

MINUTES

NSSI OVERSIGHT GROUP MEETING

October 4, 2005

**Anchorage, Alaska
Federal Building
Denali Room 1-5pm**

In attendance:

Board Members

Henri R. Bisson, BLM, Co-Chair	Kim Kruse, DNR
Doug Buffington, USGS	Jon Kurland, NMFS/NOAA
John Goll, MMS	Wayne Regelin, ADF&G, Chair
Rowan Gould, FWS	Brent Sheets, DOE
Teresa Imm, ASRC	

Staff and Others

Jeff Batton, BASC	Molly McCammon, AOOS
Doug Causey, UAA	Jerry McCutcheon, SCE
Ann Claerbout, NSSI	Bren McIver, AOGCC
Craig Dorman, UA Statewide	John Norman, AOGCC
Sharman Haley, UAA/ISER	John Payne, BLM
Bruce Hollen, BLM	Larry Pelz, NMFS
Leslie Holland-Bartels, USGS	Caryn Rea, CPAI
Tim Jennings, FWS	Buck Sharpton, UAF
Brendan P. Kelly, UA Southeast	Ken Taylor, NSSI
	Cam Toohey, DOI

Wayne Regelin, Chair, opened the meeting at 1:15 PM with introductions of those in attendance.

Ken Taylor updated the Oversight Group (OG) on the activities of NSSI during the last month. He provided details of recent NSSI activities in Director's October 4th Report. During the month of August, NSSI activities focused on working with the Office of the Secretary of the Interior to approve the Science Technical Group (STG) Charter and publish the Federal Register Notice. Henri Bisson inquired on the status of the STG nominations. Ken reported that he has had about 20 inquiries, so far, and he expects to receive a large number of nominations. In efforts to increase the number and diversity of those seeking nomination to the STG, the announcement was published in the September 30th edition of Science magazine. Also, Ken noted he had spoken with industry, encouraging the nomination of individuals from engineering disciplines. Henri

encouraged the other regional heads of agencies to help increase the awareness of the nomination notice.

Commissioner John Norman of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) presented a summary of the AOGCC and explained its role in permitting oil and gas activities on the North Slope (presentation on NSSI website).

Craig Dorman from the University of Alaska Statewide System introduced representatives from the three UA administrative units who presented UA North Slope Research Activities. Representatives for UA research were Buck Sharpton, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Brendan Kelly, University of Alaska Southeast, and Douglas Causey, University of Alaska Anchorage (presentations and handouts on NSSI website).

Doug Buffington made a motion for the approval of the August 3, 2004 minutes. The motion was seconded by John Goll. There were no objections.

Ken Taylor reviewed the subcommittee teleconference call that addressed ideas for the STG selection process. Once the nomination submission deadline is passed, nomination packets will be sorted, and the subcommittee will meet to refine a list of nominees to present to the OG. The nominees and alternates to be recommended to the Secretary will be voted on during an executive OG session.

Leslie Holland-Bartels noted there is a process to remove agency representatives from conflict of interests when they sit on boards, such as the STG. If the selection nominees have potential conflict of interests, then Ken will research other groups and develop protocols for addressing those conflicts.

There was a general consensus that the nominees to the STG should not be restricted to being residents of Alaska.

Ann Claerbout presented a summary of the NSSI web portal. A survey was provided for feedback, and the OG was asked to define the audience and user needs of the website. The OG decided the web portal shall provide background information for land managers and the general public, serve as a collaborative tool for the STG, and provide for NSSI administrative needs by hosting important files and OG meeting documents. Links to other organizations not represented by the OG, including industry, should be included on the website at the discretion of Ken Taylor. These links should be checked for integrity.

Action: Ken Taylor should develop the protocol for making decisions regarding the integrity of links on the website. He will develop criteria stating the appropriate conditions for posting a link to an outside organization.

John Payne presented NSSI GIS data issues. He suggested a subgroup be developed to work with the University of Alaska and develop a plan for the integration and sharing of data to meet NSSI needs. The suggested subgroup consisted of John

Payne, Gust Panos (BLM), representatives from ConocoPhillips and BP, and Buck Sharpton. The subgroup would develop a workshop to help establish the next steps in the process for addressing NSSI GIS data needs. This NSSI sponsored GIS workshop would be held in conjunction with the University, in January 2006. It would serve to pull government, industry, and university groups together and increase collaboration.

Jerry McCutcheon provided public comment to the OG. He stated his concerns for the oversight of gas recovery on the North Slope. He felt that gas recovery on the Kenai Peninsula and in Cook Inlet have not been handled satisfactorily, and he fears that the same might happen on the North Slope. He warned that there is a discrepancy in the public and industry record concerning the amount of oil and gas claimed to be on the North Slope. He was concerned as to how this discrepancy would affect gas recovery responsibilities on the North Slope.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.