

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**North Slope Science Initiative**  
**Science Technical Advisory Panel & Senior Staff Committee**  
**October 6-7, 2016**  
**BLM Campbell Tract Facility**  
**Training Room**  
**4700 BLM Road, Anchorage AK**

**ATTENDEES**

**STAP Members**

Robyn Angliss, Chair  
Robert Meyer, Vice Chair  
Robert Bolton  
Linda Brewer  
Gerald McBeath  
Lorene Lynn  
Jim Hemsath  
Sheyan Wisdom  
Scott Pegau  
Robert Shuchman  
Liz Snyder  
Robert Suydam

**NSSI Staff**

Scott Guyer  
John Payne  
Jess Grunblatt

**Guests/Public**

Ryan Cooper (ASRC)  
Danielle Dickson (NPRB)  
Wendy Loya (Arctic LCC)  
Stewart Seaberg (ASRC)  
Leigh Welling (NPS)

**Senior Staff Committee**

Heather Crowley, BOEM  
Dave Yokel, BLM  
Kyle Monkelien (BSEE)  
Ron Heintz (NOAA)

**Oversight Group**

Scott Marsteller (DOE)  
Kaya Brix (NOAA)

**Materials**

- Minutes of the May 2016 meeting are posted at: <http://www.northslope.org/stap/>
- Background info for discussion about the NSSI vision (ppt handout)
  - Existing vision
  - Other suggested reading
- Cross-referenced recommendations from the development scenarios project, the emerging issues papers, and the Barrow workshop. Please see the links to each of these below:  
Barrow Workshop:  
[http://northslope.org/media/doc/meetings/NSSI\\_Barrow\\_Workshope\\_Report\\_2011\\_Final\\_1.pdf](http://northslope.org/media/doc/meetings/NSSI_Barrow_Workshope_Report_2011_Final_1.pdf)  
Emerging Issue Summaries: <http://northslope.org/issues/>  
North Slope Scenarios: <http://northslope.org/scenarios/>
- Draft communications plan

## Thursday, October 6, 2016

The meeting opened at 9:05 am with welcome and introductions. Robyn asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were noted.

John provided a brief Director's report with a focus on the completed North Slope Scenarios Project and the expiration in April 2017 of six of the STAP members appointments. All six members whose term will be expiring expressed a desire to remain on the STAP for another term. A Federal Register Notice will be prepared for the six positions, but there may be a significant delay in getting the nominations vetted due to the upcoming administration change. There was some discussion about trying to get industry representation at the STAP meeting in the future. We can get industry representation for a short time on a specific project to work with the STAP, but they would not be official STAP appointments.

**Discussion of NSSI/GINA** efforts to obtain maps of operations and research efforts funded by the oil and gas industry and assess the feasibility of developing new products that provide maps of research projects to users:

Jess told the group that the past few years NSSI has had internal meetings to discuss what projects agencies are planning for the upcoming year and that effort was very valuable in keeping the project tracking up-to-date.

Comment from Ryan Cooper: would like to see a repository of scientific data that was collected from Shell and others on both the terrestrial and marine studies. There is a brain drain of experience and knowledge. Currently, people are using NSSI as a source of data to build what they know. By extending the data repository to include such data we would not lose the data in the future. Sheyna observed that there may be some data serving overlap with AOOS and NSSI? Since many people are getting their data from AOOS. However, Jess told the group that AOOS is mostly focused off shore. NSSI makes data discoverable and compiles the data but does not do data visualization like AOOS. This could be a direction in the future to make NSSI more visible.

There are many issues with having a single data repository, including mandates from some agencies that require them to serve their own data. Again, NSSI/GINA can make other data discoverable, then link to that data, but not actually serve the data. Jess indicated there are multitude dedicated repositories. We don't want to replicate datasets, especially in specific disciplines. Some entities don't have a repository. Would be good to link to common meta data set. Here we can build linkages to other datasets. Biggest problem is not doing everything for everybody. We could better provide linkages. We could improve our presence and visibility to catalog.

**Bob Meyer Presentation on NSSI Vision and Mission:** Is there life after the North Slope Scenarios Project?

**Communications Plan Discussion:** First we need to define who the audience is...the general discussion was that our audience is the members of the NSSI, STAP, Oversight Group, external stakeholders, general public, and researchers.

The value of the NSSI may be one of translation papers for the various scientific endeavors that practitioners and the public can digest. It is clear that we need two communications efforts: 1)

internal; and, 2) external. For external, we really need NSSI to communicate with residents of the North Slope far better than we have done in the past.

While NSSI Facebook page gets a lot of traffic, and is pretty good, we should be able to make it better. The annual calendars have been one of the best ways to get information out about NSSI.

