



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
Science Council

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

July 11th, 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
Derek Ardnt, NESDIS (alternative)
Kenric Osgood, NMFS (alternative)
Richard Bandy, NWS (alternative)
Stephan Smith, NWS
Shawna Karlson, OMAO (alternative)

Advisory

Cynthia Decker, NOAA Scientific Integrity Liaison
Casey Stewart, Science Advisory Board Executive
Director
Gary Matlock, RDEC Chair
Alison Krepp, Social Sciences Committee Co-Chair
Frank Indiviglio, CIO Representative
Kelly Goodwin, S&T Synergy Committee Chair
Kelly Wright, TPO Liaison

Other Attendees

Debbie Sinmao, OFA
Abigail Arnold, OAR
Jessica Morgan, NESDIS
Fiona Horsfall, OAR
Briana Yancy, OAR
Megan Deehan, OAR
Terence Lynch, OAR
Annette Hollingshead, OAR
Ishrat Jabin, OAR
Mary Solokas, OAR
Victoria Luu, OAR
Eric Bayler, NESDIS
Jim Jenkins, OAR
Jonathan Mote, OAR
Julie Price, NESDIS
Roxie Allison-Holman, OGC
Alexandra Neal, OAR
John Walker, OAR

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 June 20th NOAA Science Council meeting were **approved**.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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MINUTES

<http://sciencecouncil.noaa.gov>

- 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.

NOAA Science Advisory Board Nominations: Casey Stewart

The materials and content from this briefing are subject to confidentiality restrictions. Please reach out to the NOAA Science Council Executive Secretariat at science.council.execsec@noaa.gov for the minutes from this discussion.

- **S&T Synergy Committee Update:** Kelly Goodwin - [Tab 4]

Informational

The focus areas of the S&T Synergy Committee have many applications, are rapidly evolving, and have expertise spread across the agency. In recent years, committee structure has needed to evolve due to personnel constraints. This has led to a narrowed focus to synergies that already exist to ensure that they are supported appropriately. As different focus areas are in different states of maturity, they utilize the S&T Synergy Committee to provide them access to the NOAA Science Council meetings. Examples were presented of instances where vertical and horizontal communication across the agency did not fully occur. It was highlighted that the amount of appropriations varies across the focus areas and that having champions to provide visibility is helpful because scientists like to be heard and feel that they are not working in a vacuum.

Discussion

NWS indicated that they are exploring citizen science in the context of gathering social and behavioral data. They were interested in knowing more about potential AI - citizen science connections because they believe this work will be important in the future. The Committee Chair indicated that she is unaware if there is currently interdisciplinary work between the AI and Citizen Science task teams but that highlighting that interdisciplinary aspect is important for truly seeing the impacts that the Committee could have. The NOAA Science Council chair agreed with this difficulty and asked that members consider how we can continue to advance these types of interdisciplinary actions going forward without formal plans and continuous report writing given the exciting funding constraints. Particularly, the question was raised on how to maintain discussion forums for research staff to facilitate these interactions and allow areas to evolve. NESDIS added that passing along the knowledge and process information is also extremely important. The example of the AI Center was provided and how it functions despite complete resourcing on voluntary support of workers. OAR brought up that this resourcing need, particularly for cross-NOAA efforts, is a recurring issue and that relying on volunteers cannot be the long term solution. OAR highlighted that NOAA should focus on building mechanisms that allow for cross-NOAA work to be considered from a budgetary perspective to sustain the voluntary efforts of the staff.

- **Strategic Research Guidance Memorandum:** Sarah Kapnick [Tab 5]

Informational/Discussional

The Chair presented information on how she envisions restructuring the Strategic Research Guidance Memorandum (SRGM) for FY26. In FY25, this document was reflective on NOAA science in major areas and served to be incredibly useful for ensuring the Assistant Secretaries were up to speed on NOAA science. However, this document was very long because it needed to cover so many things which made it a difficult document to use for communication purposes. For FY26, the Chair indicated that she wants to reframe the document to better communicate the needs of NOAA in a way that would allow the document to be used as a communication device on the Hill for funding purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next NOAA Science Council meeting is August 8th from 10:30am to 12:30pm ET via Google Meet.

ACTION ITEMS

Subject Line	Assigned To	Due Date	Status
State of the Science Factsheet on Emerging Technologies	S&T Synergy Committee	March 29	Initial SC review closed.
Cooperative Research Committee ToR	Group of NOAA Science Council principals and advisory members	TBD	The group is following up on the motion proposed by Gary Matlock at the May Science 2022 Council meeting
Science Council ToR	SC/NEP	June 2	Approved by NEP, NEC review complete. Received comments from NOS AA.
SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NIIDIS	TBD	POC working on updating first draft
SoS Fact Sheet - Tornadoes	NSSL/NWS	June 15	Showstopper comments recieved and sent back to POC.
MOU/MOA NAO Revision Task Force	NOAA Science Council	TBD	Task Force membership established; first meeting was 06/08/2023; ToR drafting in progress
Identify use cases for generative AI	NOAA Science Council	July 12	Sent for NSC review on 6/30. Deadline extended to July 12.
SoS Fact Sheet - Emerging Science for Mobile Earth Observations	NOAA Science Council	July 19	Out for review.