

Meeting notes
Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee: Staff Meeting
15:00 – 17:00
13 May 2011

Location: White House Conference Center, Lincoln Room
726 Jackson Place, Washington, DC

Attendees:

Brendan Kelly (NSF)	Pat Haggerty (NSF)
Kate Moran (OSTP)	Cheryl Rosa (USARC)
Wanda Ferrell (DOE)	Richard Corley (DOT)
Mike Kuperberg (DOE)	Charlie Biyzak (NASA)
Bill Fitzhugh (SI)	Mary Madell (HHS)
Shella Biallas (DOI)	Ashley Chappell (NOAA)
Adrianna Muir (DOS)	Lisa Matthews (EPA)
Simon Stephenson (NSF)	
John Farrell (USARC)	
Kathy Farrow (USARC)	
Jack Kaye (NASA)	
Jon Berkson (USCG)	
John Payne (NSSI)	
Nikoosh Carlo (NSF)	

Agenda: Convened 3:00p; adjourned 5:10p

1. Summary & action items from 26 April Principals' meeting
2. Who best to represent your agency in IARPC?
3. Communication within and between agencies
4. Next Generation Ecosystem Experiment
5. New Arctic Research
6. IARPC responsibilities to Indigenous people & other communities

Action Items Summary:

1. Final deadline to submit comments to Brendan/Kate on the research themes and 5 year plan is May 27th.
2. Staff will establish a line of communication with their Principals office to help streamline coordination for the July Principals meeting.
3. Staff will explore how their agencies interface between researchers and the indigenous communities of the north. Please submit this info to Nikoosh Carlo at ncarlo@nsf.gov by Monday, June 6th.
4. The next IARPC staff meeting will be Monday, June 13th, 3-5pm. All future meetings will be the second Monday of the month.

1. Summary and action items from 26 April Principals meeting

Brendan Kelly and Kate Moran gave an update on the status of the charter and highlights from the IARPC Principals meeting. Still in draft form, IARPC charter is in the OSTP counsel's office. Major issue still to be resolved relates to how the committee is going to handle public meetings under NSTC regulations. The intent is to get the charter finalized so that the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability can approve it at its May 26th meeting.

Kate would like everyone to be familiar with the NSPD-66 policy so that IARPC can coordinate with the policy stated there with both the research themes and 5 year plan. Link: www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/nspd-66.htm

Action items: Final deadline for comments from the agencies on the IARPC research themes and outline of the 5-year research plan is May 27th. Nikoosh will send out the recent article in Physics Today, Thinning of Sea Ice by Ronald Kwok and Norbert Untersteiner, April 2011. Kate is going to look into how OSTP can facilitate the integration of other priorities and strategic plans from the agencies, e.g. briefings from other committees at IARPC staff meetings.

2. Who best to represent your agency in IARPC?

Who is best to represent your agency is likely going to be a more difficult question for the larger agencies, e.g. NOAA or DOI, that have many departments with an interest in the broad spectrum of work that concerns IARPC. Similarly, staffing working groups will vary between agencies. The idea that there would be groups in addition to the central IARPC staff was mentioned several times at the principals meeting. Discussion at the staff level focused on how difficult it will be for small agencies to staff multiple working groups, while the larger agencies will have to do more work on internal coordination to ensure that the right people are on topics related to their work. Suggestions were made to use *ad hoc* (focus) groups based on topics, e.g. ice breakers, which would not require a representative from each agency.

3. Communication within and between agencies

With the addition of working groups, internal coordination and communication with Brendan and Kate will need to be the responsibility of the staff point of contact at each agency. This is especially important for the principals meeting.

Action item: Staff will establish a line of communication with their Principals office to help streamline coordination for the July Principals meeting.

4. Next Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE)

Mike Kuperberg from DOE presented some of the Arctic focused efforts at DOE (see handouts). NGEE will use experiments, observations, and process models to quantify the

response of physical, ecological, and biogeochemical processes to atmospheric and climatic change across molecular to landscape scales. These efforts are done via collaboration among scientists and engineers at [Oak Ridge National Laboratory](#), [Los Alamos National Laboratory](#), [Brookhaven National Laboratory](#), [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#), [University of Alaska Fairbanks](#), and other state and federal agencies.

