



**National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration**  
Science Council

**NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 14, 2023**

**10:30 AM to 12:30 PM EST**

**Google Meet**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

*Executive*

Sarah Kapnick, Chair  
Steve Thur, Vice Chair  
Anita Harrington, Exec Sec

*Principal*

Mitch Goldberg, NESDIS  
Gary Matlock, OAR  
Kristen Koch, NMFS  
Margo Schulze-Haugen, NOS  
Hendrik Tolman, NWS (alternate)  
Randall TeBeest, OMAO

*Advisory*

Cynthia Decker, Scientific Integrity Committee and NOAA Science  
Advisory Board  
Frank Indiviglio, CIO Representative  
Gary Matlock, LOTMC and RDEC Chair  
Kelly Goodwin, S&T Synergy Committee Chair  
Deirdre Clarkin, NLAC Chair  
Gina Eosco, Social Sciences Committee Chair  
Natasha White, Office of Education Liaison

*Other Attendees*

Roxie Allison-Holman, GC  
Eric Bayler, NESDIS  
Frank Canteles, OAR  
James Jenkins, OAR  
Terence Lynch, OAR  
Ishrat Jabin, OAR  
Abigail Arnold, OAR  
Jessica Cross, OAR  
Monica Grasso, OFA  
Libby Jewett, OAR  
Gabby Kitch, OAR  
Michelle McClure, OAR  
Daniel Melendez, NWS  
Jonathan Mote, OAR  
Alexandra Neal, OAR  
OMAO PCO  
Laura Newcomb, OAR  
Isha Renta, OAR  
Beth Norton, OFA  
Fiona Horsfall, OAR  
Wayne Mackenzie, OAR  
Andrew Peck, OAR,  
Julie Price, NESDIS  
Kenneth Vierra, OAR  
John Walker, OAR  
Melissa Yencho, NMFS  
Briana Yancy, OAR  
Annette Hollingshead, OAR

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

Notify Exec Sec at [science.council.execsec@noaa.gov](mailto:science.council.execsec@noaa.gov) within two weeks of the following meeting if any changes to the minutes are needed. Minutes from the February 21 NOAA Science Council meeting were **approved**.

## CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Chair needs to depart at 12 and the Vice Chair will be gone from 11-12.

## MINUTES

- Consider the February Science Council meeting minutes **accepted**.

## ACTION ITEM REVIEW

- The Exec Sec reviewed all current action items. [\[Tab 3\]](#)

**BRIEFINGS:** Briefing materials are available in the Science Council Meetings 2023 folder on Google Drive.

**Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Strategy:** Jessica Cross [\[Tab 4\]](#)

### *Directional*

The NSC is requested to review the summary of invited comments. There was a written technical review by federal colleagues from different agencies and the private sector. There was also a public verbal review focused on high level overview of the material. There were 38 verbal comments submitted for the record. There were many questions and comments on potential partnerships. Overall, minor edits were made to the report. Reviews suggested adding content on emerging CDR topics like MRV. What is needed from the NSC? Review and approve the final NOAA mCDR strategy. Jessica can provide a track changes version of the report if needed. Review summary of verbal and written comments.

### *Discussion*

Cynthia Decker informed the Council that this was a topic raised at the Climate Working Group within the SAB. They would have liked the opportunity to review. Is there time for the Climate Working Group to take a look at this? They were very interested in MRV. Jessica responds that as a part of representative review from the Science Council you can send out a tasker. Jessica reviewed the breakout box for MRV. The Vice Chair asks what were the safely related questions? They were more concerned with environmental regulations, not public safety.

NESDIS asks what is the next step after the strategy is approved. What is the strategy for implementation? The team would like to develop an implementation plan. There is more money this year than before to research this topic. There is not specific legislation on mCDR for NOAA. The team is thinking forward on this but we are not sure what the resources are going to look like. The Chair suggests that the Council should be thinking about our asks for this. NOAA is experiencing an influx of interest from the private sector that is excited about what can be done but the science isn't quite caught up to the market yet. NOAA should set standards and advocate for an implementation plan. DOE is pushing ahead with trying to do things but they are not thinking about the earth system holistically and the Council needs to make sure we are there vetting things along the way.

**ACTION: Review the updated mCDR strategy and the reviewer comments. Exec Sec will share early next week.**

**MOUs/MOAs with Federal Agencies and Private Companies:** Sarah Kapnick

### *Directional*

The Chair explains that we are not able to track these agreements cross-LO. People are still trying to do work under lapsed agreements. This could be problematic from a legal standpoint as well. Monitoring these agreements over time is both a risk management function. We want to start tracking these agreements. IP protections might not apply if agreements are lapsed.