**Recommendation:** Hire an outside communications contractor to develop a full communications plan. Our NSSI internal communications specialist knows how to communicate within agencies, but it would be extremely helpful to get someone outside of NSSI to develop a real plan that NSSI could implement.

### **Review/discuss status of recommendations from the North Slope Scenarios Project Spreadsheet Discussion (Review/Discuss status of recommendations from the scenarios project)**

Robyn suggested we go through each of the recommendations from the Barrow Workshop, Emerging Issue Summaries, and the North Slope Scenarios Project to see if we can fill in the blanks on progress.

**Recommendation:** See where each NSSI member agency can meet recommendations relative to their individual missions. Bring this up at the Oversight Group Retreat next month.

Suggest everyone read the 2015 Report to Congress as a start on the status of most of the emerging issues. Within the discussion, think about the Emerging Issue Summaries, now some 6-years old, are the recommendations still valid today? If so, how do they match with the North Slope Scenarios Project?

So, let's go through the Emerging Issue Summaries, Barrow Workshop and North Slope Scenarios to see where there is overlap or needs that have been overlooked:

- Increased Marine Activities
  - Arctic Shipping Assessment Scenario have been completed by the Arctic Council. Now we need a Marine Traffic Assessment.
- Marine Oil Spills
  - The North Slope Scenarios team were requested to address which scenario their topic was relevant to. That is captured in spreadsheet.
- Sea Ice
  - What hasn't been done is the gap analysis (SI 2). It doesn't say "gap analysis," but that was the intent of that emerging issue.
- Permafrost
- Coastal and Riverine Erosion
- Hydrology and Lake Drying
- Coastal Salinization
  - The Arctic LCC has taken a lot of the NSSI recommendations and implemented them because of the crossover in staff.
- Social and Economic Dimensions of North Slope Communities
  - Communities across the North Slope mention that researchers don't come back and report what they found.
  - Some researchers promised they wouldn't publish anything without approval/review by community.
- Health and Community Well-being

- Contaminants
- Fire Regime
- Vegetation Change

**Its 4:30 pm, this is the time in the Federal Register that we asked for public comment**

- No public comment was received

### **Continue discussion**

Return to discussion of progress made on recommendations from the scenarios project

- Rehabilitation and Restoration of Disturbed Tundra
- Decommissioning and Reclamation of Infrastructure
- Species of Interest – Migratory Birds
- Species of Interest – Caribou
- Species of Interest – Marine Mammals and their Prey

We will continue discussion on the last three topics on Friday October 7.

Robyn asked that people volunteer to read her record of the progress made.

### **Friday, October 7, 2016**

#### **Welcome/Recap of Day 1**

#### **Angliss/Payne**

- Key points from yesterday still be done
- Reviewed remaining sections
  - See notes on updated Cross-Reference of Recommendations Document (from 10-6-16)
  - Assigned the remaining section

Today we need to discuss and prioritize recommendations from:

1. Scenario development project
2. Emerging issues papers
3. Barrow workshop

Recommendations are cross referenced in separate document to be provided to the participants

- Main Points brought up during the **Review of Progress**
  - Collective intelligence in room identified many projects that have been address, yet much work remains to be done, especially as many studies have specific objectives
  - Emerging Issues recommendations previously identified have been made significant progress
    - Not the new ones required such as in support of climate change
    - Exception additional weather stations gap analysis
    - Climate Stations are different from weather stations – has this been considered?
      - Was a climate station plan considered by NOAA
      - Get more information on the modeling (topography considerations, scale that is represented)
  - Arctic LCC, BOEM are among organizations that have addressed many topics, but member agencies have contributed as well – as their missions are more closely aligned with the mission of NSSI
    - It has really useful to have these strong linkages

- Arctic LCC (Note: not a formal part of NSSI OG), BOEM, and NOAA have a fortuitous overlap rather than this has been a consistently conscious direction
- In these cases, a senior staff member has been able to influence the project selection
- Long-Term Support requirements needs to be clearly identified
- Unclear if Riverine Erosion is an issue (was the expertise in the room)
- Scenarios Recommendations – are some outside the scope of NSSI
  - Make notes
  - Assign to outside group, provide guidance/context

