



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

March 29, 2021

Ben Friedman
Deputy Under Secretary for Operations,
Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Subject: Transmission of the NOAA Science Advisory Board Recommendations on the NOAA Data and Cloud Implementation Plans

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit the two attached reports entitled "Recommendations Concerning the NOAA Cloud Strategic Plan Actions" and "Recommendations Concerning the NOAA Data Strategy Implementation Plan." The SAB approved these reports at its March 15, 2021 virtual meeting. This review of the Cloud and Data Implementation Plans was conducted by the SAB's Data Archiving and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG), who provided the following recommendations.

NOAA Cloud Strategic Plan Actions

Overall, DAARWG applauds NOAA's desire to increase use of the Cloud and considers the Goals and Objectives as good. Recommendations focus on encouraging innovation and prototype testing, increasing agility, and realizing full potential of moving to the Cloud.

Recommendation 1: Highlight and prioritize key Actions relative to all the other actions of varying importance.

Recommendation 2: Consider how to quickly establish an exploratory environment (Action 1.1.4) as soon as possible.

Recommendation 3: Reduce or consolidate the number of actions.

Recommendation 4: Indicate how the plan can be adjusted during execution for greater agility.

Recommendation 5: Provide a greater emphasis on training for diverse constituents.

Recommendation 6: Include discussion of how NOAA might leverage the more unique benefits of the Cloud beyond mere infrastructure.

Recommendation 7: Indicate whether collaboration on data co-location with other agencies would be desirable and possible.

Recommendation 8: Indicate what constitutes progress or success for NOAA in its Cloud adoption.

NOAA Data Strategy Implementation Plan

DAARWG applauds the continued focus on data sharing and considers the Goals and Objectives as worthwhile. Recommendations primarily address scope of the CDO and avoiding duplication of existing plans and bodies.

Recommendation 1: The Plan should state who ultimately owns and evolves the Data Strategy for NOAA -- is it the CDO, or another individual or body?

Recommendation 2: The Plan should clarify the source of the CDO's budget and how it can be protected from cuts in future years.

Recommendation 3: Carefully consider which groups should actually have CDO representation, and ensure all groups follow existing and future data-related policies.

Recommendation 4: Either (a) very clearly delineate the scope and relationship of DGB and EDMC, or (b) rename EDMC as DGB, or (c) re-charter EDMC to include the functions and authority intended for DGB.

Recommendation 5: If a separate (non-EDMC) body is to be created, consider following established NOAA nomenclature and having it be called the Data Council; EDMC could then report to the Data Council instead of to both the NOAA Observing Systems Council and CIO Council as currently done.

Recommendation 6: Consider whether the CDO should be Chair *ex officio* of the Data Council, DGB, or EDMC, as appropriate.

Recommendation 7: The Plan should avoid duplicating or rewriting past policies unless there is an identified shortcoming with the prior documents.

Recommendation 8: The Plan should avoid duplicating past actions or reinventing past methods unless there is an identified shortcoming with the prior approach.

On behalf of the SAB and DAARWG, we respectfully submit these reports to you for further action by NOAA. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this report.

Very respectfully,



John Kreider
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board

Attachments: Final Reports

CC: Karen Hyun
Letise LaFeir
Craig McLean
Adrian Mahoney
Steve Volz
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Jeff de La Beaujardiere
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