



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
Science Council

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

January 17, 2023

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM EST

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Executive

Sarah Kapnick, Chair

Anita Harrington, Exec Sec

Principal

Mitch Goldberg, NESDIS

Gary Matlock, OAR

Kristen Koch, NMFS

Margo Schulze-Haugen, NOS

Steve Smith, NWS

Randall TeBeest, OMAO

Advisory

Cynthia Decker, Scientific Integrity Committee and NOAA
Science Advisory Board

Hendrik Tolman, Council of NOAA Fellows

Frank Indiviglio, CIO Representative

Gary Matlock, LOTMC and RDEC Chair

Kelly Goodwin, S&T Synergy Committee Chair

Deirdre Clarkin, NLAC Chair

Alison Krepp, Social Sciences Committee Chair

Gina Eosco, Social Sciences Committee Chair

Lonnie Gonsalves, LOTMC Chair

Kelly Wright, TPO Liaison

Natasha White, Office of Education Liaison

Other Attendees

Melissa Yencho, NMFS

Joseph Fillingham, OAR

Eric Bayler, NESDIS

Terence Lynch, OAR

Daniel Melendez, NWS

Ishrat Jabin, OAR

Andrew Peck, OAR

Abigail Arnold, OAR

Laura Newcomb, OAR

Tony LaVoi, OFA

Isha Renta, OAR

Megan Deehan, OAR

AdeLeaka Gore, OFA

Monica Grasso, OFA

Yvette Gray, OFA

Fiona Horsfall, OAR

James Jenkins, OAR

Beth Norton, OFA

Jeffrey Kast, OAR

Julie Price, NESDIS

Jeffrey Wielgus, OFA

Meredith Wagner, NESDIS

Nicole Kurkowski, NWS

Brooke McHansen, NESDIS

Annette Hollingshead, OAR

Jessica Morgan, NESDIS

Debbie Sinmao, OFA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Notify Exec Sec at science.council.execsec@noaa.gov within two weeks of the following meeting if any changes to the minutes are needed. Minutes from the November 15 NOAA Science Council meeting were **approved with minor edits by Dee Clarkin**. The Exec Sec reviewed all current action items (TAB 3).

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Jainey K. Bavishi has just been sworn in as deputy NOAA administrator.

MINUTES

- Consider the November Science Council meeting minutes **accepted**.
 - **Dee Clarkin made minor edits to the NLAC section**
- Exec Sec asked the Council if there are any hesitations to posting meeting minutes from 2017 to 2023 on the Science Council website. The Council has no comments or hesitations.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

- Stephan Smith (NWS) asks about new ways to make the SoS fact sheets more attractive, engaging and how to share them so they are better utilized. Exec Sec answers that OSS has hired a science communicator and they are working together on ideas for a webpage and potential story map. This will be discussed more with a plan in upcoming meetings. Stephan Smith mentions that the President recently tweeted about Climate.gov and if we can get the SoS Fact Sheets tweeted about that would be great.

BRIEFINGS: Briefing materials are available in the [Science Council Meetings 2023 folder](#) on Google Drive.

Workforce Development Analysis Presentation from the Social Science Committee: Jeffrey Kast [\[Tab 4\]](#) [\[Tab 4.1\]](#)

Knauss Fellow Jeffrey Kast presents an analysis of social scientists at NOAA. He used mixed methods to approach the analysis and identified differences and changes between occupations and line offices. Lack of social science literacy is still an issue across NOAA and it is important as it relates to measuring societal impact. The 2023 Knauss Marine Policy Fellows may be useful multipliers to spread social science literacy across NOAA. Fisheries and Economists have the most social scientists in the agency but still only about 1% of NOAA Federal Staffing in 2022. NOAA lags behind other Federal agencies. Social scientists leave the agency at a younger age and in greater rates of turnover than physical scientist colleagues—so what does this mean for the agency?

