



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
Science Council

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

September 12th, 2023

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM EST

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Executive

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

Principal

Sean Corson, NOS
Gary Matlock, OAR
Douglas Howard, NESDIS
Kristen Koch, NMFS
Randall Tebeest, OMAO

Advisory

Kelly Goodwin, NOAA Science and Technology
Synergy Committee Chair
Gary Matlock, Research and Development
Enterprise Committee Chair
Shannon Louie, Cooperative Institute Committee
Chair
Casey Stewart, Science Advisory Board Executive
Director
Cynthia Decker, NOAA Scientific Integrity Liaison
Jeremy Weirich, NOAA National Oceanographic
Partnership Program Committee Chair
Natasha White, Office of Education Liaison

Other Attendees

Britt Parker, OAR
Elizabeth Ossowski, OAR
Ingrid Ramos-Guasp, NESDIS
Eric Bayler, NESDIS
Joseph Fillingham, OAR
Joel Lisonbee, OAR
Veva Deheza, OAR
Tori Luu, OAR
Alexandra Neal, OAR
Laura Newcomb, OAR
Ishrat Jabin, OAR
Derek Parks, OAR
Tyler Christensen, NESDIS
Megan Deehan, OAR
Abigail Arnold, OAR
Andrew Peck, OAR
Briana Yancy, OAR
Brooke McHansen, NESDIS
Fiona Horsfall, OAR
Frank Indiviglio, OFA CIO
Jim Jenkins, OAR
Jessica Morgan, NESDIS
Melissa Yencho, NMFS
Roxie Allison-Holman, GC
Sarah Davis, OAR
Terence Lynch, OAR
Victoria Moreno, OAR
Debbie Sinmao, OFA CIO
Daniel Melendez, NWS
Julie Price, NESDIS

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:

- We will have a closed session pre-decisional briefing next month. We will be discussing collaborations with foreign nationals. Principals, please let us know if there is anyone in your line office that would be pertinent to be included in this session beyond yourself and immediate staffers.

MINUTES

- Consider the August 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.

Drought Assessment in a Changing Climate Technical Workshop Report: Britt Parker, Veva Deheza, Joel Lisonbee, and Elizabeth Ossowski - [\[Tab 4\]](#) [\[Tab 4.1\]](#) [\[Tab 4.2\]](#)

Informational/Directional

Background on the reasoning was presented as to why there is a need for understanding drought assessment in the changing climate. February 2023, > 100 experts across 44 agencies attended a technical workshop on how to assess drought in the context of changing climates. Feedback from participants indicated that capturing the process from the workshop was important for the future. Key focus areas of the report on the workshop that are highly relevant to NOAA were presented and additional focus areas that may resonate were presented more briefly. Short-term requests of endorsement and review of the report. Long-term requests of integration of results into research occurring across NOAA.

Discussion

NOAA Fisheries would like to review the report, and if warranted would be open to endorsement.

Vice Chair would like to know what endorsement means to the team? And to the Council, why should we endorse this report and not others? How do we decide which reports should be endorsed?

Endorsement to the NIDIS team indicates long-term support of the long-term requests. Evident to SMEs that gathered for the workshop that the outcomes are much bigger than NIDIS and, as such, the ability of NIDIS to say that commitment of the Science Council would demonstrate agency wide support of these requests.

Chair wanted to bring this to discussion because it is cross-line office and cross-government (interagency, USDA) and thinking about those engagements is important. There was engagement nationwide for this workshop (and report) and because of that, it would be worthwhile for all of us to consider comments because it's breadth may indicate that we should be doing something different than we normally would.

Vice Chair - motioned for a vote for if the Science Council should review.

5/6 principals (all in attendance) said yes to the Science Council review.

NAS Procedural Oversight: Steve Thur - [\[Tab 5\]](#) [\[Tab 5.1\]](#)

Decisional

Vice Chair wants the Science Council to be a body that focuses on deliberative science policy issues and minimizes procedural oversight. The necessity that the Science Council have established for reviewing the NAS contracts has created a lot of administrative burden for the Science Council. Currently 3 threshold levels, and these come before the Science Council a few times each year (not often, but occasionally). Proposed increasing the dollar thresholds for these 3 existing levels. Goal: minimizing bureaucratic role of the Science Council and recognizing the high level membership of principals and trusting their review for lower levels. Additional

proposal to not require full council review of incremental funding renewal, but instead to provide 3 months notice prior to funding review to occur.

Discussion

NESDIS asked for clarification on the incremental funding - does this mean up to the cap or above the initial award.

The Vice Chair indicated that this would mean that the proposal comes to the Council with the full value of the relationship initially, and so long as the increments are in keeping with that initial proposal then we are fine to continue without additional meetings.

5/6 principals (all in attendance) said yes to the proposal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ACTION ITEMS

Date Assigned	Due Date	Subject Line	Assigned To	Status
20220510-01	TBD	Cooperative Research Committee ToR	Group of NOAA Science Council principals and advisory members	The group is following up on the motion proposed by Gary Matlock at the May Science 2022 Council meeting.
20220830	June 2	Science Council ToR	SC/NEP	Approved by NEP, NEC review complete. Received comments from NOS AA. Response to comments sent back. Awaiting response.
20221104-2	TBD	SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NIDIS	POC working on updating first draft.
20221107	June 15	SoS Fact Sheet - Tornadoes	NSSL/NWS	Review completed. To be approved and posted.
20230414	TBD	MOU/MOA NAO Revision Task Force	NOAA Science Council	ToR drafting in progress.
20230705	July 19	SoS Fact Sheet - Emerging Science for Mobile Earth Observations	NOAA Science Council	Review completed. To be approved and posted.