NEW AGENDA ITEM: North Slope Science Initiative Introduction

John Payne, Executive Director, of the North Slope Science Initiative (www.northslope.org) spoke about NSSI's mission to communicate science activities of federal, state, local, and industry groups working on the North Slope of Alaska. NSSI has 13 members and 13 mandates. One of their priorities is bringing science to managers in a useful way. NSSI sponsored a science place-based workshop in Barrow (March 2011) that aimed to bring resource managers, scientists, and indigenous communities together. NSSI listened to input from the Indigenous people, who said that they want to be involved in the management and the research. NSSI's 15 member science panel recently completed a report on what the needs of managers were 5, 10, and 15 years out. Marine mammals and fire patterns were topics that needed focus.

5. New Arctic research

Staff members were invited to share some of the new Arctic research at their agencies.

ICESCAPE (NASA) www.espo.nasa.gov/icescape/ - central question: What is the impact of climate change (natural and anthropogenic) on the biogeochemistry and ecology of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas?

Aquarius satellite (NASA) <http://aquarius.nasa.gov/> - focused effort to measure Sea Surface Salinity.

GINA (UA) www.gina.alaska.edu/ - The Geographic Information Network for Alaska is a distributed data system for geospatial information with online archiving, internet mapping, and metadata services.

ERMA (NOAA) <http://gomex.erma.noaa.gov/erma.html> - Environmental Response Management Application is a web-based tool designed to assist both emergency responders and environmental resource managers who deal with incidents that may adversely impact the environment.

Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Program (DOE) www.arm.gov/about - ARM has a climate research facility in Barrow and Atqasuk providing data about cloud and radiative processes at high latitudes. Would like to expand work to aerosols.

Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Climatic and Environmental Change SPRUCE (DOE) <http://mnspruce.ornl.gov/> - small boreal forest project

Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment ABOVE (NASA) www.whrc.org/resources/publications/pdf/goetzetalEos.11.pdf

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (DOI) – LCCs. USGS' gap analysis concerns resource development in the arctic including the Outer Continental Shelf. The

analysis ended up being broader than originally anticipated. It recognizes the need for cumulative data.

Boreal forest exhibit and Narwhal exhibit (SI) – coming up in the next year

Inuit Studies Conference Oct 2012 (SI lead) www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/

Arctic Sustainability (NSF) – plans for a late 2011 solicitation and 2012 funding awards.

Synthesis of research taking place in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas (NSF)

Decadal and Regional Climate Prediction using Earth System Models EaSM (DOE, USDA, NSF)

www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503399&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund - solicitation calls for the development of next-generation Earth

System Models that include coupled and interactive representations of ecosystems, agricultural working lands and forests, urban environments, biogeochemistry, atmospheric chemistry, ocean and atmospheric currents, the water cycle, land ice, and human activities. The first awards are being made now with an anticipated 2-year award cycle pending, availability of funds.

6. IARPC responsibilities to Indigenous people & other communities

Nikoosh Carlo, NSF, reviewed the 5 Nov 2009 Presidential Memorandum, pursuant to EO 13175, to the directors of the Federal agencies requiring them to develop a tribal consultation plan that would be updated annually and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Agencies were asked to work toward strengthening U.S. government-to-government relationships with tribes through regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration. Though the IARPC does not implement policy decisions that have direct tribal implications, the committee does indirectly influence researcher contact with tribal communities via its policy recommendations and national research 5-year research plan. In addition, language in the charter should reflect the importance of the link between indigenous peoples and their environment and specifically direct IARPC to establish a pathway of communication for input from indigenous peoples of the north. IARPC has a responsibility to ensure that tribal communities have been consulted on research impacting their communities, lands, and waters.

Action items: Staff will need to explore how their agencies interface between researchers and the indigenous communities of the north. Please submit this info to Nikoosh Carlo at ncarlo@nsf.gov by Monday, June 6th. Kate will work to get the suggested amendments, submitted by MMC and supported by NSF, added to the charter (see handout for specific amendments).