

Meeting Notes
Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee
Principals Meeting
April 26, 2011
15:00-17:00

Meeting convened at 3:05 pm, adjourned 4:50pm.
Chaired by Dr Subra Suresh, Director National Science Foundation

Location: Secretary of War Suite, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, DC

Attendees (*Principal): Waleed Abdalati* and Tom Wagner (NASA); Paul Anastas* and Lisa Matthews (EPA); Paul Zukunft* and Jon Berkson (DHS); Alan Thornhill* and Shella Biallas (DOI); KerriAnn Jones* and Evan Bloom (STATE); Subra Suresh*, Simon Stephenson, Brendan Kelly, and Nikoosh Carlo (NSF); Sally Yozel* and Elizabeth MacLanahan (DOC/NOAA); Elana Clarke (DHHS); Richard Corley (DOT); John Farrell and Kathy Farrow (USARC); Gerald Geernaert*, Wanda Ferrell, and Mike Kuperberg (DOE); Eva Pell* and William Fitzhugh (SI); Joel Parriott (OMB); Tim Ragen and Peter Thomas (MMC); Alan Shaffer* and John Stubstad (DoD); Chris Smith* and Louis Tupas (USDA); Shere Abbott*, Kate Moran, and Lauren Andersen (OSTP)

Summary of Action Items:

1. IARPC Charter - goal is to get the charter signed next week so all comments are needed from the Principals by COB Friday, April 29th. Please send to Kate Moran: Kathryn.Moran@ostp.eop.gov
For clarification, the charter is not approved by the Principals; the chairs of the CENRS committee approve it.
2. Interagency Research Themes and IARPC 5 year Research Plan – Submit comments by May 19th to Brendan/Kate/Nikoosh. These comments are intended to help the IARPC staff working groups as they work on drafting the themes and 5 year plan.
3. The next IARPC staff level meeting will be Friday, May 13th from 3-5p (Lincoln room in the White House Conference Center).
4. The next principals meeting will be in mid July, 2011.

Meeting Notes:

1. Introductory remarks

The meeting was opened by John Holdren, who emphasized the importance of reinvigorating IARPC given the many environmental challenges in the Arctic that require well-coordinated and high-impact research in a time of fiscal constraint. He also highlighted the need to ensure that the work undertaken by the IARPC, such as setting a national research agenda and looking toward a budget crosscut are coordinated with other interagency Arctic activities, e.g. National Ocean Policy.

Shere Abbot of OSTP also spoke to the significance of chartering the IARPC as a subcommittee of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability within the National Science and Technology Council. She emphasized that placing the IARPC within the NSTC will bring an important and needed policy focus to its work. The IARPC will not only need to address important research needs but incorporate the regional Arctic policy (NSPD-66/HSPD-25), the National Ocean Policy, the work of the Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, and the Arctic Research Policy Act into its work. She also iterated the need to focus on/enhance earth observation systems, adopt an ecosystem-based management framework, and build resilient Arctic communities.

2. Meeting opening remarks and Principal introductions

Dr. Subra Suresh, Director of the National Science Foundation, chaired the meeting and set out an ambitious vision for the group. Budget/fiscal concerns are going to be important, and close coordination will ensure that important research priorities are not eliminated. Dr. Suresh asked the Principals to think about what they would like to accomplish together, i.e. how to optimize the benefits from pooled resources. He raised several questions: how does the Arctic fit with national security concerns; what are our critical infrastructure needs for Arctic research; and how can IARPC research inform broader STEM activities? Dr. Suresh also asked whether or not the Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984 is adequate to 21st century needs and whether there are sections of the Act that need to be updated or which are no longer relevant?

3. Draft National Science & Technology Council Charter for IARPC

Pedro Espina briefed the IARPC principals about chartering the IARPC as a subcommittee within the NSTC and the new requirements and obligations under this structure. Mr. Espina reviewed the structure of the National Science and Technology Council including its 5 committees: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education; Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability; Homeland and National Security; Science; and Technology. The IARPC is to be a subcommittee under the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS). Mr. Espina briefly reviewed the proposed charter, specifically noting the participants in IARPC and the parts of the charter derived from the Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984. He raised one issue for discussion, how does the committee plan to consult with individuals outside the federal government? One option is to establish communications under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Public Law 92-463). He advised the following:

- before speaking with outside groups contact your supervisor and general council
- be careful talking with lobbyists, especially if any materials are exchanged
- before talking to congress or staff notify and seek consultation from Kate Moran
- the committee cannot endorse enterprises products or services

Action Item: Charter is expected to be signed by the chairs (EPA, NOAA, and OSTP) of CENRS very soon. All comments from the Principals are needed by COB Friday, April 29th. Please send to Kate Moran: Kathryn.Moran@ostp.eop.gov. After the charter is signed and approved it will be posted at <https://max.omb.gov/maxportal/>

4. Discussion of IARPC's role in NSPD/HSPD-25 Arctic Region Policy

IARPC will need to consider NSPD/HSPD-25 Arctic Region Policy in their work. The state department chairs the international domain, while security and transportation is chaired by the coast guard. Both State and Coast Guard are represented on IARPC and this overlap will help facilitate the coordination of both policy efforts.

