

**North Slope Science Initiative
Oversight Group
Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow
January 28, 2015**

MEETING NOTES

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

PARTICIPANTS/ATTENDEES

Oversight Group Members

Jim Kendall, BOEM
Taulik Hepa, NSB
Bud Cribley, BLM
Amy Holman, NOAA
Cheryl Rosa, USARC
Melissa Head, DNR (for Ed Fogels)
Scott Carr, BSEE (for Mark Fesmire)

STAP Members

Dan Reed
Robert Suydam
Bob Shuchman
Bob Meyer
Jeffrey Organek
Robert Shears

Senior Staff Committee

Brian Person, NSB
Dave Yokel, BLM
Philip Martin, USFWS

NSSI

John Payne
Denny Lassuy
Maureen Clark
Jess Grunblatt, NSSI-GINA

Public/Visitors

Harry Brower, NSB
Mike Aamodt
Craig Fleener, State of Alaska
Linda Brewer, ERM
Olivia Lee, UAF

Introductions and Agenda Overview – Vice Chair Taulik Hepa welcomed Oversight Group members, meeting participants and visitors to Barrow. She said NSSI is a great forum for people to work with state and federal agencies on issues that affect them. Chair Jim Kendall mentioned the many recent developments in the arctic, including the Executive Order on Arctic Coordination, and said there is a great need to collaborate in the Arctic.

Review/Approval of October Meeting Minutes - Bud Cribley moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting and Taulik seconds: The motion is approved.

Scenarios Project Update – Olivia Lee provided the Oversight Group with an update on the Scenarios project. Jim Kendall expressed the need to ramp up communication about the project, with an emphasis on those who work in Washington, D.C.

Director's Report -

John Payne provided an update on the 2013-2014 Report to Congress. USGS made some edits and it is soon to be signed and posted on the NSSI website. The NSSI authorizing legislation says it is an annual report to the secretary, not Congress. John sought input from the Oversight Group to determine whether the report should go forward to Congress. Taqulik asked to see the Solicitor's opinion on sending it to Congress. It was determined that the report could be sent to Congress.

STAP nominations close Feb. 2. John discussed the need to assemble a subgroup of the Oversight Group to review applicants.

Denny provided an update on the Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum in Yellowknife. Cheryl Rosa said there had been talk of something more than the summary products to come out of the forum, and wanted to know if there had been any decision. Canada has not yet produced the summary documents. John provided an update on the Arctic Biodiversity Congress. Bud Cribley said there were many good connections made at the congress. Harry Brower expressed a desire to stay informed on the topics that were discussed at the congress, including local biodiversity monitoring efforts. Bud talked about the importance of NSSI's role in serving as a link between North Slope science and international efforts. He noted that if NSSI is to stay relevant at the local level it has to be connected at the national and international level. Robert Suydam said he appreciated that Qaiyaan was able to participate in the congress. Bud expressed the importance of having NSSI play a role as the U.S. prepares to take the chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

John provided an update on his participation with the National Petroleum Council and said a document will soon be completed and presented to the Energy Secretary, but it's not clear if it will be made public. Denny provided an update on the 2015 NSSI calendar.

NSSI Catalog Update – Jess Grunblatt gave an update on the NSSI Catalog, including project tracking and data management and discussed work on the winter water availability database, noting that the number one data need is climate and hydrology data.

LUNCH BREAK

STAP/SSC Readout – Dan Reed discussed progress on the review of the Emerging Issues summaries. He also talked about the drafting of a best practices handbook for researchers who come up to do research on the North Slope and requested the Oversight Group's support for the STAP to proceed with this. Taqulik and other OG members expressed support for the effort.

Dan talked about the need for funding to support the Imiq hydrological database. The STAP recommended that the OG consider if one or more member agencies can provide multi-year funding to support the continuation of this database. Amy Holman asked where the database would be housed. Bud said he could see value to planning efforts in maintaining the database. He asked that John and Jess work together to determine what the needed funding would be.

The STAP also recommended that the OG consider sponsoring a workshop jointly with the North Slope Borough to find ways to reduce conflicts with aircraft. Bud mentioned that BLM's Arctic Field office frequently gets phone calls from North Slope resident complaining about air traffic. He expressed interest in having the BLM Regional Advisory Council and the NPRA working group and NPRA Subsistence Advisory Panel participate. He said BLM is supportive of the workshop and would like to help. It was also suggested that this issue be presented to the regional interagency working group.

Craig Fleener mentioned that he has been hearing about this problem for years. He thought it would be good to have information about the level of disturbance. He expressed a desire to have ADF&G involved in this effort.

NSSI Communication Planning – Maureen Clark talked about current communication efforts, both the internal updates and the NSSI social media effort. She also talked about the need to develop messaging. Who is our audience and what does the Oversight Group want them to know about NSSI? There was discussion of development of communication products and of the need for assistance from NSSI agency public affairs leads.

Roundtable – Taqulik Hepa said she would like to have a public forum in an evening session the next time NSSI meets in Barrow. Craig Fleener said he was pleased to have the opportunity to work with NSSI. Cheryl Rosa said USARC is working on 2015-2016 goals. Mike Aamodt said North Slope voters have approved formation of a port authority. He also said there is a need to continue support oil development since residents of the North Slope have developed a lifestyle dependent on continued responsible oil development. Melissa Head passed along from Ed Fogels that NSSI has an important role in communicating and coordination, including in the areas of aviation traffic and protocols for conducting science on the North Slope.

Executive Session, followed by adjournment before 5 p.m.

AGENDA
North Slope Science Initiative
OVERSIGHT GROUP, with Science Technical Advisory Panel and Senior Staff
Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow, Alaska

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

09:00 – 09:30 AM	Introductions and Agenda Overview	Jim Kendall, Chair Taqulik Hepa, Vice-Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSB & Oversight Group Welcome• Oversight Group Self Introductions• Senior Staff Self Introductions• STAP Self Introductions• Visitor Self Introductions	
09:30 – 09:45 AM	Review/Approval of October Meeting Minutes	Jim Kendall
09:45 – 10:30 AM	Director's Report	John Payne
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2013-2014 Report to Congress• STAP Nominations / FRN• Canada/U.S. Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum• Arctic Biodiversity Congress• National Petroleum Council Activities• Other events and activities	
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Scenarios Project Update	Olivia Lee
11:30 – 12:00 PM	NSSI Catalog update & link to STAP work	Jess Grunblatt
12:00 – 01:15 PM	Lunch	
01:15 – 02:00 PM	STAP/SSC Readout	Reed &/or New Chair
02:00 – 02:45 PM	NSSI Communications Planning	Maureen Clark
02:45 PM	Break	
03:00 – 04:00 PM	Roundtable	Oversight Group/All
04:00 PM	Adjourn Open OG Meeting	
04:00 – 04:30 PM	Executive Session (if needed)	