

**NOAA Science Advisory Board
Teleconference Meeting
January 31, 2012
3:00-5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time**

Presentations for this meeting have been posted on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) website at <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Meetings/meetings.html>

Attendees

SAB members in attendance: Raymond Ban, Chair and Consultant, Weather Industry and Government Partnerships, The Weather Channel; Eric Barron, President, Florida State University; Heidi Cullen, Vice President for External Communications and Chief Climatologist, Climate Central; Peter Kareiva Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy; Frank Kudrna, Principal Water Resource Engineer, URS Corporation; Eve Gruntfest, Director, Social Science Woven into Meteorology, University of Colorado; James Sanchirico, Associate Professor, University of California at Davis; Jerry Schubel, President and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific; Jean May-Brett, STEM Partnership Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Education; Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist, Environmental Systems Research Institute; RADM David Titley, Director of Space and Maritime Domain Awareness, U.S. Navy; Marshall Shepherd, Professor, University of Georgia

NOAA senior management and Line Office representatives in attendance:; Charles Baker Acting Deputy Under Secretary; Paula Davidson, Chief Scientist, Office of Science and Technology, National Weather Service (NWS); Ned Cyr, Office of Science and Technology, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS:); Steven Fine, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR); Paul Sandifer, Chief Scientist, National Ocean Service (NOS); Thomas Karl, Director, National Climatic Data Center, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS); David Hermreck, Senior Advisor, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS); and David Moroney, Deputy Director, Office of Marine and Aircraft Operations (OMAO).

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

Call to Order

Mr. Ray Ban, Chair of the SAB, called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.

Proposed New Members of the Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)

Nancy Colleton, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and Co-Chair, EISWG

Ray Ban provided background information on this item. Several meetings ago, the EISWG came to the SAB with recommended members. It was a transition time when the SAB was developing a new policy on selection of new members of Working Groups. The new policy requires that

each Working Group will consider several people for openings and identify the candidates by the expertise needed as well as diversity so to identify the broadest qualifications possible. Sixty days prior to an SAB conference call or meeting, recommendations and candidates considered will be sent to SAB members who may make comments and suggestions on the recommended individuals. It has been 60 days since the SAB members received information from EISWG and no comments and issues have been raised. Today Nancy Colleton will review the two primary candidates recommended and seek SAB approval.

Nancy Colleton summarized information on the two proposed EISWG members. Mr. Eddie Hicks has been an emergency manager for over 30 years in Alabama, the most tornado-prone state in 2011. Ann Bostrum is a professor of public affairs and as NOAA seeks to better communicate weather- ready information, it will be important to have a social scientist on the WG. Nancy Colleton asked the SAB to approve these candidates for three-year terms; the EISWG will be coming back for approval of two additional candidates at a later date.

Discussion

Cynthia Decker asked for clarification on term expiration. Nancy Colleton clarified that the members would have three-year terms ending in 2015. Jerry Schubel made a motion to approve the membership for Hicks and Bostrum. The motion was seconded by Heidi Cullen and approved unanimously.

Action 1: The Science Advisory Board approved two candidates - Eddie Hicks, AL Dept Emergency Mgmt and Ann Bostrum, Boston University - for membership on its Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) and will send letters informing them of this (with the help of the SAB Office). The co-chairs of the EISWG will communicate to the new members verbally.

Proposal to Change Member on the Satellite Task Force (SATTF)

Marshall Shepherd, University of Georgia and SAB liaison to the Satellite Task Force

Marshall Shepherd provided context on the status of the Satellite Task Force (SATTF). The group has had one teleconference with a face-to-face meeting planned for March. Originally Jim Graf was approved for the Task Force but found that the timing would not work for his schedule. Jim Graf proposed that Diane Evans, Director of Earth Science and Tech Directorate, be approved for membership. Since he works with her, he believes she is highly appropriate for this position. The proposed action is that the SAB approve removal of Jim Graf and addition of Diane Evans as new member of the SATTF. Ray Ban noted that all of the background information was provided in advance. RADM David Titley said he worked with Diane Evans and agreed that she would be a real plus on the Task Force. Dr. Shepherd also added that the ground systems aspect of the satellite programs would be a part of the Task Force's work and Diane Evans brings a working knowledge on that aspect as well.

A motion was made by Marshall Shepherd to approve resignation of Jim Graf and appointment of Diane Evans to the Satellite Task Force. Jerry Schubel seconded the motion and was approved. Jean May-Brett abstained from this vote.

