



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
Science Council

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

June 20th, 2023

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM EST

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Executive

Sarah Kapnick, Chair
Saiontoni Sarkar, Exec Sec
Celina Harris, Exec Sec
Isha Renta, Exec Sec

Principal

Margo Schulze-Haugen, NOS
Gary Matlock, OAR
Joe Pica, NESDIS (alternative)
Kenric Osgood, NMFS (alternative)
Hendrik Tolman, NWS (alternative)
Shawna Karlson, OMAO (alternative)

Advisory

Hendrik Tolman, Council of NOAA Fellows
Cynthia Decker, SAB Exec Director and Scientific
Integrity Liaison
Gary Matlock, RDEC Chair
Alison Krepp, Social Science Committee Chair
Lonnie Gonsalves, LOTMC Chair
Deirdre Clarkin, NOAA Libraries Advisory Committee
Chair
Kelly Goodwin, S&T Synergy Committee Chair
Natasha White, Office of Education Liaison
Tony LaVoi, Chief Data Officer

Other Attendees

Abigail Arnold, OAR
Alexandra Neal, OAR
Andrew Peck, OAR
Annette Hollingshead, OAR
Casey Stewart, OAR
Fiona Horsfall, OAR
Ingrid Ramos-Guasp, NESDIS
Jessica Morgan, NESDIS
Joseph Fillingham, OAR
Josie Galloway, OAR
Julie Price, NESDIS
Kenneth Vierra, OAR
Larry Alade, NMFS
Laura Newcomb, OAR
Megan Deehan, OAR
Rob Redmon, NESDIS
Melissa Yencho, NMFS
Sarah Davis, OAR
Victoria Luu, OAR
Beth Norton, OFA
Briana Yancy, OAR
Douglas Rao, NESDIS
Ishrat Jabin, OAR
Janel Edelen, NESDIS
Benjamin Richards, NMFS
Daniel Melendez, NWS
Eric Kihn, NESDIS
Mridula Srinivasan, NMFS

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 May 16 NOAA Science Council meeting were **approved**.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Held for meeting end

MINUTES

- Consider the May 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.

Line Office Transition Managers Committee Quarterly Update : Lonnie Gonsalves [\[Tab 4\]](#)

Informational/Discussional

LOTMC Chair would like to address the timing and contents of the quarterly transition reports to maximize efficient support of the Science Council. From the input gathered at today's meeting, the LOTMC will develop a set of recommendations to present to the Science Council at a later point to adapt their current working structure. The LOTMC chair specifically was looking for feedback on (1) How are LOs utilizing quarterly transition reports, (2) Does the tempo fit the LO need, (3) Does the information within the reports fit the needs of the LO?

(1) Utilization

OAR uses these reports when doing midterm and annual reporting. Additionally, these reports aid with giving credit to folks appropriately for transitioning their efforts into applications. These reports help us to be able to better articulate to the Hill when we are asked what we're doing with R&D money.

NWS uses these reports when doing their quarterly reports at the AA level; indicating that the transition report is a component of the overall photo.

NOS has limited use of quarterly reports. Much from NOS isn't included because readiness level 9 is not their target. They have more that is happening in lower readiness level transitions and knowledge transfers.

NMFS has a similar experience as NOS.

(2) Tempo

OAR indicated that semi-annual reports would be sufficient. NMFS felt a lower frequency would also be appropriate. NWS thinks quarterly is nice, but they don't think this is necessary and they would be content going to a semi-annual reporting structure. NESDIS concurred with a slower tempo.

(3) Report information

NWS feels that these reports should be used to link to successes outside of reaching readiness level 9. Success is project specific and transitions of knowledge across LOs is a success point that is not currently tracked. Success at lower levels needs to be highlighted.

NESDIS indicated that they felt that the impact of transitions was not being captured in the reports.

OAR agreed that impacts would be worthwhile to include but that it may be more appropriate to label these as "potential or possible impacts" for things that won't be realized until operating or applied. OAR also indicated if NRDD were utilized more broadly and more completely by users than this report may be unnecessary.

ORTA added R2R and knowledge transfers are being tracked by ORTA and while not highly visible, could be worth including as stories in the report.

NCAI and NAIEC Ethical AI Conversation: Rob Redmon & Ben Richards [Slides from the May 2023 Science Council Meeting: [Tab 5](#)]

Informational/Discussional

A follow-up discussion from our last month's meeting. A necessity was placed on educating researchers in the new future on generative AI (and AI in general), what tools exist, how they can be used, and the differences between things like ChatGPT and Google Search. It would be useful for staff if a training could be developed that incorporates effective and safe use of AI, with aspects highlighting scientific integrity as well. CLC as a resource was brought up, but accessibility for non-federal employees and partners through collaborative institutes was mentioned. The NOAA CIO Council mentioned that they have committed to developing AI IT policy guidance. The use of IT platforms as an initial springboard was discussed, but the need for AI discussions to go beyond the IT framework was mentioned. Statistical AI has been used for a long time, but it was noted that ethical AI is beyond generative AI and that discussions should be had at various levels to ensure that we consider ethics even in portions of AI that seem like they can't be subjective.

Highlighted peer agency frameworks: [Ethical and Responsible Use of AI/ML in the Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences](#) (NASA), [AI Risk Management Framework](#) (NIST), [AI Ethical Principles](#) (DOD), [AI Accountability Framework](#) (GAO).

Some discussion presented on the need to develop an NAO in the long term for this topic, with concurrent work streams in the interim developing guidance and implementation milestones.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chair: In light of the recent white paper, a tasker will be sent out soon on recommendations of next steps for NOAA to consider with respect to our mCDR strategy
- Exec Sec: The next NOAA Science Council meeting is on **July 11th 2023, at 10:30am - 12:30pm ET**
- Exec Sec: The Social Science Committee member nomination is open until tomorrow **June 21, 2023**

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	March 29	Initial SC review closed.
20220510-01	Cooperative Research Committee ToR	Group of SC principals and advisory members	TBD	The group is following up on the motion proposed by Gary Matlock at the May Science 2022 Council meeting
20220830	Science Council ToR	SC/NEP	June 2	Approved by NEP, NEC review complete. Received comments from NOS AA.
20221104-2	SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NIIDIS	TBD	Working on updating first draft
20221107	SoS Fact Sheet - Tornadoes	NSSL/NWS	June 15	Responses are past due

20230414	MOU/MOA NAO Revision Task Force	SC	TBD	Task Force membership established; first meeting was 06/08/2023; ToR drafting in progress
20230517	Review of Anthropogenic Underwater Noise as Pollution Action-Decision Memo	SC	May 30	Showstopper review responses sent back to NOAA International Affairs.