

Meeting Minutes
NSSI Science Technical Group Meeting
June 26 and 27, 2006

Ethics Training required for all Special Government Employees serving on a FACA chartered committee was given by Ken Taylor to the following Science Technical Group (STG) members: Bill Streever, Alison Cooke, Caryn Rea, Dirk Derksen, and Douglas Kane prior to the meeting. All members of the STG have received the required ethics training at this time.

The Science Technical Group (STG) meeting was convened at 10:15 a.m. by John Kelley (interim Chair).

Members present:	Douglas Kane	Matthew Sturm
	John Kelley	William Streever
	Sue Moore	Robert Shuchman
	Alvin Ott	Alison Cooke
	Caryn Rea	Daniel Reed
	Kim Titus	Dirk Derksen

Members absent:	Arnold Brower Sr.	Robert Suydam
	Gary Kofinas	

The first order of business was to elect a Chairperson. John Kelley was nominated by Bill Streever and seconded by Bob Shuchman. No further nominations for the Chair were made, and John Kelley agreed to serve in that capacity. Bob Shuchman nominated Dan Reed for Vice-Chair, but Dan declined due to work commitments. Bob Shuchman nominated Matthew Sturm, seconded by Doug Kane. No further nominations were made, and Matthew agreed to serve as Vice-Chair.

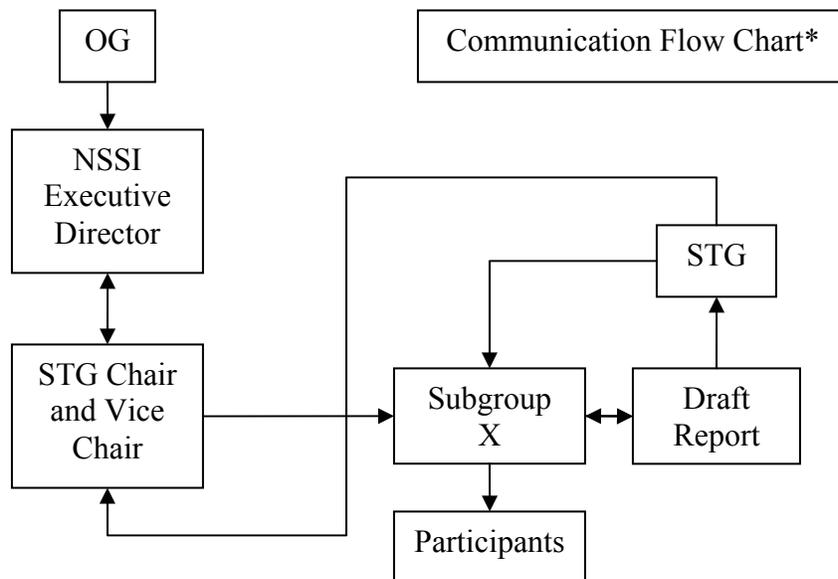
A discussion of term length followed. Dan Reed moved for the initial Chair term to be one year, the Vice-Chair to serve for two years, and the future Chair and Vice-Chair terms be for two years with no term limit. Sue Moore seconded this motion which passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the Group and sub-group process. The STG will depend on the Oversight Group (OG) to give specific direction on what is critical to answer. The STG would like to keep the option to provide unsolicited feedback to the OG on important science/informational needs. It was suggested that an annual meeting between the OG and the STG be held to review specific products and have time for a question and answer interchange between the groups. Tasks for the STG should be kept as narrow and well-defined as possible. Bob Shuchman volunteered to create an initial draft of a questionnaire for the OG to use to help further define issues they would like the STG to address. This will be completed by next week and posted on the STG working website for comments.

The STG Chair or Vice-Chair will appoint volunteers from the STG to chair each subgroup. Subgroups may include other members of the STG. The subgroup Chair will request staff assistance, if needed, through the Executive Director who will contact the appropriate OG members with the request for staff assistance along with any specific staff requests from the subgroup Chair. The OG will establish the timeline and will define deliverables for each task to the STG.

In order to provide for open communication of expectations between STG and OG, Communication links between the STG, subgroups, Chair and Vice-Chair were clarified. Assignments will come from the OG through the Executive Director to the Chair of the STG. A draft model for written communications is presented below. Either the Chair, Vice Chair, or subgroup Chair may be requested to make presentations directly to the OG.

- Communication Path: OG → Executive Director → STG Chair/Vice-Chair → distribute to appropriate section of STG



*top down approach for items generated from the OG

Meeting minutes for the June 2006 will be used for first exercise (trial run of the portal) of this communication flow chart.

Public Testimony:

One member of the public presented testimony during the public comment period. Mr. Mark Kosiara, representing Shell Alaska, noted that their company is pleased with the inclusion of off-shore areas in NSSI activities. He would like NSSI to focus on marine

data gaps and believes there is tremendous opportunity for partnership in areas such as GIS data layers. Shell is willing to work with the NSSI and the STG to help address these.

The NSSI Draft Science Strategy was introduced to the STG by Ken Taylor. Several questions were raised regarding its intended purpose, intended audience and what the OG wanted to accomplish with it. The STG proposed that a sub-group be formed to critique and comment on (not re-write) the Draft Science Strategy. This group would draw on the RMT documents and expertise in writing their critique. A new title and re-instating of the original date (December 2004) was proposed. Volunteers for critique of the Science Strategy: Caryn Rea (lead), Bob Shuchman, Robert Suydam (nominated but not present to accept), Kim Titus, and Ken Taylor (ex-officio). The time frame for the completion of critique of the Draft Science Strategy is prior to the OG September 2006 meeting. All STG members are encouraged to submit comments and critique the Draft Science Strategy.