### **Barrow workshop recommendation review & prioritization**

- Process Question – how to prioritize the recommendations?
  - OG will be setting the course at this upcoming Retreat
  - Need to review recommendations and id what is missing, the progress made, etc.
  - Need to take a look at Scenarios to guide long-term monitoring and research
    - Requires additional meeting to create the guidelines
  - More potential research than monitoring in the result of the North Slope Scenarios Projecgt
  - How to address priorities:Priorities
    - vulnerability – no data
    - criticality of progress
    - sufficient attention and progress
  - OG has been asked by facilitator to reflect on:
    - What effort has provided the most value for your agency
    - Do you believe that this value is relevant to other agencies
    - Relationship between STAP and OG
  - Review all recommendations, identify 1-2 high priority items per project, and identify those that should be excluded.
    - Potential Priorities:
      - Communications Plan per Barrow workshop
      - Weather & Climate as important across all topics (Emerging Issues and Scenarios)
      - Exclude non-NSSI items
      - Consider timeliness and co-budgeting
      - Scenarios: 5 cross-cutting recommendations
        - **Hunting and Trapping (land)** – Ecosystem-based habitat status and trends monitoring, include site, remote sensing and community based methods for terrestrial systems that support species used in subsistence hunting and trapping.
        - **Health and Community Well-Being** – Comprehensive Social and Health Impact Assessment, including cumulative effects analyses.
        - **Permafrost and Hydrology** – High resolution elevation data.
        - **Marine Mammal Subsistence** – Document traditional knowledge, local knowledge about hunting success, hunting areas, and effects/impacts from climate change and industrial activity.
        - **Marine Oil Spills** – Research on how to respond to oil spills from other users (e.g. cruise ships, fuel tankers).

- Use specific examples of high and non-priorities
- **Workshop Assignment:** Individually identify priorities by assigned topic, then in small groups align on priorities, go to big group after lunch
  - Weather and Climate Change
    - WC4 – Gap analysis prior to play stations
    - WC2 – so we don't have multiple, shared resource & cost
    - WC1 – Shared importance
  - Increased Marine Activities
    - Grouped IMA3+IMA4+IMA10 as one

### **Revisit Communications in the time we have left today**

- Input to OG regarding content and approach for a **NSSI Communications Plan**
  - Audience should be (add “why’s”,)
    - Agencies
      - Challenges of communications/direction from NSSI Liaison to the larger agencies
      - NSSI Liaison vs. NSSI Staff to Oversight Member
      - SSC member (id environmental needs as assigned by OG, compiling, advising, liaison between agency and OG) and OG member – as identified by OG
      - Challenges is maintaining the attention to NSSI needs (time devoted)
      - Responsibilities for information/communication flow
    - Stakeholders (oil & gas, gravel mining, other industry)
    - North Slope Communities
      - Consider request for submitted comments from communities prior to the meeting
      - Opportunity for North Slope involvement in the finalization of the North Slope Communications Plan
    - Science Communities
  - Add the “Why”/Objectives of the Communications Plan
    - Goals of Plan were ....
    - Clear description of what NSSI is
    - Internal Communications Plan across Agencies (NSSI product, value, establishing coordination and collaboration)
  - Create an organizational (and related entities) chart
  - Organize by Internal Communications, External Communications
  - Non-technical outreach to villages
  - Keep advice to OG simple for now, revisit at next STAP meeting
    - Have a detailed discussion about the goal at this meeting
    - Hold a subgroup of STAP to look at communications (Jim, Linda, Robert, Jess, Wendy, Scott) – Goals and High-levels Rec’s, Structure, Guidance to enable contracting to specialty, Jim to take the lead role for scheduling

Robyn Angliss led a continued discussion of the NSSI communication plan (from yesterday) to review and determine the OG goals and how to move the discussion forward. The STAP strongly felt that the OG’s goals present itself much as a marketing plan, not a communication plan. It was decided that both a “marketing plan” and a “communications plan” are important and needed, but need to be developed separately. Major points/highlights of discussion included:

- The communications plan needs to have a strong focus on 2-way communication (listening as well as talking) between stakeholders and the NSSI.
- The communications plan is a tool to increase visibility to show that the NSSI exists and facilitates meaningful work.
- The communications plan needs to take the science that has been conducted and communicate it back to the North Slope communities (and general population) in a clear and meaningful way.
- The communications plan needs to show how the NSSI is beneficial to the North Slope residence.
- A marketing plan is needed to elevate the NSSI's presence to agencies as well as within agencies.
- The communications plan should consider activities that address "How" we communicate (i.e. Science Saturdays, periodic North Slope Science Symposiums, etc).
- The development of the communications and marketing plans need to be distinct activities. In developing both the communications and marketing plans, the following questions need to be addressed:
  - Who is the audience?
  - What is the message?
  - What needs to be done?
  - What are the vehicles of delivery?
  - What are the metrics of success?
- The OG should ear-mark money each year to focus on marketing and communications.
- The marketing plan needs to demonstrate the value-added component of NSSI.
- The communication plan should "lay out the way we do business."

The discussion ended with the STAP agreeing to the following statement:

**Recommendation:**

"Recommend that the OG require that the NSSI to develop a 2-way communications plan using feedback from the Barrow Workshop and the Scenarios Development Project to identify the objectives audience, and metrics for success. We recommend that a small group work on a proposed structure and provide it to the group within a couple months of the New Year." Recommend NSSI hire an outside contractor to work with the STAP and senior staff to develop.

**3:54 PM Adjourn**