

**NOAA Science Advisory Board
Teleconference Meeting
September 20, 2010
12:00-2:00 PM**

Presentations for this meeting will be posted on the SAB website at

<http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Meetings/meetings.html>

Attendees

SAB members in attendance: Mr. Raymond Ban, Chair and Consultant, Weather Industry and Government Partnerships, The Weather Channel; Dr. Eric Barron, President, Florida State University; Dr. Heidi Cullen, CEO, Climate Central; Dr. Eve Gruntfest, Director, Social Science Woven into Meteorology, University of Oklahoma; Dr. Jerry Schubel, President and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific; and Dr. Thomas Zacharia, Deputy for Science and Technology, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

NOAA senior management and Line Office representatives in attendance: Dr. Larry Robinson, Assistant Secretary, Conservation and Management and Deputy Administrator; Ms. Mary Glackin, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Operations; Dr. Paul Sandifer, Senior Science Advisor; Ms. Laura Furgione, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Weather Service; Mr. Joseph Klimkavich, Chief Information Officer; Ingrid Guch, representing the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service; and Greg Bass, representing the Office of Marine and Aircraft Operations.

Staff for the Science Advisory Board in attendance: Dr. Cynthia J. Decker, Executive Director; Marcey Guramatunhu and Mary Anne Whitcomb.

SAB Working Group Comments on the National Weather Service (NWS) Draft Strategic Plan.

Mr. Ray Ban initiated the discussion of the first topic, comments on the National Weather Service (NWS) draft strategic plan. As with the NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan (NGSP), the Science Advisory Board (SAB) had asked its working groups to provide comments on this document. The SAB saw an earlier version of this plan several months ago at its November 2009 meeting.

Discussion:

Jerry Schubel thought that both the Environmental Information Services and the Fire Weather Research working groups had good comments. He thought the NWS plan had urgency and relevance even more so than the NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan.

Ray Ban noted that for SAB comments on the NGSP, the SAB decided to send all of the WG comments with a cover letter to highlight a few items. Ray asked if that process could also work for the NWS plan. Jerry Schubel said the inputs are concise and targeted and it won't be onerous for the NWS to look at all of them. He recommended the SAB send just a brief transmittal letter with the Working Group comments. Ray asked if there were any additional thoughts to forward on the NWS plan. There being none, Ray proposed that in the cover letter the SAB mention the need for a transition process from services now provided by the National Weather Service to the services that will be provided by a NOAA Climate Service. He suggested that a statement be included in the transmittal letter a recommendation that NOAA should ensure a smooth transition between the NWS and Climate Service of those services. Jerry Schubel agreed with this suggestion. Mary Glackin thanked Ray for bringing this topic up and said NOAA has heard about the need for a smooth transition from other constituents and is working to respond to that issue. She pointed out that NOAA is supporting a National Academy of Public Administration Study on the NOAA Climate Service. Both the NAPA study and NOAA have specifically considered the interrelations between NWS and the Climate Service. NOAA intends to leverage in the Climate Service the weather activities that work directly the community. The plan is for NWS to focus on preparedness issues while the Climate Service will focus more on adaptation to climate change but more work needs to be done on this topic. Mary noted that there were no comments on the NWS Plan from the Climate Working Group.

Larry Robinson thanked the working groups for providing comments and said he thought the Plan would be better after they were incorporated. He also noted that he spoke with Jack Hayes, the Assistant Administrator for the NWS, and wants to link this Plan as well as others in NOAA to the President's National Ocean Policy. Marie Lovern from NWS said there will be a meeting for the NWS to consider all public comments and these will be reviewed at that time.

Ray thanked the working groups that submitted comments and will send a message to the chairs of those groups to let them know the outcome of this.

Action 1: The Science Advisory Board accepts the comments from the Environmental Information Services and Fire Weather Research Working Groups on the National Weather Service Draft Strategic Plan and will transmit them to NOAA for consideration. The transmittal letter will highlight the need for a strong relationship between the NWS and the new NOAA Climate Service.

