**SEARCH SSC Teleconference**

**17 April 2015**

**Summary notes & Action Items**

Present on call: Hajo Eicken, Dave McGuire, Olivia Lee, George Kling, Uma Bhatt, Jennifer Francis, Janet Intrieri, Henry Huntington, Karen Pletnikoff, Fiamma Straneo Breck Bowden, Ted Shuur

**Action Items from call:**

* **ACTION:** Action Team leads to give feedback to Uma and Helen about how they want to interact with ED finalist candidates
* **ACTION:** need a couple of people to work on 2-3 page strategy document that lays out how NOAA and SEARCH realm can collaborate – Uma, Janet? One person from each Action Team?
* **ACTION**: SSC to give feedback on roster for Permafrost Action Team; consider a balance of expertise, affiliations and different themes. Additional names as suggestions are also welcome. Send comments to Ted and copy Helen. Expect to send comments within 3 weeks
* **ACTION**: Action Team to provide feedback to SSC that can be provided to NSF for the NSF annual report (latter part of May). Consider the metrics in the proposal and fill in on relevant items for reporting. Helen to provide additional guidance on timing for when feedback is needed with adequate time for SSC review.
* **ACTION**: Olivia to make broader announcement to community about revised AON position paper availability

**Summary of discussions:**

**1. Any additions/changes to agenda**

* None

**2. Update on SEARCH ED position**

* 5 scheduled phone interviews beginning of May with 12-13 applications initially. 5 definite phone interview and one additional possible candidate. All phone interview candidates are very strong, and are an indication of being on the right track.
* Once in-person interviews (June/ July timeframe) are scheduled then announcements can be made more public.
* Each Action Team needs to to give information on when they want to have a telecon/ Skype video meeting with candidates.
* Separate SSC meeting, and presentation from candidates will occur
* Uma got feedback that we want to be flexible with the ED position, but also want the ED to spend the right amount of time in the appropriate place. Helpful comments from the SSC were received about Stakeholders and desired location for the ED (Fairbanks/ DC)
* **ACTION:** Action Team leads to give feedback to Uma and Helen about how they want to interact with ED finalist candidates

**3. Report from Hajo and Craig DC visit**

* At NSF met with Erica Key who will be wrapping up at NSF at the end of month. Also met with Neil Swanberg who was interested and engaged. Hajo and Craig also talked with Eric Saltzman and Kelly Faulkner. Some NSF budget information discussed.
* OOI actions are impacting GEO budget, which is difficult for funding additional coordination activities/ sustained observations.
* NSF has concerns about coordination work vs. individual researchers’ support; Eric Saltzman will review coordination work very closely. SOLAS was brought up as an example of bottom-up individual researcher initiative with PI’s coordinating without additional funding.
* MCREF not necessarily an option according to Kelly Faulkner, potentially mid-size mechanism in a few years – scale of tens of millions of dollars; MRI’s are examples of funding mechanisms at smaller scales. MCREF (according to Eric) interesting mechanism to achieve such balance
* May need to show benefits of more collaborative efforts to NSF (Arctic System Science), versus individual proposals and single research projects. It is important for SEARCH to show how these efforts benefit broader research community. A hybrid model of science coordination and specific research activities may need to be emphasized as an important success from SEARCH activities.
* NSF is supportive of AON, and would like to have additional agency collaborative efforts but currently they may not have the resources to put towards these efforts to engage with other agencies to move this forward. OSTP also supportive, but may be busy with the current executive order implementation. If SEARCH can help to broker this role with NOAA and other ongoing efforts there may be opportunities to make progress.
* OSTP/GEO: Simon is busy with implementing executive order but follows conversations; Brendan Kelly also involved in the conversation. David Hermreck is Assistant Director, Earth Observations in Energy & Environment at OSTP; GEO – engagement during AOS 2016 with theme co-led by GEOSS Cold Regions Lead
* NOAA: Met with David Kennedy as the Arctic activities coordinator under Kathy Sullivan; new Arctic program person coming in soon under David Legler – SEARCH needs to make contact. Also part of the meeting were Tim Stryker, Peter Colohan, and others
* Science and Technology centers discussed as a means to help build additional partnerships (private-public)
  + It may be in the research community’s but also NSF PP’s best interest to help broader community create these partnerships to submit competitive proposals.
  + With 3-year cycle on STC proposal invitations, it is best to have more private partnerships built in advance of a call for proposals, and to have a more strategic plan in advance to respond to these partnership building opportunities.
* In broader discussions with NOAA there was an identified need to find a mechanism for NOAA, academic community, private sector and other stakeholders to engage possibly through facilitation and collaboration on NOAA’s Arctic vision & strategy; Such a mechanism potentially exists but requires collaboration and may involve work on this for the next 6 months to one year;
* **ACTION:** need a couple of people to work on 2-3 page strategy document that lays out how NOAA and SEARCH realm can collaborate – Uma, Janet? One person from each Action Team?
* **Additional AON related items:**
  + **AON Open Science Meeting**
    - Announcement for the meeting made public (Arctic Info)
  + **AON Position Paper**
    - Finalized document sent out to NSF by Craig Lee. Posted on SEARCH AON website and Arctic Hub. Announcement will be made to broader community of revised position paper.
    - NSF was appreciative of the efforts that went into obtaining community feedback
    - **ACTION**: Olivia to make broader announcement to community about revised AON position paper

