

Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee
Staff Meeting
15:00 – 17:00
12 September 2011

Location:
Herbert C Hoover Building
14th and Constitution
Room 6823

Meeting Notes

Participants:

Brendan Kelly (NSF)
John Farrell (USARC)
Ashley Chappell (NOAA)
John Calder (NOAA)
Adrianna Muir (DOS)
Nikoosh Carlo (NSF)
Buck Sanford (NSF)
Lindsey Williams (NOAA)
Mike Kuperberg (DOE)
Sara Bowden(IARPC)

By phone:

Tom Wagner (NASA)
Jon Berkson (Coast Guard)
Mary Madell (HHS)
Alison La Bonte (OSTP)
Shella Biallas (DOI/OS)
Alan Parkinson (HHS/CDC)
Kelly Rose (DOE/NETL)

1. Introductions – Kelly (5 min)

2. Reports from Section leads for IARPC 5-year Plan (75 min)

- a. Alan Parkinson presented for Marya Levintova

Alan informed the group that the draft of section 4.1 is being reworked within CDC. He indicated that the new version will be in the correct format. The Arctic Research Commission and State of Alaska are partnering in the new version and EPA may also have some input.

- b. Buck Sanford for Simon Stephenson

Buck noted that he is going to work to enhance the priority themes portion of section 4.2. It was noted that Sandy Starkweather and Teniel Uttal have provided comments on the overall draft that would be useful for Buck to see. John Calder is going to send those to Buck for consideration. Buck was also asked to pay special attention to the

overlap and linkages between the sections. Many sections have observations contained within their plan and these should somehow be referenced. It was ultimately agreed that a table showing the linkages would be useful. Buck will work on this.

ACTION: Create a linkages table showing where observations occur in the various sections.

c. John Calder/Ashley Chappell

John reviewed section 4.3.1-3 and Ashley reviewed section 4.3.4. John inquired as to whether or not the plan can go beyond US territory in its scope and the response was yes it can. John also inquired about including the NPRB in plan activities since they are outside the Federal purview. NPRB is discussing collaborative research in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas with BOEMRE, NSF, and others (see item 4 below), so their activities certainly should be considered. Brendan Kelly asked that John Calder look at Kelly Rosa's PowerPoint given in August on gas hydrates. (Sara will track this down and send it to John). The issue of whether or not we can include new technologies in the report came up. Brendan noted that OMB has indicated the report should not include infrastructure needs. Brendan will make a special effort to have Joel attend the next Staff Group meeting so that this can be discussed further. In the meantime, Tom offered to provide John with information on some sensors that are currently being used but not yet contained in John's section.

d. Shella Biallas

Shella noted that comments have come in that need to be included in section 4.4. One deals with the inclusion of boreal areas in the western Alaskan arctic. She will update her section and circulate it again for comment.

e. Richard Eckman/Tom Wagner

Tom gave a brief report on the status of section 4.5 and agreed that the section will be reformatted along the lines of the other sections. He noted that this section is heavily NASA but he has provided it to NOAA for comment. Comments provided by NOAA so far would require that the whole report be reorganized along research themes, activities underway, and what is missing. There was a consensus, however, that we should stick with the outline reviewed by the Principals.

f. Ashley Chappell for James Partain

Ashley noted that she and James have a list of agencies that they will reach out to for comment and input to section 4.6. Bill asked that the Smithsonian be included in that list. Brendan offered that the Field Techniques for Sea Ice Research Handbook (<http://www.alaska.edu/uapress/browse/detail/index.xml?id=368>) provides useful information from an ecosystem services perspective. There also needs to be some mention of the Arctic Council's theme on resilience in this section.

g. Mike Kuperberg

Mike reviewed section 4.7 and noted that it he will probably shorten it to 4 topics. Tom indicated that there is a new earth system modeling effort and agreed to send Mike information about it. Mike noted that he will identify other people who should be looking at section 4.7 and ask them for their comments.