### *Discussion Questions*

- 1) what is the process within your LO to develop these agreements;
- 2) how does your LO track these agreements; and
- 3) if you do not track them, do you have any initial recommendations on how we can better track these agreements on the LO/HQ level

#### *Discussion*

For NOS there is fairly detailed tracking, ultimately it falls on program offices to track expiration dates. This might be a good fit for a corporate structure but there is a bit of inefficiency across this process. NOS is a potential model if there is interest. OAR believes that there are requirements and procedures that are very clear in my opinion, the MOUs and MOAs are supposed to be filed within CAO. The CAO used to maintain a NOAA wide database but this was discontinued around 2005. CCU said that MOUs/MOAs are treated like any legal document. There does not seem to be an additional document that deals with the process from MOAs other than CCU. NMFS has a database called NMFS agreement tracking system (NATS) not sure how they deal with NOAA-level agreements. It can probably serve a better function but there may be a better software function. The Chair asks, does it make sense to continue as it has been done or are you suggesting we expand an existing repository? There are many LOs with their own repository so you may have to pick one to create a NOAA-wide repository. NESDIS has [guidelines](#) we use for establishing partnerships. OMAO has built a handbook that is currently in GC review. We are also hiring an OMAO agreements liaison to facilitate, track, policies across the organization. OMAO has 2 smart sheets to inventory MOA/Us. One is historical and one is current. There is no cross-LO coordination so we used the COS office to help with that. NWS suggests that it may be worth it to have a central repository for MOU/As that are cross LO. We are moving more towards open science/open data. When can we be formal vs. informal? NOS recommends working with CIO to build a cross LO single process. The routing and review and go through this process and include DOC GC in that process. GC agrees with NOS 'suggestion to include DOC GC. OMAO asks is this a NOAA-wide policy/process? The Chair thinks the Council needs to learn from the LOs what are the best practices and education is needed on how things can be done and when to get TPO and GC involved. It seems very ad hoc and not enough people are involved/aware of the process. There are offices that can provide support. There is an education component, pulling together information component, and a risk management component. It benefits everyone for GC to be involved sooner rather than later. The discussions cross-LO are not taking place. The agreement with Microsoft is an example of this. There will likely be more and more requests for this in the future. Creating a structure around this is essential.

**ACTION: Continue to think about a solution for a centralized process on tracking MOUs and MOAs that will work from the LO and NOAA perspective working with DOC GC.**

**Annual NAS Ocean Studies Board Briefing:** Susan Roberts [\[Tab 5\]](#)

#### *Informational*

#### *Discussion*

NMFS asks, what are the general types of activities that take place in the committees? Susan responds that the standing committee is a bit different. Committee to review balance and conflicts of interest issues. Getting into offshore wind, there is a community that is interested in it but have been struggling to develop relationships with the commercial channels. Need better communication between the groups and communities. Susan informs the Council that she has been in communication with Jessica Cross related to the CDR strategy.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next NOAA Science Council meeting is on **April 18th at 10:30am - 12:30pm ET**

- Vice Chair provided an update from the OPC meeting: 220 actions, sub actions scheduled to be released 1 week from today. Meeting was for a last minute showstopper. NOAA is listed as lead or co lead for 61% of actions. Not all of this work was proposed by NOAA.
- Exec Sec Anita Harrington will be moving on to a new position at USFWS, this is her last meeting.

## 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](mailto: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	End of March	Drafted and ready for review by the NSC review
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	TBD	Approved by NEP, awaiting NEC review
20221104-1	SoS Fact Sheet - Atlantic Hurricanes	OAR - Tom Knutson + team	March 23	Ready for showstopper review
20221104-2	SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NIDIS	TBD	Working on updating first draft
20221107	SoS Fact Sheet - Tornadoes	NSSL/NWS	TBD	Working on updating the first draft
20230113	2023 Science Council Work Plan	NSC and POCs	March 14	The first round of input concluded -1/13 and awaiting last bit of info before sharing with the NSC
20230117	2022 Accomplishments Report	NSC	March 14	Ready to share with NSC for review
20230214	2022 Science Report	NSC Principals and Advisory members	March 29	Editorial Team is making final edits based on NSC comments
20230303	FY25 SRGM	NSC	March 17	Showstopper review in progress