The Way Forward to Revitalize the Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG)-Ms. Helen Wood, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

Ray Ban introduced the subject of revitalization of the SAB Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group. At the last SAB meeting in Sarasota, FL, there were recommendations from Ferris Webster, Chair of the DAARWG to renew the membership of most of the DAARWG members (most of whose terms had expired), add two new members, and move forward to re-establish this group with a meeting in the fall of 2010. At that time the SAB decided not to approve these recommendations, given its desire to revisit the rationale for all of its working groups and in the absence of input from NOAA on the need for this group.

Since the Sarasota meeting the DAARWG has been discussed more extensively with Thomas Zacharia, SAB liaison to the group, Ferris Webster, DAARWG Chair and Helen Wood from NESDIS on concepts for revitalization of this working Group. Helen provided the SAB with an overview of NOAA's data management structure, specifically the new Environmental Data Management Committee (EDMC), and the agency's need for the DAARWG to provide input through the SAB.

Ms. Wood said at the July SAB meeting there was not a representative from the NOAA EDMC who could address questions about the need for the DAARWG. Subsequent to the meeting there was a discussion with Ray Ban, Thomas Zacharia, Ferris Webster and several others and a report has been prepared on the way forward for the DAARWG. A report and executive summary were provided to the SAB before this meeting outlining all of the NOAA needs for advice on data management.

In 2010, NOAA established the EDMC with a composition broadly representative of all NOAA components. The NOAA Data Management Committee, which the EDMC replaced, had an emphasis on NESDIS-operated data centers and systems. With the EDMC, the focus has broadened to encompass end-to-end data-management life-cycle issues throughout NOAA. Since the creation of the EDMC there has been frequent dialogue between members and leadership of the EDMC and the DAARWG. The focus of these interactions has been to keep the DAARWG abreast of the changes occurring at NOAA and to evaluate how best to revitalize and refocus the DAARWG to advise the SAB.

Most notably, all current and recent DAARWG members were invited to participate in the NOAA-wide Environmental Data Management Workshop held in late May 2010. This event marked a vitalization of NOAA's focus on agency-wide environmental data management. She pointed out that the newly-formed EDMC demonstrates NOAA's commitment to addressing data at the beginning of its lifecycle in a rigorous way. The EDMC is under the Environmental Data Council under the NOAA Office of the Chief Information Officer. As a result of this change, the first charge was to strengthen the NOAA administrative procedures related to environmental data including investments in data systems. To help NOAA address the specifics on standards, the EDMC wanted to have the benefits of input from the members of the DAARWG. Out of this workshop has come an operating plan for environmental data management internal activities and a stated desire to re-engage with the DAARWG. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill (DWH)

consumed much time and effort; that activity demonstrated that the handling of information was critical to provide the scientific basis for decision-making on response and recovery. The formation of the climate service and the DWH oil spill both emphasized the importance of the end-to-end data management lifecycle to make it as transparent and non-burdensome for PIs, as well as documentation, data quality and tools to make data more understandable and useful for decision-makers in the future. From the NOAA standpoint, there is an opportunity to enhance and showcase what the agency is doing in with its data. NOAA believes it is very important to continue to receive the benefits of SAB advice throughout this process. The DAARWG provides a solid framework for providing the SAB with advice and insights in addressing these challenges. Ms. Wood concluded by asking for the SAB support to step up the efforts in data management and keep it going.

In order to provide the SAB with the best information, the DAARWG requests renewing current members on staggered terms and bringing in new members with expertise in ocean observations and fisheries management. Members with other areas of expertise will be identified as needed in the future. The major impediment to DAARWG was benign neglect due to the necessary focus on climate and the need to obtain funding for DAARWG meetings. Ms. Wood has identified funding for 2-3 meetings a year. In order to take advantage of lessons learned from DWH and from development of the NOAA climate service and other data, NIOAA would like to have benefit of advice from the SAB, using information and recommendations provided to the SAB by DAARWG gathered in a fall 2010 meeting, if the SAB agrees.

Discussion:

Ray Ban noted Eric Barron's effort to look across working groups is very important for this effort. The SAB working groups depend on environmental information and have implications for environmental information management. The members of Dr. Barron's Working Group Subcommittee would like to see DAARWG coordinate across working groups, e.g. EISWG. DAARWG efforts will be helpful as NOAA is developing common solutions to these issues.

Ferris Webster thought Helen Wood gave a good summary. DAARWG has an excellent group of people with diverse capabilities and will do what they can to meet the SAB's needs. Helen gave a good summary of how DAARWG could be useful and the members are ready to move forward to help the SAB as it provides advice to NOAA.

