

**North Slope Science Initiative
Science Technical Advisory Panel and Senior Staff Committee Meeting
BLM Campbell Creek Science Center
September 23-24, 2014**

MEETING NOTES

The **Meeting Agenda** is appended to these meeting notes.

PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES

STAP Members

Scott Pegau
Dan Reed
Donie Bret-Harte
Michael Macrander
Jerry McBeath
Robyn Angliss
Robert Meyer
Jeffrey Organek
Robert Shears
Elizabeth Hodges-Snyder
Robert Shuchman
Bill Streever
Robert Suydam (phone)

Senior Staff Committee

Brian Person, North Slope Borough
Lois Dalle-Molle, NPS
Sue Rodman, ADF&G
Dave Yokel, BLM

Senior Staff Committee (continued)

Melissa Head, DNR
Ron Heintz, NOAA (phone)
Heather Crowley, BOEM

NSSI

John Payne
Denny Lassuy
Maureen Clark
Jess Grunblatt

Oversight Committee Members

Ed Fogels
Jim Kendall
Amy Holman
Bud Cribley

Public/Visitors

Linda Brewer
Liz O'Connell
Olivia Lee

After review and approval of the agenda and introductions, chair Scott Pegau said the two major tasks for the panel during this meeting would be the review of the Emerging Issues Summaries and review of driver background summaries produced for the scenarios project. Panel members discussed the need to take another look at the Emerging Issues Summaries, determine which topics have been the subject of research or monitoring, and consider what updates may be needed to the summaries.

NSSI Director John Payne updated the panel on the activities of NSSI staff, including preparations for the upcoming scenarios workshop and the 2013-2014 NSSI Report to Congress, which is currently out for review by the Oversight Group. He noted his attendance at a meeting of the National Petroleum Council, including a trip to the Point Thompson development. He invited Science Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) members to a presentation on NASA's Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE)

program at the Oversight Group meeting on Wednesday and noted the ABoVE program presents many opportunities for research collaboration and improving the projects relevance to management concerns.

Ed Fogels addressed the STAP and Senior Staff Committee (SSC), thanking them for their participation. He said he looks to NSSI for help in providing those DNR employees who work on the North Slope with the best available scientific information so that they can make good decisions. He looks to NSSI for help in determining the state's research priorities on the North Slope. He emphasized the state's strong support of NSSI, noting that, while there are many groups and initiatives related to the Arctic, most aren't as effective as NSSI.

Bill Streever provided an update on oil and gas industry activities, including the sale of North Slope assets by BP. He noted there is an increasing presence of smaller producers on the North Slope, many of which can't afford science programs. He said BP and Shell are looking at a consortium approach to continue research and monitoring and he noted there may be a role for NSSI in such an effort.

Scott Pegau led the group in the review of the Emerging Issues Summaries, with Weather and Climate done by the large group, followed by small-group discussion of the other issues. The group referred to a compilation from the NSSI Catalog developed by Jess Grunblatt, which provides information on studies that address the various Emerging Issues. The group chose leads and secondaries for each topic to summarize in bullet form what progress has been made on each of the 16 Emerging Issues. A deadline of December 15 was set to report back to the group. Among the questions the small groups were considering:

- What progress has been made on each recommendation?
- Who else should be contacted for scientific input?
- What data gaps still exist?
- Are the data being used by managers?
- Are the original management questions still the most relevant set to be addressed?

Following the lunch break, Amy Holman and Jim Kendall of the Oversight Group arrived and thanked the STAP and SSC members for their efforts.

Dr. Olivia Lee gave a presentation on the status of the upcoming Scenarios Workshop, which is scheduled for Nov. 18-19 at UAF. She noted that she and others are finalizing background materials that will be used at workshop. The background summaries on the scenario drivers are being reviewed by subject experts, but would benefit from the diverse expertise and management insight of the STAP and SSC. There has been mixed success with the review process because some reviewers have been difficult to reach. Initial invitations have gone out to potential workshop invitees. Invitations are being targeted for those with specific expertise, so there is enough background knowledge of the drivers among the participants. Dr. Lee noted there may be pre-workshop webinars to stimulate discussion and said there would be other opportunities for STAP members to contribute throughout the scenarios process. She also asked STAP and SSC members to let her know of any key points workshop participants should have before them as they begin their work. NSSI Oversight Group Chair Jim Kendall noted that there will be a new exploration and development scenario in a supplemental EIS that BOEM is preparing and this information will be available prior to the workshop.

The STAP and SSC broke up into small groups and continued to address the Emerging Issues Summaries, before adjourning for the afternoon.

Meeting resumed Wednesday A.M. with continued discussion of the Emerging Issues Summaries.

Michael Macrander provided a presentation on the National Petroleum Council's Arctic Research Study. NPC advises the Energy Secretary and Executive Branch by conducting studies at their request. The Arctic Research Study was initiated last December at the request of Sec. Ernest Moniz to address the questions:

- What research should DOE pursue and what technology constraints must be addressed to ensure prudent development in the Arctic?
- What policy should we be taking to the Arctic Council with regard to prudent development of Arctic Resources?

The study is to be completed by March 2015.

NSSI Communications lead Maureen Clark provided an update on NSSI communication efforts. She noted that she is currently focused on social media, primarily Facebook, and fixes to the NSSI website. She hopes to begin production of a twice-yearly electronic newsletter in January.

John Payne will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best date for the next STAP meeting. He is targeting dates in late January to early February 2015, after the Alaska Marine Science Symposium but before the Alaska Forum on the Environment.

The STAP and SSC discussed the possibility of another workshop in Barrow, modeled after the successful 2011 workshop. Brian Person (NSB) noted he thought NSSI is supposed to hold at least one meeting a year on the North Slope. John Payne confirmed this, but suggested the extensive organization and planning required for a full scale workshop would likely mean it won't happen before next fall. Mr. Person suggested that, since the State Department will be having Arctic Council-related meetings in Alaska over the next two years, perhaps some of these meetings could be combined with NSSI meetings and/or such a workshop. The group agreed these options were worth pursuing.

John Payne noted that the call for nominations for new STAP members will be published in the Federal Register in early October. He noted that the White House is asking for justification on all renominations.

Scott Pegau adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

AGENDA

North Slope Science Initiative

Science Technical Advisory Panel & Senior Staff Committee

Campbell Creek Science Center

5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage (see map below)

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

09:00 – 09:20 AM	Open Meeting, Review/Approve Agenda	Scott Pegau
09:20 – 09:40 AM	Director's Report	John Payne
09:40 – Noon	Emerging Issue Actions/Accomps Review (Breakout Groups & Breaks as needed)	Payne/Pegau/All
Noon – 01:15 PM	Lunch	
01:15 – 01:45 PM	Scenario Formulation (Workshop I) Update	Olivia Lee
01:45 – 03:00 PM	Workshop I Background Summaries Review	Lee/Lassuy/All
03:00 – 03:15 PM	Public Comment	Open
03:15 – 04:00 PM	Continue Background Summaries Review	Lee/Lassuy/All
04:00 PM	Adjourn	

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

09:00 – 10:15 AM	Revisit & Wrap up Emerging Issue Actions and Scenario Backgrounders, ID next steps	Pegau/Payne/Lassuy
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 – 11:00 AM	National Petroleum Council	Michael Macrander
11:00 – 11:30 AM	NSSI Communications Update	Maureen Clark
11:30 AM – Noon	Wrap-up, action items, preliminarily set next mtg.	Payne/Pegau/Lassuy
Noon	Adjourn	