

Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee
Staff Meeting
15:00 – 17:00
12 March 2012

Herbert C Hoover Building
14th and Constitution
Room 5215

Dial-in Number: 866-658-4142
Participant Access Code: 8479431

Agenda

1. Introductions – Kelly (5 min)

Shella
Tom Armstrong
Bill Fitzhugh
Brendan
Simon
Adrianna
Nikoosh
Kate Clark
Phone:
Tom Wagner
Martin Jefferies
Bill Hines
Jon Berson
Cheryl Rosa
Louis Tupas
Alan Parkinson

2. Updates from other Arctic committees (20 min)

a. Arctic Policy Group and Arctic Council – Muir

Briefing by the Alaska Northern Waters Task Force. Report is available on line. Some science woven through. Formation of a commission to form an Alaskan State Arctic Policy. DOS nacent ideas for US chair of AC. Water security, renewable energy, Biological significant areas. 2015-17 chairmanship in US. Brendan, asked Adrianna to make sure APG knows about our two year cycle of renewal of our plan. The next APG meeting will discuss the US position for the Arctic Climate Assessment.

b. Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks – Jeffries

AT the IPY meeting there will be a SAON outreach event on Tuesday 24 5:30-6:30. Tom and David Hik will be running the meeting. Opportunity to learn more about SAON.

c. Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Programme – (defer to item 3)

- d. National Ocean Council – Strategic Action Plan for Arctic Ocean – Farrell

Giron Brabrot, new chair for the NOC will come to our next meeting so we can talk about coordination between NOC and IARPC. This is good because one of their items is changing conditions in the Arctic.

- e. U.S. Global Change Research Program – (defer to item 3)

- f. Study of Arctic Environmental Change – Stephenson

SEARCH SC met three weeks ago and thanked interagency involvement in the meeting. Their plan is on their website (insert address). They are reviewing their goals and focusing on four items. 3 of these overlap with our plan. Sea ice goal, terrestrial ecology and carbon cycling (including marine in sub sea permafrost), Vulnerabilities (our plan will help them shape their plan on this item). Their last item is land ice loss. (This last one is not in our plan). There is a lot to be gained by the interagency community talking with the SEARCH SC. It will help us track what we are both doing. We should keep this conversation going. Good alignment and we should look at land ice issue in the future.

Brendan: The AON portion of SEARCH will have a coordination meeting in Anchorage next week. Brendan and Martin will be there. The goal is to try to figure out what their priorities are in the short term. What can we do to better coordinate observing efforts at all levels of government. John Payne and Don Perovich are co-chairing.

- g. Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska – Biallas & Kelly

Last week meeting came about from the announcement for the oil spil response plans. Science and ecosystem based management will be brought into the decision making process. EBM will be developed for Alaska which will help inform decision making for on and off shore lease decision making.

Meeting held last week at the dep sec level. Follow on to Dec. 1 meeting. How can we make sure permitting decisions are informed by science. Realization that we didn't have all the people we needed. For the meeting last week we brought in praticionairs and asked them to give us some case studies to show when it worked well to incorporate science into the decision making process. That helped the discussion quite a bit. It became clear that it is incredibly complex. The other focus of the meeting last week is consideration of EBM. There is a lot of work to be done to shift the way we do business to make sure we have agreement on EBM before we make decisions on leases. The NOC has EBM as one of their foci. We are trying to now sift out who has claim to the EBM issue. AC has an experts group. NOC has a group and then we have the interagency working group also doing it.

- h. Alaska climate change research coordination – Rosa

No update on the Alaska State climate change group. Arctic LCC recently met and we determined how to spend a million dollars. 750 will be on.. 250 was set aside to look at management. (Ask Cheryl for a written report.)

NSSI: Met in Janaury in Fairbanks. They received recommendations. We are interviewing for the next dep. Director for the NSSI.

Sen Baggich is trying to get 20 Million per year to NPRB with a bill in congress. Wants an endowment. Include how to look at the bill.

LCC is administrated under the FWS. It is federal and state stakeholders which receives guidance. Now we also have a local representative. Arctic LCC provides guidance on how to spend money. Focused on landscape area.

NSSI is more involved in resource development. National resource management. This involves industry. They have enabling legislation. They predate the LCCs.

The LCCs came through a secretarial order to bring stakeholders and science together to consider how to respond and adapt to climate change.

Alan Parkinson noted that there is also an Arctic ecosystem health task force. Chaired by EPA. **Brendan, noted that we might want to highlight this group in the 5-year plan. Alan will do that.**

3. U.S. Global Change Research Prog. / Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Prog. – Armstrong (30 mins)

Will focus talk on the Arctic, but will give an overview of the whole USGCRP. (put talk on website). USGCRP mandated by law in 1990. “Understand, assess, predict and respond to global change.” Not doing so well with the respond part of the mandate. Every 10 years, the USGCRP must produce a decadal National Global Change Research Plan. WE are in the process of putting together the new plan and it will be out on March 22 in electronic plan.

