepares to assume the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. The U.S. Special Representative to the Arctic, USCG Admiral Papp, U.S. Ambassador David Balton, and U.S. Senior Arctic Official Julie Gourley listened as representatives of the State and the public provided their comments and ideas. One item that particularly interested Bud, and seemed to generate considerable interest from Admiral Papp, was a "Model Arctic Council" as a means to enable Arctic youth to understand and prepare to participate in this increasingly important circumpolar forum. (see attached briefing document handed out by Bud at the OG meeting).

Scott Pegau gave the OG an update on the activities of the STAP, including its focus on identifying progress made in addressing the recommendations of the Emerging Issues Summaries and reviewing the fact sheets for the Scenarios project. He also noted that the STAP felt it may be useful for NSSI to consider holding another workshop on the North Slope. It was noted, that given the planning and logistic required and the ongoing workload, this likely would not be possible until at least next fall.

Eric Kasischke of the University of Maryland (currently detailed to NASA) gave a presentation on the Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE) program and the opportunities it will provide for interdisciplinary collaboration. He asked for help from the Oversight Group in reaching out to North Slope communities to seek their input on useful outcomes from the ABOVE project. More information on the ABOVE project can be found at: <http://above.nasa.gov>.

Joel Lindstrom informed the group that he would be leaving for an opportunity in the Lower 48 and said he would make sure there is DOE continuity on the OG.

Various members of the OG discussed the need for better communication among researchers and residents of the North Slope. Taqulik Hepa discussed the need for establishing more effective research protocols that involve residents.

The group discussed the dates for the next meetings of the STAP, SSC and OG and targeted the two weeks between the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in late January and the Forum on the Environment in early February.

Members of the OG adjourned the public meeting at 4 p.m. before going into executive session.

(attachment = Model Arctic Council briefing paper)