Thomas Zacharia thanked Ray as Chair for putting this discussion on the agenda. These topics are very important and NOAA has made a case that they need support and timely advice of the SAB, with input from this working group and looks forward to approval to move forward.

On page 6 of the DAARWG report to the SAB is a complete list of the working group members, staggered list of terms and proposed new members of the committee. Jerry Schubel thinks the case has been made for the importance of DAARWG and staggering of terms. He suggested that language be added to the DAARWG terms of reference that the group should meet at least twice

a year and NOAA should respond to each recommendation. Ray Ban responded that the Working Group recommendations have to come through the SAB, and, to clarify Jerry's last point, it would be the SAB role to take the working group report and pass it to the agency with the response coming back to the SAB. Jerry agreed and said that the SAB should get a written response from NOAA.

Larry Robinson made a point about DWH. NOAA held listening sessions in three regions on subsurface oil and dispersant products as part of its response activities. At each session, access to data from this event was discussed. Advice on how to handle data from not just this one event but on ways to provide data to academic community in a timely manner would be helpful. NOAA is incorporating into the Subsurface Monitoring Plan the comments they heard but there is need for NOAA to have input on how to handle this issue so they can apply this advice in the future.

Helen Wood added that there is a need for urgency; NOAA must move forward on a timely basis on issues where there is a need for rapid access to data that are not well understood and to identify how these data are handled. To help ensure data are well characterized, documented and footnoted, it would be better for NOAA to have more timely advice.

Joe Klimkavich said data management is one of the highest cost items in NOAA; there are a lot of things the agency could use help on; data archiving and storage strategy is just one area.

Mary Glackin said two new proposed members will bring talent and expertise. She encouraged Helen Wood and Ferris Webster that, as vacancies allow, to bring other members onto the WG not as closely aligned to the mission but from other fields who might have expertise that is needed. Ferris Webster agreed that the more diversity there is in DAARWG the better. He welcomes suggestions for more types or different disciplines of members to have a diversity of approaches to suggest to NOAA.

Ray Ban noted that Jerry Schubel asked for wording to be added in the terms of reference that the DAARWG be obligated to meet two times a year and that there be appropriate response time from NOAA on recommendations. He asked if there are prescriptive frequencies for other working groups in meeting. Cynthia Decker replied that language in other working group Terms of Reference probably states that they meet 2-3 times a year. Jerry Schubel said the SAB could soften the wording to say that working groups are expected to meet at least two times a year. Cynthia Decker suggested the way to do this may be include language on meeting frequency in the Working Groups Concept of Operations document rather than include in each Terms of Reference document. Ray Ban liked the idea of including this in the Concept of Operations. He believes that the working groups are critical and fundamental to the SAB in the quality of the advice to the agency. Once a working group is established, it is imperative that the group be utilized as the talent needs to be put to the best use. The SAB liaison assumes responsibility for reporting that the working groups remain active and productive.

There were three recommendations in the Executive Summary: 1) schedule the next DAARWG meeting in the fall of 2010; 2) accept the proposal for staggered terms of existing members, and 3) approve the two new members. Jerry Schubel's suggestions will be handled in a broader working group Concept of Operations and he agreed.

Ray commented that the Board had a conference call with Tom, Ferris, Helen and others to work out these issues. The work and diligence demonstrated during that call was outstanding and there was no doubt on getting the mission accomplished and on the role that the DAARWG can play.

Larry Robinson suggested an agenda item for the proposed fall DAARWG meeting, that Joe Klimavicz provide an overview of data issues in the context of DWH, not just NOAA but the interagency issues as well. Helen agreed that putting NOAA's challenges in broader context will ensure that solutions broadly identified will work in the larger context and will put this on the DAARWG agenda.

Thomas Zacharia moved that the proposal put forward be accepted with the three recommendations. It was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Action 2: The SAB accepts the proposed recommendations from the DAARWG Chair and will re-establish the working group.

Update on the Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group (OEAWG)-Dr. William Corso, Acting Director, NOAA Ocean Exploration and Research Program

Ray Ban introduced this topic, noting that there are some similarities between the history of the DAARWG and the OEAWG. The OEAWG is different, however, in that the SAB agreed to dis-establish this Working Group once NOAA established the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board. Since that Panel has not been established, NOAA would like to continue to use the expertise of the OEAWG to seek advice from the SAB.