The Global Change Research Act which created USGCRP has a strong international component. 13 federal agencies involved.

As part of the new strategic plan we have a strong vision and mission statement.

The strategic plan outlines how the program will advance fundamental, use-inspired research to address the present and future challenges of the climate and global change. Will have an accompanying implementation plan.

4 major goals in the plan.

- Advance science
 - Adaptation and mitigation
- Inform decisions
 - Provide scientific basis to inform and enable timely decisions on adaptation and mitigation.
- Develop sustained assessment
 - Mandated to do an assessment every four years. We need to have sustained activity in some sectors. We will do more short term, tactical products.
- Communicate and educate

We have cross-cutting interagency programs. Some are programmatic which connects USGCRP research and activities with program support needs like international. Also cross-cutting in societal needs.

We have significant work going on in the Arctic through the USGCRP agencies. WE want to do a better job of meeting the needs of the Arctic groups.

Last assessment came out in 2009 and was entitled Climate Change impacts in the US. This was the first one that more effectively addressed the impacts and effects of climate change. 2013 will go even further by including stakeholders.

The next large assessment needs to be done in 2017, which is the same time the US will have chairmanship of the AC, and this is an opportunity to have an assessment on the Arctic for that time. IARPC will help with that.

Brendan: Climate is not on the minds of people who wrote the enabling legislation for IARPC. But if you look at our plan, much of it is driven by climate. But there are other legitimate research needs. So, how do we intelligently take these two bits of wisdom from congress and makes sure we leverage all the resources available to us?

The national climate assessment has a significant arctic component. But as a program we only point to the arctic as a part of the program.

USGCRP are setting some priorities. Tipping points, extreme events... there is no reason why we couldn't have regional priorities and the Arctic could be one in 2014. We would work with IARPC on that.

Brendan: Asked Mike K to be the liaison between USGCRP and IARPC.

Action: Adrianna will send the ACA prospectus and Tom asked for IARPC support on that.

Post slides on website.

4. Gliders and IARPC Research Initiative: Understand sea ice dynamics, ecosystem processes, ecosystem services, and climate feedbacks in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and the contiguous Arctic Ocean – Guillermo Auad (20 mins)

Multiagency Arctic Ecosystem Study (MARES). BOEM study which we are talking to other agencies. BOEM, NOAA, ONR, USCG, NSF, Navy and perhaps NASA. Have formed an ad hoc working group. Since there is a lot of overlap with IARPC we are here to tell you what we are thinking about.

Geographical scope is Beaufort (and possibly the Chukchi)
Glider/AUV acquired data will be analyzed for environmental protection, ecosystem dynamics, oil spill risk analysis, climate change, exploration and discovery, marine mammals.

Potential study would be aligned with USGS report recommendations, 2010 white house study.

Why gliders and AUVs? You can have an integrated comprehensive view for a number of years at high resolution.

Some of the sensors that are available in 2012: listed here.

We are aiming for a 2013 study, but coordinating many agencies is complicated. ONR is going in 2014, so perhaps we can more realistically fit with that schedule.

At this point in BOEM, this study is up for external review before it will go forward.

ONR will support 4 wave gliders in 2014. Will have optical sensors looking at the transmission of lite in the upper ocean. We will be also be deploying ITP and

5. Arctic Ocean Study Plans: Gantt Chart and GIS coverage – Biallas, Chappell (10 min)

I think the work of the permitting group may supersede us before we can go forward this this. EBM and science for decision making is probably going to fill this item. Shella has provided this work to the permitting group and they may or may not use it in the future.
Brendan sits on this group and we need to have more staff interaction between these two groups.

6. IARPC and Interagency Arctic Committee Fact Sheet – Biallas and Kelly (10)

From Shella's perspective the fact sheet is done. Brendan has shared it within OSTP. That is an ongoing discussion. At the staff level NOC and the permitting task force are seeing things aligned. The write-up and diagram help a lot.

7. Discussion of the 5-year Plan: Next steps – Kelly (20 min)

Comments from some principals. Rest of them will come in later this week.

Plan to have the next principals meeting on May 21. Right before we release the plan. The steps that are left are

Exec summary

Milestones are inconsistent (Brendan and Sara will send out a model and ask you to look at yours again). They need to be very specific. What products are going to happen along the way to completing that task. Intermediate products to show that you are on task.

For the DBO, when will we sample the existing lines and when will we sample new lines.

Brendan will highlight what needs to be done for each milestone section.

Federal register notice drafted and go out. Review period in April. Public comment period will be over by May 1. That gives us one month to fold in the public input.

Getting Abbey to do the public review.

Production editing to make sure that it looks good and reads well. If any of you have thoughts on people who might be able to do that, please let us know.

Talking to John Farrell would be a good idea.

Infrastructure section. Brendan has tried to condense some of the lengthier text. Some needs to be pulled out. Perhaps footnotes.

8. Summary, assignments, and next meeting – Kelly (5 min)

21 May afternoon principals meeting.

At the last meeting it was 3 hours. Try for something shorter. Build in a coffee break.