

Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee
Staff Meeting
15:00 – 17:00
08 August 2011

Location:
Herbert C Hoover Building
14th and Constitution
Room 5215

MEETING NOTES

Participants:	Affiliation
Tom Wagner	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Martin Jeffries	Office of Naval Research (ONR)
Shella Biallas	Department of the Interior/Office of the Secretary (DOI/OS)
Ashley Chappell	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Craig Robinson	National Science Foundation (NSF)
Lindsey Williams	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Brendan Kelly	National Science Foundation (NSF)
Simon Stephenson	National Science Foundation (NSF)
Sara Bowden	Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC)
By phone:	Affiliation
Cheryl Rosa	U.S. Arctic Research Council (USARC)
Kate Moran	Office of Science, Technology, and Policy (OSTP)
Nikoosh Carlo	National Science Foundation (NSF)
Alan Parkinson	Center for Disease Control (CDC)
Kelly Rose	Department of Energy/National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE/NETL)
Doug Demaster	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA/NMFS)
Marya Levintova	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Jon Berkson	(DHS)

1. Introductions – Kelly

The meeting began at 3:00 with self-introductions.

2. IARPC Coordination with USGCRP – Kelly and Craig Robinson

Brendan explained that the USGCRP and IARPC, both part of the NSTC structure, have overlap between their charges and, hence, need maintain good communication and coordination. Craig Robinson, the NSF representative to the USGCRP, gave a brief overview of the strategic planning process of the USGCRP.

The USGCRP, under CENRS, is required to develop a strategic plan every ten years. The next plan is due in 2013, but they are aiming at finalizing the document and releasing it in 2012. Four writing teams of

approximately 10-30 people each have been drafting the report for the past 12 months. The drafting teams report to an integration team (Jack Kay, also on the IARPC Staff Group, is on the USGCRP integration team). All 13 agencies of the USGCRP are involved in writing and integration. The strategic plan includes a \$27 billion agenda over ten years.

The Integration Team was responsible for the initial outline and format for the strategic plan. It was a very iterative process with the goal of obtaining buy-in from the agencies. Public listening sessions were held early on and the plan requires a public comment period before release.

From the beginning, the USGCRP acknowledged that while it does some things well, like observations, modeling and research, it has fallen short in others, such as informing and responding to climate change. So the strategy is addressing these shortfalls by looking at expanding the scope of the program to include informing decision makers, sustaining the assessments, and improving communication, education, and engagement.

The NRC will meet on August 9 and will advise the plan. The program is planning to then solicit public comment in September, make revisions in November-December, and will release the plan in January 2012. After that, the agencies will design a roadmap for 2013-16 in order to implement the plan.

The Arctic is mentioned about a dozen times in the plan. It is important to understand how IARPC fits within the context of this higher level plan. IARPC's plan is more of an implementation plan with specifics for the Arctic, but it is important to eliminate duplication and overlaps and look for areas of coordination. The USGCRP is planning to develop an annual implementation plan for the strategy, and perhaps the IARPC plan could serve as the implementation plan for the Arctic in the USGCRP strategy.

The USGCRP Strategic Plan does not include references. It was decided early on not to reference every assertion but rather base the plan on the best science available and hold the references only for questions. The IARPC plan, at least at this point, does intend to include references, and Brendan suggested that everyone go back to the Navy Roadmap, NOAA's strategic plan, USGS plan, USGCRP strategic plan and review them while drafting their sections.

Kate Moran asked if it would be possible to get any comments related to the Arctic from the NRC review. Craig Robinson noted that he would provide any comments related to the Arctic but did not expect there to be many.

IARPC and USGCRP agreed to keep each other informed of activities. Craig will provide IARPC with the drafting and integration team lists so that agency representatives can determine who from their agency is involved in which process.

3. **Report on Arctic Council Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) Efforts – Shella Biallas**

Shella Biallas who is involved with the Arctic Council's (AC) EBM efforts reported on the AC decision and steps since the Nuuk meeting. She informed the group that this EBM effort was suggested by the United States and adopted by the AC. The DOS is the official co-chair of the EBM task force, but DOI and NOAA are working closely together on forming the first meeting and the substance of the activities. The first meeting is being proposed for October 17-19, 2011 in Washington at the DOI. The DOI has produced a document explaining who is an EBM expert and who should plan to attend. Since the first meeting will focus on defining the EBM group and its efforts, it will be limited to government representatives from the AC countries. Agencies might be asked to provide people experienced in EBM but not necessarily in the Arctic. Learning from the lower latitudes may be necessary in this effort.

Kate Moran pointed out that the IARPC 5-year plan needs to ensure that the research that is proposed is in line with the EBM effort which is being driven by the United States in the AC.

Shella Biallas offered to keep IARPC informed about the EBM effort.