Bill Corso, Acting Director of the NOAA Office of Exploration and Research, provided an update on the work with the OEAWG. He agreed that there are similarities between DAARWG and the Ocean Exploration group. In spring 2009, PL 111-11 was passed and had a mandate to create an Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB). In July 2009, Larry Mayer presented to the SAB the Working Group's path forward to dis-establish the Working Group as NOAA established the OEAB. During the past year the OEAWG has not met, because setting up a Federal Advisory Committee from start to finish takes a long time. The OER program is at a critical juncture, however, because the R/V Okeanos Explorer has been operational for six months and the advice and counsel for an ocean exploration working group is critical. OER asked the OEAWG members if they would continue in their roles until the OEAB is established. There will be a teleconference on October 8 to rekindle the members' involvement with the

program. At this point, however, OER is only prepared to advise the SAB that NOAA is re-engaging with the SAB through the OEAWG. Many of OEAWG members have terms that expire in 2011 and 2012; the OEAWG will consider whether it will propose to the SAB to continue all members for 24 months in order to maintain the working group until NOAA establishes the OEAB.

Discussion:

Ray asked if there was an agreement to stand down the working group. Bill Corso responded that at the July 2009 SAB meeting Larry Mayer said the working group would stand down after the OEAB was established. So, officially the OEAWG is still a valid functioning working group of the SAB. Cynthia Decker said the working group has not met in over a year but because the OEAB has not been established, the working group still exists.

Ray said at its October teleconference, the OEAWG will decide whether to propose to the SAB that the terms of members be extended for 24 months to continue the working group while the federal advisory committee is established. The SAB will expect to see recommendations of the WG at the November 30- December 1 meeting.

Larry Robinson added how wonderful it was to participate in the recent R/V Okeanos Explorer cruise to Indonesia as part of the President's effort to reach out to Muslim countries on science and technology issues. Indonesian officials are meeting with the State Department on various scientific topics; they were impressed by the partnership in ocean exploration and the plans for next year's mission. Having this advisory committee active and the OEAB established will only advance these activities.

The SAB agreed that it looks forward to specific recommendations from NOAA and the OEAWG at the SAB meeting in November.

Update on SAB Activities—Ray Ban

Ray identified several additional items to cover with the SAB. He reported that he had some informal discussions with members on SAB relevancy; whether the SAB is being as useful and relevant to the agency as it possibly can be. To try to ensure that is the case, he had conversations with Mary Glackin and Margaret Spring. He plans to engage in conversations every six weeks or so with NOAA leadership on topics that are relevant to the SAB and being worked by the agency. The idea is that if there are issues or questions that the SAB could be taking up, the members would have an opportunity to be aware of them and ensure the SAB is being as productive as it can be. The first such conversation was a few weeks ago and he hoped that would lead to a greater relevance of the SAB on NOAA issues.

As an offshoot of this discussion, Ray proposed that, in addition to the three face-to-face meetings the SAB has each year, the SAB schedule a teleconference between meetings to double

the interactions with NOAA. There were some special issues that required two teleconferences since the last meeting that circumstance won't likely be repeated. If the SAB can enhance communication with agency leadership, having a 1-2 hour conference call between meetings would create opportunities for relevance to play out and to bring more involvement by the SAB.

Discussion

Ray asked if there were any reservations about conference call between meetings. Cynthia Decker said these would be formal FACA meetings just as this teleconference is being run. Thomas thought this meeting was run very efficiently and it would be a good idea.

Ray asked if there were any reservations by Board members, to please send him an email.

Action 3: The SAB Chair proposed that the SAB have formal meetings by teleconference in between its in-person meetings, up to three per year. No agreement was reached at this meeting but members should provide comments and concerns to the Chair.

SAB Working Group Subcommittee Update-Eric Barron

Ray Ban asked SAB member Eric Barron to provide an update on the Working Group Subcommittee.

Eric Barron reported that he has not yet had an opportunity to begin the work of the subcommittee. Cynthia Decker offered for the SAB Office to set up a teleconference and he agreed. Larry Robinson is the NOAA liaison and would like to be on the initial call. Ray Ban asked Eric Barron to make sure that all subcommittee members were notified of the teleconference.