Discussion

NWS is adding 4-5 social scientist positions. From AMS, turnover may be related to diversity and inclusion atmosphere. NMFS is concerned about the issue regarding promotions and asks if any exit interviews are happening with folks? Exec Sec will follow up with the SSC on this. NESDIS asks if Jeffrey found anything on NESDIS social scientists. Jeffrey did not find any information on them based on the occupation code (01XX). NESDIS may be doing social science but their job description does not have the title of social scientist. Dr. Kapnick mentions an event for social scientists coming up with Princeton. She will provide an update at the next NSC meeting.

R20 Transitions for FY22Q3 and Q4: Lonnie Gonsalves and Nicole Kurkowski [\[Tab 5\]](#) [\[Tab 5.1\]](#) [\[Tab 5.2\]](#) [\[Tab 5.3\]](#)

Nicole Kurkowski announces Lonnie Gonsalves as LOTMC Chair and presents the NOAA Quarterly Transitions Updates for FY22Q3 and Q4.

Discussion

NOS asks about the readiness level (RL) for the projects getting reported? Is it RL 9? Would it be beneficial to report more on RL 2-8? The LOTMC Chair says he will be speaking on this later. NWS says that these RLs are ones that might have the biggest return on investment, but much of the projects are informed by others at different levels. NWS also says that it might be odd to call these transitions out by line office and it might be better to

make this more of a “NOAA” report instead of by line office. NESDIS asks if the annual state of the climate report was included in this transition? Or reports like that? Nicole responds that clarifying the guidance that goes out with the tasker would help since it is interpreted by each line office and might be responded to differently. NMFS just needs to be clear about stock assessments etc. The Chair says that assessments are something unique to government agencies and may take a life of their own as they advance year over year, perhaps they should be their own classification. Nicole notes that the LOTMC will incorporate this discussion into their work plan.

Committee Update #6: Line Office Transition Managers Committee (LOTMC): Lonnie Gonsalves and Nicole Kurkowski [\[Tab 6\]](#)

The LOTMC’s greatest achievement—quarterly reporting of NOAA’s R2X transitions, ORTA doing the NOAA Fireside Chats, NOAA RL Training Task Force developed teaching tools, transition plan cleanup at the request of Dr. Spinrad—2022 review/update of transition plans in NRDD, this resulted in NRDD field updates. Greatest challenges—addressing stalled transitions across Line Offices, this needs more discussion and anticipated to be in the 2023 work plan.

Discussion

NWS points out that the Science Council and Earth Systems Integration Board (ESIB) experience overlap for transitions. Any comments about how they function and are briefed? Lonnie Gonsalves responds that addressing stalled transitions and continued improvements in reporting transitions is a big priority and may help us capture the “wins” we have that we might not be capturing and success stories and documenting those (experimental phases).

Emerging Technologies Workshop: Meredith Wagner [\[Tab 7\]](#) [\[Tab 7.1\]](#)

Meredith Wagner shares the proposal for the Science Council to take over supporting the ETW and makes connections between the Science Council’s work plan and Committee’s functions and how they can contribute to the ETWs success. Proposed the workshop moves to NSC where it may be a better fit (rather than the NOSC). NOAA ETW aims to identify new opportunities to advance capabilities to monitor, assess, predict the environment by building partnerships with private sector, federal agencies, and academia. How well have these workshops worked? Technology uptake by NOAA—we haven’t seen this as much for what we learned in the workshops. So we are looking at suggestions for improving outcomes: Develop good expression of NOAA’s tech needs, Session chairs participation in gap selection earlier on, Encourage relevant attendance, Leverage funding. There is alignment of NSC objectives and workshops, focus areas with S&TS committee, LOTMC, RDEC all have to do with developing new technologies (a focus of the workshops). Alignment with NOAA Tech Partnerships and SBIR. Equity, Inclusion, and Access central themes of 2021 ETW. There are opportunities to build and sustain partnerships, develop and implement NOAA’s research priorities, support Focus Areas, accelerate transitions of NOAA’s R&D to operations, applications, commercialization and other uses. The NSC is asked to consider proposal for the primary sponsorship of the ETW to be with the NSC

Discussion

NOS asks if Meredith and team have checked in with the NOSC? Meredith responds that yes, they are supportive of this move. Do you have metrics of what success looks like in the applications of ETW? Meredith says we do have measures of success. What they would like to see is an underutilized technology that allows NOAA to do its mission better. Find a technology to fill a gap for less cost. Etc. to help move technology through the valley of death (over the hump of operations) Joe Fillingham says one of the potential directions for future