Arctic Council update: Secretary Clinton will be attending with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar the Arctic Council's 7th Ministerial. Secretary Clinton will sign an Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement, the first binding international agreement among the eight Arctic States.

5. Alaska's interests and involvement in arctic research

NB: Lt. Governor Treadwell was called to make a statement and was not in the rest of the meeting

Mead Treadwell, Lt. Governor of Alaska, made a short presentation by telephone. Lt Governor Treadwell stated that the Arctic is no longer an optional ocean for the U.S. He expressed his desire for the State of Alaska to have a good working relationship with IARPC. The Lt Governor said that the State is concerned that Russia will be moving shipments through the Arctic oceans. He supports an Arctic research crosscut of the budget and recommended that Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) be used to bring the agencies and other stakeholders together. The Lt Governor highlighted a multitude of priorities including: open discussion about polar ice breakers, the high suicide rate in Alaska, and the need for oil spill research. He also mentioned that he will be chairing a state committee on research that will work toward identifying Alaska research priorities through a series of three workshops in 2011. Finally, he suggested that the Oil Spill Commission Report provide guidance to IARPC on issues related to OCS oil development. Lt Governor Treadwell closed his statement by inviting the IARPC staff to meet in Alaska.

6. Presentation and discussion of the National Ocean Policy, Changing Conditions in the Arctic Ocean Strategic Action Plan

John Farrell, Executive Director of the Arctic Research Commission, described progress on the National Ocean Policy's Strategic Action Plans, including the 9 national priority objectives. Noted that one of them is focused on the Arctic Ocean, and this is significant since it is the only region called out in the plan. New in this report is the prevention aspect as it relates to energy and the ecosystem. Public release of the full content outline (same document in the briefing packet) will be in several weeks. The plan will be updated annually. One outreach event (webinar) was held for those in the Alaska Arctic region and four listening session in Alaska are planned. Principals commented that the NOP document should help make connections between agencies and other ongoing efforts. NOAA brought up the need to focus on prevention issues in developing energy in the Arctic OCS, referring specifically to the need to pursue regulations to this effect. IARPC staff should identify the gaps in the NOP, specific to research, and make sure that we match our goals, are consist between our interagency themes and 5 year plan.

7. Planning for an arctic research budget cross-cut

Brendan Kelly, Deputy Director of the Office of Polar Programs' (NSF) Arctic Sciences Division (NSF) and Executive Director of the IARPC, briefly updated the committee on the language in the Arctic Policy Act that directs the OSTP and the OMB to coordinate budget requests for Arctic research from the agencies. He emphasized that such an effort will take a lot of time to complete and that discussions are

early in the process. This endeavor will be complicated and require further consultations with agencies and OMB before going forward.

8. Presentation, discussion, and approval of the interagency priority research themes for FY11 and FY12

Principals reviewed the six Arctic research areas identified to capitalize on multiple agency assets and to deliver on high priority administration interests: (1) observing climate and global change; (2) predicting and forecasting, using improved models, regional climate and environmental change; (3) integrating and analyzing observations and model outputs for improved understanding of the Arctic's role in local, regional, and global climate systems; (4) developing tools for climate change adaptation and building resilient community decision-making; (5) assessing, mitigating, and adapting to the social, behavioral, and economic impacts of climate change; and (6) collaborating with Arctic residents to monitor diseases and changes in health.

Principals generally agreed that these reflected the range of Arctic research priorities but that there are areas that deserve further consideration, such as community involvement and ecosystem services. Suggestions were made to include global environmental change language, human impact in the Arctic for the indigenous peoples, traditional ecological knowledge, food security, renewable energy, mapping and charting, and understanding factors that impact human well being in the Arctic. DOI specifically mentioned that there was a significant, and quite urgent, need for a better understanding of the broader Chukchi marine ecosystem to inform decisions that they, and others, may need to make about energy development in the region. Principals emphasized the need to ensure that the themes were consistent and aligned with administration priorities and long-term goals while balancing immediate needs vs. future needs.

Principals will provide feedback on the research initiatives and the research plan in the coming weeks and the staff-level IARPC working group will continue to refine the initiatives and 5 year plan for the next principals meeting.

Action Item: Submit comments to Kate/Brendan on the Interagency Research Themes by Monday, May 9th.

9. Presentation, discussion, and approval of the outline for the IARPC 5-year research plan

Many of the comments made about the interagency research themes also applied to the 5 year research plan, e.g. health not represented and the need for data networks. In discussing the proposed research agenda, Kerri-Ann Jones from State added that IARPC can provide a research agenda that will solidify the way the U.S. supports the ongoing Arctic research work under the Arctic Council Working Groups. Comments on structure of the plan were made to match the initiatives with the themes and to ensure that the plan is an overview of where we need to get to and the paths that may get us there.

Action Item: Submit comments to Kate/Brendan on the IARPC 5 year research plan by Monday, May 9th.

10. Identify next meeting date and adjourn Principals decided that their next meeting would be in 3 months, mid- July.

Adjourn at 4:50pm.