Action 4: The SAB Office will set up a teleconference for the Working Group subcommittee in the next few weeks.

Other Issues

Cynthia Decker asked Eric Barron if he wanted to be the liaison to the OEAWG. Eric responded that he did not have time to do this. Ray asked if any Board member would be interested in being OEAWG liaison. This will be discussed again at November 2010 meeting.

Ray Ban noted that Jim Sanchirico sent a message to the SAB on having a presentation with some on new research for the SAB to be exposed to new areas of scientific understanding. He proposed a speaker on social sciences aspect of weather forecasting; Cynthia Decker had asked members for any comments and did not receive any. Ray Ban asked if the members would find such a presentation valuable at their face-to-face meetings. Dr. Decker added that one of the responsibilities of the SAB is to bring to the attention of NOAA cutting-edge science that may be of relevance to the agency. Thomas said it would be a good idea if this is done in moderation. Eve said the SAB needs to be careful on whom to invite for the social sciences speaker; multiple

groups may be involved in the research but only one speaker was suggested. Ray said the issue is to identify the vetting process when a scientific presentation is proposed to the SAB: that the issue is suitable in its application, from a community point of view, that it provided by the right person, and is done in a way that gives researchers an equal chance. Ray said the SAB could use Jim's recommendation as an experiment. When a SAB member puts forward a speaker other members in that area of expertise should engage in a discussion on an appropriate speaker. The SAB may want to have one meeting a year for such a presentation.

Specifically on the issue of social science, Laura Furgione said that there are several different aspects that could be brought to the SAB. First, the National Ocean Policy has a social sciences subcommittee that will be looking at a lot of concerns. She also pointed out that NOAA has a Chief Economist who could talk to the SAB, perhaps after NOAA's book on economic statistics is updated.

Jerry Schubel said Jim would have to take responsibility to orchestrate how this aspect of social science could help NOAA, rather than just presenting one perspective by an individual.

Mary Glackin agreed that past SAB reports on social science have pointed out how subcritical this is in NOAA. On that one point the agency could benefit from additional information on this topic. However, SAB time is precious; if a number of papers are considered but not chosen, the SAB could provide all papers considered. A focus on social science is an area where there is more of a need for advice than in some other areas.

Jerry Schubel noted that, in the interrelationships between NWS and climate service, social sciences could make a contribution and this could be a useful discussion.

Mary agreed that there is a lot of richness in this topic; in the current NOAA workforce we have we don't have enough social scientists.

Paul Sandifer said the SAB should be careful to pick speakers and topics of broad significance rather than just one piece of research—such a speaker would be useful to have at one or two meetings a year. On a sociological side we are interested in how what NOAA does impacts human behavior as well as how human behavior impacts what NOAA is trying to accomplish.

Larry Robinson said at a meeting at one of the Deepwater Horizon meetings at Louisiana State University there was a lot of interest in looking at social impacts beyond just the immediate economic impacts of the oil spill. The National Science Foundation has been involved with some of these issues; perhaps from there someone could speak on broader social science research that may impact NOAA's activities.

Ray Ban said he would like to give the SAB an opportunity to invite speakers to its meetings with caveats on breadth and scope and relevancy of research presented. He will speak with Jim Sanchirico further about this and come back to the SAB with a proposal on the way forward.

Finally, Ray Ban noted that the November meeting will have an entire afternoon devoted to presentations on the climate service. In this session, the SAB will hear the NOAA response to the various reviews that the Climate Working Group and the SAB have conducted over the past three years. The SAB members will have an opportunity to address a number of climate issues as the agency moves forward in near and long term.

Ray Ban also wanted to point out to the members that there are five vacancies and that Cynthia Decker is working to provide Dr. Lubchenco with possible candidates to fill those vacancies. He asked that if SAB members have any recommendations to send them to Cynthia Decker as soon as possible.

Action 5: The SAB Chair will contact Jim Sanchirico to target a speaker for the spring meeting in 2011 as the fall 2010 meeting agenda is full.

Action 6: SAB members will send any recommendations for new Board members to Cynthia Decker.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Meeting Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2 PM.

Actions

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