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Miscellaneous Items

A discussion of the calendar year for the STG followed and it was decided that it would run from July 1- June 30. The next round of elections: last meeting prior to July 1, 2007 (voted on and approved).

Monitoring Plans Overview & Expectations

Ken Taylor gave an overview of the OG expectations as he understood them regarding monitoring plans. The STG is not expected to write any monitoring plans. These are agency responsibilities. The STG, however, may be asked by an NSSI agency to provide comments on their monitoring plans as they are developed in an effort to achieve some consistency in monitoring practices across jurisdictional boundaries. It was suggested to add an agenda item for the next STG meeting to discuss monitoring on different scales. Bill Streever and Caryn Rea may talk about the permitting process and monitoring for onshore and offshore developments. Other expertise is contained within the group and may be conveyed in the form of presentations or discussions.

A general discussion of monitoring followed. Julia Dougan (BLM Acting State Director) said she would like their advice on how BLM spends its funding related to North Slope monitoring. It was suggested that the STG review the Alpine monitoring plan to see what was included. A review of Northstar was also suggested for offshore development monitoring. The STG recommended that the OG put the monitoring issues in the form of a "task" (i.e. what are the products that the OG would like to receive). This "task" would become an agenda item for the next meeting. Presentations on specific issues would be very helpful and should be considered when drafting agendas for future STG meetings.

Project List Review:

Ken Taylor provided the STG members present with a copy of the NSSI project list. He was requested to forward electronic copies to all STG members. The Project list was provided for informational purposes to give the STG a more complete picture of the scope of ongoing work on the North Slope. The project list is scheduled to be updated and in a searchable database on the website by the end of this year. It was not presented as an STG work project but advice or feedback is welcome. We would like to include current University of Alaska projects that are not included at this time.

Miscellaneous Items:

It was suggested that the OG and STG meetings could overlap in future meetings to provide for collaboration between the two groups.

Sue Moore gave a brief presentation on seismic noise issues as they affect marine mammals, and Bill Streever followed with a presentation on how offshore seismic is conducted. The next International Whaling Commission meeting will be in Anchorage next year.

Doug Kane mentioned that the federal agencies invest in North Slope hydrology monitoring as well as collecting meteorological data. This is worth a discussion by the STG and should be included in the next meeting agenda.

GIS Data Layers and Remote Sensing

The OG has asked NSSI member agencies to document their GIS data holdings relevant to the North Slope. There is not a time frame on this activity, but it is expected to be completed in the near future. In addition to the fundamental GIS data layers, some thought must be given to which additional ones would be of greatest benefit. It was suggested that NSSI agencies should be requested to list only those data layers relevant to North Slope land and resource management. Once compiled, this list will be given to the STG. The OG has identified GIS and remote sensing as priorities and related areas and has asked for advice in these fields. This could be accomplished using one or two subgroups of the STG.

Remote Sensing Subgroup volunteers: Robert Shuchman (lead), Kim Titus, Doug Kane, John Kelley, and Bill Streever. The STG recommends combining the remote sensing and GIS subgroups. This will be the initial course of action and will be re-visited if necessary.

TEK Subgroup. During their June meeting, the OG discussed the difficulties all agencies have in gathering good TEK information in a usable form to include in their decision making processes. The STG recognized the importance of forming this type of subgroup. Gary Kofinas has been identified as a candidate as a lead for a TEK group but is not present to consent (Gary will be contacted by Ken Taylor). Arnold Brower Sr. and

Robert Suydam have also been identified as likely candidates and will be contacted by Gary (if he agrees to lead the TEK Subgroup). Sue Moore and Caryn Rea have volunteered to participate in this group.

Next STG Meeting Date:

It is recommended that the STG and OG meetings overlap by at least one day. The OG is going to meet in September 2006. It is proposed that a delegation from the STG attend the OG meeting. Matthew Sturm suggested that a set of readings be provided prior to the next STG meeting to help get the group members thinking about the issues before they arrive at the meeting. It was also suggested that we have a working lunch to maximize the STG's time together. A discussion of a one vs. two day meeting followed with no clear consensus as to which was preferable. Ken Taylor will email the STG to determine which date(s) most members would be available. A meeting location with wireless internet connection would be desirable.

Tasks and Action Items:

- Bob et al will develop the "questionnaire". Task will be accomplished by mid-July 2006.
- Caryn Rea et al will critique the Draft Science Strategy. Ken Taylor will talk to OG to communicate science strategy intentions to this subgroup. Caryn Rea will contact Robert Suydam to determine if he would like to participate in this group. A product will be available by the end of July.
- TEK subgroup: Ken will talk to Gary about leading this subgroup. Gary will contact Arnold and Robert to determine if they would like to participate in the group.
- Remote sensing/GIS subgroup: A definitive schedule cannot be determined at this time. An interim report will be available in September 2006 to be followed by a more detailed timeline after receipt of the agency GIS information.

The STG meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m., June 27, 2006.

Certified by: ss/John Kelley, Chair, NSSI Science Technical Group
Dr. John Kelley