Action 2: The Science Advisory Board agreed to remove a member, Jim Graf, JPL, on the Satellites Task Force (SATTF) and fill his vacancy with a candidate - Diane Evans, JPL - agreed to by NOAA NESDIS and the Chair of the SATTF, Robert Winokur. Marshall Shepherd, SAB Liaison to the SATTF will communicate this to the new member.

Presentation of white paper on Data Management Framework from the Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG)

Krish Narasimhan, Lockheed Martin, and member, DAARWG

Krish Narasimhan presented the white paper developed by the DAARWG. The primary recommendation is that NOAA adopts an environmental information framework to address NOAA's varied environmental information. This recommendation includes the NOAA governance structure and technical standards to manage the life cycle of environmental information. Over the last few months, the DAARWG heard about challenges on providing environmental data. The challenges include difficulty in users finding information, data not in standard format, and slow responses in getting data or output. As a data-driven agency, large volumes of data are handled by NOAA and information is expected to greatly increase in volume in the coming years. The proposed framework would put together various initiatives under a common framework and would be a much more consistent and efficient way of managing data. The Working Group recommends that NOAA adopt the enterprise data management framework in as early a timeframe as possible. The DAARWG thinks it is time for NOAA to fold all of its data initiatives together into a single framework

Discussion

Dawn Wright agreed with the point that this is important now given the tipping points. She also pointed to the discussions going on in the National Science Foundation (NSF) regarding the Earth Cube and wondered if the DAARWG has had discussions with NSF on this topic. Ferris said the DAARWG have not had discussions with NSF; they have not been successful in getting a member from NSF and that would be the best way to strengthen ties between the two agencies. Cynthia Decker will facilitate communication between Dawn Wright and Ferris Webster on identification of some candidates from NSF for membership in the DAARWG. Jeff de La Beaujardiere of NOAA has had interaction with the NSF Cube project and agreed it would be good to have someone from NSF on the DAARWG. Tom Karl said under the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), data assessment being developed as part of the climate assessment and NOAA wants to make sure that DAARWG is involved with this effort. Paul Sandifer added that NOAA has been involved with NSF and is always looking for better ways to leverage each other's investment. The DAARWG can assist these efforts.

Ray Ban asked if there was a procedural issue involved with representation from NSF on DAARWG. Cynthia Decker responded that there is a current member on DAARWG at NSF on a detail; this person was told it would not be appropriate to work on the DAARWG while on detail.

Ray Ban said the DAARWG needs to take another look to see how could make a linkage with NSF.

The recommendation is the SAB to accept the DAARWG white paper on need for environmental data management framework and submit to the NOAA administrator. Jerry Schubel made a motion to accept the report and transmit it to NOAA. Jean May-Brett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Action 3: Dawn Wright, SAB member, will provide names of potential members from the National Science Foundation for the SAB Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG).

Action 4: The Science Advisory Board accepted the white paper from the DAARWG with recommendations to NOAA on development of a comprehensive data management system. The SAB will transmit the report to NOAA.

Action 5: NOAA will provide a response to the SAB on the DAARWG white paper on data management.

Renewal of member terms for the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG)

Ray Ban, The Weather Channel and Chair of the SAB

Ray Ban provided the background on the proposal to extend the terms of Denise Reed and Jake Rice of the ESMWG. A motion was made to approve the term extension by Eric Barron. Frank Kudrna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Action 6: The Science Advisory Board approved the renewal of two members – Denise Reed, University of New Orleans and Jake Rice, Fisheries and Oceans Canada - to second terms on the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group. The SAB Liaison to the ESMWG, Jim Sanchirico, will work with the ESMWG co-chairs to notify the members.

Update from the Research & Development Portfolio Review Task Force (PRTF)

Peter Kareiva, The Nature Conservancy, and Co-Chair, PRTF

Peter Kareiva provided an update on the PRTF since the November SAB meeting. There are seven SAB members and four external members including Roberta Balstad from Columbia University who is the Co-Chair of the Task Force. To date, the Task Force has had two teleconference meetings, with the first meeting resulting in finalization of membership. The second call, held on January 27, was the first with all members. NOAA provided a statement of work, confirming agreement to explicitly consider infrastructure. On the issue of quality the conclusion was that the review would not be a very in-depth analysis but would be a very broad evaluation that will include an answer to the question if NOAA did not do the work would someone else pick it up? The review will also examine some quality issues but not in detail. The Task Force is developing a timeline for the work, but no meeting will be scheduled until NOAA is ready with the materials. The first meeting will include presentations from NOAA on

how its research and development matches with the strategic plan and some summary of how resources are allocated for R&D.

Discussion

Frank Kudrna said the group discussed meeting on April 4th the day before the SAB meeting, so the group could provide an update on its work on April 5. Peter Kareiva said there will also be a working meeting with NOAA in late February or early March. He would be willing have a meeting with only partial attendance by members if the NOAA materials are ready by then.