4. **Reports from Section leads for five-year research plan - Kelly**

Brendan Kelly informed the group that significant comments are still coming in regarding the outline for the 5-year plan. Some members of the staff group feel that since the plan is an opportunity to push for some very specific activities, for example, sea ice monitoring or sea level rise impacts, we should make the effort to highlight these. Others felt that the plan needs to move forward as it is, keeping the opportunity open for some significant reshuffling and re-highlighting of various activities at a later date.

The issue was raised again about the intended audience and motivation for the plan. Brendan explained that the plan gives an opportunity for agencies that are involved in the Arctic to advance their agendas through interagency collaboration. Each agency has an opportunity to bring forward their mission and have it enhanced through interagency involvement. Additionally, the plan has to define efforts that support the administration's goals which are defined elsewhere.

It was agreed that, for now, we will stick to the presented outline and get a straw man written in advance of the principals' meeting. In order to facilitate the writing of the research sections, this week Brendan Kelly will

write the introduction, which points to the administration's goals for the Arctic, other strategic plans that complement the 5-year plan, and the motivation and goals of the 5-year plan. After the Principals' meeting, there may be some redirection and refocusing necessary.

Brendan Kelly asked everyone to go back to the format used in the draft outline. This format includes why do this, timeframe, expected outcomes, milestones, gaps and needs in science and technology, and priority. Each lead author needs to ensure these points are covered in each research section.

It was agreed that the infrastructure report needs to be written when the other sections are completed but that perhaps we need a preliminary overview for the first draft. Brendan Kelly and Kate Moran will work on this. Kelly Rose agreed to help, and Ashley Chappell will provide a template that is being used by NOAA for a similar exercise.

Simon Stephenson pointed out that the plan needs to be re-evaluated in two years and a new plan developed in five. Therefore, perhaps an Academy study on arctic research is in order. Such a report would take five years to complete and could inform that next iteration of the 5-year plan. He also noted that we need to get these proposed activities written and that they can be re-evaluated after the principals have met so that we can ensure only those that are ripe for action are included in the 5-year plan.

Brendan Kelly asked everyone to review the three research sections which have already been drafted. He asked lead authors to get their drafts in to him by the end of the week, keeping in mind the draft outline presented. He asked authors to reference assertions in their documents and to go back and review strategy documents that have been completed such as the Navy's Roadmap and NOAA's Arctic Vision and Strategy Plan.

Other background plans and documents were suggested. If staff members know of documents which would serve as good background for the drafting of the research initiative section of the 5-year plan, please provide them to Sara Bowden for posting on the IARPC website.

5. Agenda for principals meeting on September 7 – Kelly

The meeting will focus on the draft of the 5-year report. Therefore, Brendan highlighted the need to get all sections in by the end of this week.

Additionally, we will take forward the plan for multiagency collaboration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Brendan will circulate the straw man document that has been developed to outline this interagency collaboration.

Participants discussed the possibility of a report from Navy (Admiral Titley) on new and expanded arctic activities as outlined in the Arctic Roadmap. The objective would be for Navy to share with others their priorities and look for ways to collaborate with and integrate joint interagency activities. This would provide a good example of how IARPC can assist with coordination.

Brendan will aim to have the principals' meeting agenda out by the middle of next week to principals. The draft 5-year plan will be sent to Principals on September 1. Therefore, a penultimate draft will be sent to staff on August 29th.

Brendan and Kate will inform everyone on how many people from each agency may attend the Principals' meeting. It is likely that it will be Principal plus two.

6. Summary, assignments, and next meeting – Kelly

September 12th is the next staff meeting. The meeting will be held at the Herbert Hoover Building from 15:00-17:00.

Timeline:

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| August 12: | Draft of each section to Brendan. Introduction completed by Brendan and circulated to staff group. |
| August 19: | All comments due to lead authors with copy to Brendan and Sara. |
| August 22: | Lead authors get revised drafts back to Brendan and Sara. |
| August 29: | Penultimate draft circulated by Brendan to staff group. |
| September 1: | Complete draft to be delivered in advance of the Principals meeting. |
| September 7: | Principals' meeting. |

ACTIONS:

- Brendan will post links to the Navy Road Map, the USGS plan, USGCRP strategic plan, and NOAA's Arctic Vision and Strategy on the IARPC website. Staff members with background documents that would be useful to post should send links to these to Sara for posting on the IARPC website.
- Craig Robinson will share the lists of the drafting teams and integration team for the USGCRP strategic plan which will be forwarded to IARPC staff group.
- Brendan will draft the introduction.
- Brendan and Kate will work on an outline for the infrastructure section.

- Ashley will provide Brendan and Kate with a copy of a NOAA template on infrastructure to inform the infrastructure section of the 5-year plan.
- All leads authors will complete first drafts and make changes according to the timeline above.
- Brendan will inform staff group of the numbers allowed for each agency at the Principals' meeting.
- Martin Jefferies will look into the availability of Admiral Titley reporting to IARPC.
- Brendan will circulate the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas straw man document.