ETWs is close alignment with priorities around partnerships. Less of a focus on NOAA acquiring a technology but working with partners/private sector to develop a technology that is needed and is effective and can get to where it needs to go. NWS suggests that the S&T synergy committee would probably be the best fit if it went to the Council. But no NOAA committee needs to operate if there is no return on investment. NWS recognizes the time commitment this would take and questions, is there a better return on the staff hours for something else? Tony LaVoi offers one option would be to pursue adding the technology objectives from the ETW into the EDMW and AI Workshops. We are committed to EDMW and AI this calendar year. The Chair suggests reconsidering how we do this entirely. NESDIS -referring to slide 3— asks what is each line office doing towards this end? The Council agrees that TPO needs to be consulted on this. Joseph Fillingham says that NRDD is a useful tool for program planning of ETW. EDMW—has a way to distribute workload of workshops and could be a consideration how work is distributed for ETW. OAR suggests that it would be good to know how successful the workshops have been and is it worth continuing in the future with a sensitivity to burnout? Meredith agrees but thinks that the workshop should be done differently and if it can be reworked and restructured to get better results. NMFS says we need to think how legislation and IRA will change things and how this would be relevant. The Chair agrees and would like to get social science involved in it to measure success and impact that is measurable. Table this for later.

Strategic Research Guidance Memorandum (SRGM) FY 2026 Discussion: Sarah Kapnick

Dr. Spinrad asked Kapnick to draft one for FY25. Take what was developed for Craig and update it for the language for FY24. The Chair has drafted the SRGM for FY25 and then will start a full process for FY26. NESDIS asks, will they tie the SRGM to funding? The Chair responds that for the FY25, with where we are right now, it should be things we know that are in our priorities The Chair says there must be a quick turn around over the next two weeks for comments on this and then more rigorous process in the next 6 months working with the SAB on the FY26 process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next NOAA Science Council meeting is on **February 14th at 10:30am - 12:30pm ET**

ACTION ITEMS

Science Council: This spreadsheet lists all current open action items currently assigned to the Council. Additional information for each entry can be found in the original email assigning this task. If you have any questions, please email science.council.execsec@noaa.gov.

Date Assigned or Action Number	Subject Line	Assigned To	Due Date	Status
20220531	State of the Science Factsheet on Emerging Technologies	S&T Synergy Committee	February	In the process of being drafted
20221012	Social Science Committee Terms of Reference	Social Science Committee and NSC for review	Nov 9 2022	Showstopper Review by NSC complete. Waiting for final draft from the SSC.

20220510-01	Cooperative Research Committee ToR	Group of NSC principals and advisory members	TBD	The group is following up on the motion proposed by Gary Matlock at the May Science Council meeting
20220830	Science Council ToR	NSC/NEP	End of Nov	Shared with NEP and NEC for approval
2022	Science Report	RDEC	February 2023	Science report is with the RDEC for showstopper review.
20221104-1	SoS Fact Sheet - Atlantic Hurricanes	OAR - Tom Knutson + team	End of January	First draft ready for NSC review
20221104-2	SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NISDIS	Jan 6th	Working on updating first draft
20221107	SoS Fact Sheet - Tornadoes	NSSL/NWS	TBD	Working on updating the first draft
20221130	NAS OSB DEI/JAB Study	NSC	Dec 16th	The NSC is reviewing the project proposal from OSB and sharing their thoughts as to if NOAA should participate in this study (why/why not)
20230106	NSTC PFAS Report to Congress	NSC	January 23rd	Showstopper review
20230110	Ideas for MSI Exhibit	NSC	January 18th	The NSC has been asked to submit ideas for exhibits at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry that highlight NOAA's work
20230113	2023 Science Council Work Plan	NSC and POCs	January 13th	The first round of input concluded -1/13 and Exec Sec is working on accepting these edits before sharing the document with the NSC
20230117	2022 Accomplishments Report	NSC	End of January	Pending approval before sharing with NSC