Ray Ban noted that there may not yet be agreement on the scope of the deliverables, the amount of material the PRTF was going to get from NOAA, and the final timeframe. At the November SAB meeting, there was a general discussion about whether the review will be “zero-based” and whether that is the right approach. After the Task Force was formed, there was a realization about the magnitude of the task if it were close to zero-based. Is this issue evolving or has there been an agreement? Peter Kareiva responded that the task force is working with the NOAA Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Task Force and the questions NOAA asked: what portfolio does NOAA need, what does it have, what changes should be made and what changes have priority? Peter Kareiva noted that the group can’t start to work on these questions without NOAA’s input; this input will also guide the level of detail in the review.

Frank Kudrna added that is this review is different from others the SAB has done; other reviews often come to the conclusion that NOAA should spend money. This is first time NOAA has asked for prioritization on the entire R&D portfolio and this will not be an easy task. Peter Kareiva said the Task Force noted that if it can’t make the deadline provided by NOAA with a good product, it won’t turn in a bad product. Jerry Schubel noted that this is the first time the SAB has been asked to review the research portfolio across NOAA. The Task Force should get the baseline of the portfolio from NOAA first; this is not really a “zero-based” review as first proposed.

Peter Kareiva aid the Task Force can’t move until NOAA provides information. Charlie Baker disagreed with that statement; saying while the group needs information from NOAA, they should not document NOAA’s own thinking on this topic. Peter Kareiva said the Task Force needs the framing of how NOAA sees its own strategic plan. The Task Force also can’t map the research investments on the strategic plan; the group is looking for guidance and a framework for this. Enterprises and budget line items do not map to strategic priorities. The Task Force needs NOAA to show how they map.

Charlie Baker said there is no definitive NOAA mapping. Paul Sandifer said Steve Fine is working on this. Steve Fine added that the NOAA staff are discussing what to provide to the group while ensuring NOAA leadership agrees on what is to be provided.

Peter Kareiva said that last week the Task Force members indicated they were looking for something that is cleared. Charlie said that the Task Force may be asking for too much because there is a point where the traction between the budget and strategic plan is not good. The Task Force is asking for NOAA to provide the crosswalk of research funding to the strategic plan.

Peter Kareiva said the group was looking for a very general statement on this, not a detailed budget.

Ray Ban said the Task Force is in the process of better defining this effort; how the group gets started is will be determined by this definition. This fact highlights the need, particularly in the next few weeks, for regular communication between Peter Kareiva, Roberta Balstad and NOAA representatives. Peter Kareiva and Steve Fine agreed that this will be an iterative process.

The SAB and NOAA agreed there will be a weekly call between NOAA staff, Peter Kareiva and Roberta Balstad to discuss the ongoing work of the PRTF.

Eric Barron asked if the Task Force would be ready to try one theme like weather-ready nation to see if NOAA can deliver the information discussed; to see if this information was what the Task Force wanted. If this process works then NOAA would do the rest of the themes. Steve Fine said that is a possibility but the NOAA staff would rather start with less detail on all four goals and provide more detail later.

Eve Gruntfest said one of the real positive outcomes from the review is identifying partners who are strong allies for NOAA research programs but she did not hear that being discussed. Cynthia Decker asked if Eve Gruntfest was asking about the identification of a communication plan. Eve Gruntfest responded that no, this is not a communication plan but communications set up to justify the research and development in NOAA. The SAB could then be more proactive on things in the future like the Climate Service. Peter Kareiva responded that what Dr. Gruntfest noted on communications did not emerge in the discussion but perhaps is a way NOAA can be more effective in managing the portfolio.

Ray Ban said this review has been evolving since he began discussions with Mary Glackin a year ago on the scope of the project. He recalled that during that conversation he was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task. In subsequent interactions, there has been an evolution to where we are today. He remembers that communications was identified as one benefit of the review. Ray Ban said in the next few weeks he expects that there will be an agreement on the Terms of Reference for the review. At this point, Mr. Ban concluded the discussion of the NOAA Research and Development Portfolio Review.

Action 7: The SAB Office will set up a meeting between Steve Fine, NOAA OAR, Charlie Baker, NOAA Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Operations and Peter Kareiva and Roberta Balstad, the Portfolio Review Task Force co-chairs, to discuss the details of the Research and Development Portfolio Review.

Action 8: The SAB Office will work with the co-chairs of the Portfolio Review Task Force to set up an in-person meeting of the PRTF.

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Adjourn

The teleconference was adjourned at 5:05 PM EST.

Actions

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