5-year Plan General Action Item

- **Every section should include which agencies should be involved AND who has reviewed the section.**
- **Lead authors have to actively seek reviews, not just send the section out to all staff.**
- **References should be included in the text. (There may be a version without citations but for now, they should all be included).**
- **Tag lead agency to milestones, but do not put dates on specific milestones.**
- **The timeframe should use years.**
- **It is generally understood that Principals will look at this version and hopefully approve, but they might make changes which will require rewriting, additions, or deletions. Therefore, these sections do not need to be “final”.**
- **All lead authors should submit their reviewed draft to Brendan by October 3. Please make sure these versions are in the right format and include who has reviewed the text.**

3. Report on SAON activities and identification of US member to SAON Board – Calder (15)

John briefed the group on the SAON (Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks) program. He noted that the idea for SAON came from the Arctic Council in anticipation of IPY. From 2009-2011, national representatives worked with AC and IASC to develop a plan. The Arctic Council approved the program in 2011, and the AC and IASC have agreed to develop a SAON Board. The first meeting of the Board will be early next year in Tromsø in Norway. So far, the United States has proposed five tasks for SAON and is actively involved.

In 2009, the IARPC formed a subcommittee to provide input to the AON, and subsequently, SAON process. Therefore, it is the responsibility of IARPC to select a US member to the Board. Most of the work of the subcommittee was done by NOAA, NSF, and DOI. John proposed that IARPC reactivate the AON subcommittee to keep people informed and to keep the United States involved in the international effort.

Brendan suggested that the previous members of the subcommittee along with Buck Sanford from NSF meet and discuss reactivating the subcommittee and be prepared to make a recommendation to the Staff Group on who should represent the United States on the SAON Board. This will then be taken to the Principals for a brief discussion and approval. Anyone interested in joining the subcommittee was encouraged to contact John.

ACTION: All agencies consider if they wish to add anyone is to the committee. The new subcommittee will meet and report in October.

4. Report on Interagency research in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas

Unfortunately there was no time for this item. Brendan circulated a concept paper prepared by the NPRB and NSF and will include this item for discussion on the meeting agenda for October. It is on the agenda for the November principals meeting.

5. Date and Agenda for principals meeting – Kelly (15 min)

Brendan informed the staff group that the postponed Principals' meeting will take place on **November 7, from 9:00 until 12 in the Truman Room of the White House Conference Center.**

Brendan noted that the main agenda item for the principals is the draft 5-year plan. Therefore, as noted above, sections need to be provided to Brendan by October 3 so that he has a few weeks to do integration of the plan and get a final version ready for submission to the Principals. One section that still needs to be written is the background section. John Farrell offered his assistance with this section. Brendan suggested that John, Alison La Bonte, and Brendan draft the Background together. (Alison is not available until after October 3.)

ACTION: Brendan and John will write the background section and circulate it for review by October 3.

Brendan noted that the infrastructure section also needs to be developed. He will talk to Joel at OMB and get clarification on the limits of this section. John Farrell suggested that the guidance given to the new blue ribbon panel on infrastructure for the Antarctic might be relevant for this section.

ACTION: Brendan will invite Joel to the October meeting for guidance on the infrastructure section.

6. Summary, assignments, and next meeting – Kelly (10 min)

The next meeting of the staff group will be October 11 from 3:00-5:00 at either NASA or DOC.

Action items are noted above in bold. Most importantly, all sections are due to Brendan by October 3. Earlier is better. Each section should indicate who has reviewed the section, which agencies should be involved in planning and implementation, and should be in the correct format and include citations in the text. Brendan will integrate the document beginning on October 3.

A notice of the Principals' meeting will be sent this week. A formal invitation from the Director of NSF will be sent as soon as possible. A briefing book will be provided for briefing Principals by October 24.

Sara will circulate a phone and contact list for each agency. Please correct the list and provide additional names, deletions, and corrections as soon as possible.