Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee[1]
Staff Meeting
15:00 – 17:00
11 July 2011

Location:
BOEMRE conference room (5056), Department of Interior
(enter building on C street side **or** E street side)

Dial-in Number: 1-219-509-8222
Participant Access Code: 287548

Attendees:	**Phone:**
Kate Moran (OSTP)	202-456-6079
Shella Biallas (DOI/OS)	202-219-1136
Nikoosh Carlo (OPP/NSF)	703-292-8224
Adrianna Muir (DOE/OES/OPA)	202-647-3883
Sara Bowden (NSF)	703-938-2866
John Ferrell (USARC)	703-525-0113
Julie Potter (NSF)	703-292-2664
Brendan Kelly (NSF)	703-292-7442
Jon Berkson (USCA)	202-372-1534
Ashley Chappell (NOAA)	202-482-1181
John Calder (NOAA) (By phone)	301-427-2470

Agenda: Convened 3:00pm, adjourned 4:45pm.

Action Items Summary:

- Survey organizations to determine existing programs in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas
- Develop writing teams to draft plan sections
- Complete each assigned section of the draft

Notes of Meeting:

1. International Congress of Arctic Social Scientists – Igor Krupnik

Igor Krupnik from the Smithsonian Institution gave a report on the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) seventh conference of the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VII) held in Akureyri, Iceland June 22nd through June 26th. He noted that Peter Harrison gave a presentation with a film and discussions were held on the 2012 IPY Conference which will be held in Montreal in April 2012. Most of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission attended the Congress. The subjects of the panels during the Congress were: climate and environmental changes/impacts, adaptation and narratives; economic and social development;

living conditions, community development, quality of life and human resources; population, mobility, migration and borders; governance, politics, legal issues, and resource management; health and wellness; culture, art, knowledge, values, images, creativity, ideology, history, religion, heritage and archeology; communication, media, and film-making; education; IPY lessons and legacy. Notable events emanating from the Congress include: a new IASSA working group for arctic social science activities which will have representatives of 10 (up to 20) countries; and a roundtable entitled Arctic Social Sciences beyond IPY. Dr. Krupnik shared that the next IPCC assessment will have two new chapters on community and indigenous development. There is also a new educational initiative on arctic development. Social scientists are poised to address three major themes:

(1) Economic and political realities of climate change (oil, gas and other economic development and the role of indigenous communities);
(2) Advancement of indigenous culture, language and communities in media in the 21st century; and
(3) Interest of political relations to be forged in the coming decade, preparing for new political realities in the warming Arctic.

2. Gas hydrate models – Kelly Rose

Kelly Rose, from the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), provided (by phone and Webex) a description of DOE work on natural gas hydrates in the U.S. Arctic. The NETL has several partnerships with private industry to apply for research funding. The program does research for economic purposes but has drawn the attention of the United Nations in recent years. The U.N. is asking questions like: What is this emerging resource? Does it have climate implications?

Frozen methane is found in very high pressure and very cold temperature. Natural gas hydrates present high energy potential (greenhouse gas potential). NETL is participating in projects with DOE and other collaborators in on- and off-shore research/drilling projects in Alaska. One of the locations under study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks is the North Slope of Alaska near Barrow. They also had the Harrison Bay project in 1980's and 1990's. They are also doing research on thermofrost lakes and methane. There are varying opinions on the potential risks to the atmosphere and ocean life from utilizing this methane. There is still research to be done by USDA and others in order to be able to make accurate predictions. There is a real need for more field data to validate and improve the models.

3. Ecosystem research in Chukchi/Beaufort Sea – Brendan Kelly

IARPC has an opportunity to have an impact in the short-term by coordinating interagency ecosystem research efforts in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. Industry needs information sooner rather than later due to the pressures to drill. NOAA and NSF are already funding research there. Brendan asked that each IARPC representative to survey their agency's plans for research in that area. That information should inform our five-year arctic research plan as well as programs within individual agencies. Brendan, Kate, and Shella discussed such an integrated effort with Alan Thornhill (Interior's IARPC Principal), and Thornhill indicated that such integration would be very helpful to BOEMRE's work.

4. Scope of five-year research plan – Kate Moran and Brendan Kelly

Kate received many good comments on the plan outline, but one reoccurring issue is "what are we trying to accomplish with the plan?" The goal should not be a comprehensive overview of everything being done in arctic research in the United States; but rather, a plan for the next five years of those activities that are going on that would benefit from interagency collaboration. The plan's aim is to prioritize agency needs for the next five year that would specifically be facilitated through interagency collaboration. The task is to make the synergies happen. The background portion of the report will highlight on-going research by all agencies to provide context. The budget part of the plan will provide an overview of the full range of spending on arctic research.

5. Five-year research plan working groups – Kate Moran

IARPC needs to be consistent and build upon the existing documents. The next goals are to get working groups kicked off with team leads:

1. Health – Marya Levintova, NIH/CDC
2. Arctic Observing – Simon Stephenson, NSF
3. Ecosystem Processes – Ashley Chappell and John Calder, NOAA
4. Terrestrial Ecosystem processes/services – Shella Biallas, DOI
5. Arctic Atmospheric Processes – Jack Kaye and Tom Wagner, NASA
6. Adaptation Tools - James Partain, NOAA
7. Arctic Region Models – Mike Kuperberg, DOE

As each member is recruiting for groups, copy Brendan in the emails and share names with each other. Brendan is to send out who the lead is, what the dates are for the timeline and the format template for each section. When building working groups, look at other sections and see if there are places where you know people who may be interested to join as contributors.

<u>Length of document:</u>
Each section should be approximately 5 pages.
46-50 page document for the complete document.

<u>Timeline:</u>

August 1:	Draft of each section to Brendan.
August 8:	Review sections during the IARPC staff meeting (Hosted by NOAA at the Department of Commerce from 3:00-5:00)
September 1:	Complete draft to be delivered in advance of the Principals meeting.

Research Infrastructure will be drafted later after research initiatives. IARPC will wait for OMB's comments on infrastructure. The plan needs to highlight the shared infrastructure and there may have to be a move towards more shared infrastructure between different agencies.