**4. Action Team Progress**

* **Permafrost (Ted Shuur)**
  + Synthesis paper published in Nature recently; focused on outreach (media and agencies outreach) and can be written up as a highlight example of a successful knowledge to Action activity
  + Upcoming Permafrost Carbon Network (PCN) workshop in mid-May in Flagstaff; focus on the current portfolio and decide on next direction after the Nature paper.
  + Spreadsheet sent to SSC about potential roster for Permafrost Action Team members
  + Highlighted issues on Action Team: gender balance and academia representation, also important to entrain experts outside of UAF (other academic institutions). Focus on US SEARCH efforts rather than being fully international is important. Having the balance from academia helps to keep balance from being too influenced by agency mandates.
  + Promote building connections to move from exploratory realm to implementation realm (e.g. V. Romanovsky’s permafrost sensor technology network with adoption by agencies for implementation)
  + **ACTION**: SSC to give feedback on roster on Permafrost Action Team; Consider a balance of expertise, affiliations and different themes. Additional names as suggestions are also welcome. Send comments to Ted and copy Helen. Expect to send comments within 3 weeks

* **Land ice (Fiamma Straneo)**
  + Submitted proposal for RCN (Research Coordination Network) at NSF. Lots of international participants.
  + Was at NSF to describe activities on GRISO, not as strongly received at NSF
  + Started to get a committee to work on further GRISO implementation, considering timing and whether to make the workshop open
    - Fall 2015 anticipated date, potential conflicts in the date
* **Sea ice (Jennifer Francis)**
  + Hiring science communicator in process. Good response (~23 applicants)
  + 10 phone interviews with Helen, Jen and Henry.
  + Shortlisted 4 candidates for additional interviews. Will go through notes and identify the person at ASSW in Toyama. Will likely have the person in mid-May identified.
  + After hiring communicator they will then work on strategic plan for communication that will inform the make-up for the Action Team membership. Would like to get a lot of input in creating and shaping the strategy.
  + AGU Union Session proposed, Polar Research Board as a potential collaborator for the session, but not yet confirmed.
    - Proposed session information: **Global Eyes on the New Arctic: Impacts of Rapid Melt on Ecosystems, Society, and Policy.**

Once considered a frozen and desolate region, irrelevant to all except those who live and/or work there, the Arctic has recently become a literal and figurative “hot spot” of interest to the world. Rapid disintegration of sea- and land-ice is hampering indigenous ways of life and disrupting familiar behaviors in natural systems while also creating new opportunities for commerce. This session will illuminate the rapidly evolving understanding of the effects of system-wide Arctic change on physical, ecological, societal, and political domains well beyond traditional Arctic boundaries.

**5. Reporting, Communication**

* NSF (Neil) outlined the importance of reporting to show the success of SEARCH activities; since we are now a little behind the proposed timeline NSF may consider changes in how Year 2 funds are disbursed.
* IARPC Collaboration Team meetings are also important to keep track of to help agencies keep track of activities and implementation.
* **ACTION**: Action Team to provide feedback to SSC that can be provided to NSF for the NSF annual report (latter part of May). Consider the metrics in the proposal and fill in on relevant items for reporting. Helen to provide additional guidance on timing for when feedback is needed with adequate time for SSC review.

**6. CLIVAR linkages**

* Message from Xiangdong Zhang about US CLIVAR working group or panel on Arctic-midlatitude connections sent out to SSC earlier; There will be opportunities for meeting with CLIVAR leads at Arctic Science Summit Week
* Jen and Steve are the point people from SEARCH on the CLIVAR Arctic midlatitude connections efforts. Additional details to be reported later.

**7. Arctic Science Summit Week 2015**

* Henry, Jen, and Helen, Hajo will be attending ASSW 2015

## Executive Session – SSC members (plus Olivia)