**SEARCH SSC Teleconference**

**19 March 2015**

**Summary notes & Action Items**

Present on call: Hajo Eicken, Olivia Lee, George Kling, Steve Vavrus, Breck Bowden, Janet Intrieri, Craig Lee, Henry Huntington, Ted Scambos, Fiamma Straneo, Christina Schadel, Helen Wiggins

**Action Items from call:**

* **ACTION (Action Team leads):** provide feedback on whether they want to talk with the candidates separately as Action Teams or with all Action Teams together.
* **ACTION (Action Teams):** send Hajo talking points in support of long-term observations with an emphasis on each specific Action Team focus for Hajo to use in discussions with NSF. (Olivia sent out note to all Action Team Leads)
* **ACTION (SSC and Action Team leads)**: join relevant IARPC collaboration team.
* **ACTION:** Hajo to talk to Karen Pletnikoff about filling in the Alaska native perspective on the SSC.
* **ACTION:** Hajo to contact Dee Williams to ensure that expectations for the SEARCH SSC role are in line with Dee’s interests in the position.
* **ACTION:** Helen to send out a new straw poll for another vote on top SSC chair and SSC member picks. Focus on the filling positions for the first 4 SSC members that will be rotated off.
* **ACTION:** Helen to remind Action Team leads to work on Action Team membership, and to ask for general timeline for Year 1 activities and potential roster for Action Team membership.

Administrative: ARCUS will schedule an SSC+Action Team Lead+OCP teleconference for early April – needs to be 90 minutes

**Summary of discussions:**

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

* None

**2. Update on SEARCH ED position and Action Team updates**

* Helen, Hajo and SSC members on the ED search committee are very pleased with the quality of applicants and how closely many applicants keep track of SEARCH activities. There were about a dozen very good applicants. Some applicants may be good to keep engaged with SEARCH.
* The ED search committee plan to have a teleconference at the end of March, expect phone interviews in April and site visits in May or early June.
* As part of the candidates’ site visits there may be time aside for the SSC and individual Action Teams to talk with the candidates through video or teleconference.
* **ACTION (Action Team leads):** provide feedback on whether they want to talk with the candidates separately as Action Teams or with all Action Teams together.

**Action Team updates**

**Sea Ice**

* Henry described the current recruiting activities for the science communicator position. There are 6 strong applicants. Interviews and the selection is expected to take place in late March/ April.
* Planning a potential AGU session focused on how science works in a rapidly changing Arctic. This may be an opportunity to introduce the science communicator to the broader research community, and has the potential to link with other Action Team activities.
* Hajo mentioned that it would also be important to help keep track of how science is communicated to decision-makers, and how SEARCH products may be made more effective for decision-makers. These may also be explored in the AGU session. Henry agreed that this is one of the expected outcomes from the science communicator who would look at how people use information and what they get out of information/ data products.

**Land ice**

* Ted described plans for a workshop to look at designing Greenland Ice observing stations for the fall (October/ November).
* They have started thinking about who to include in the Land ice Action Team.
* Fiamma described the importance of creating synthesis products for scientists. Another potentially very valuable product from the Action Team is the creation of a glacier inventory looking at the steady state and recent changes of glaciers distributed around Greenland and the Arctic.
* Fiamma briefly described her talk at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership Arctic Public Policy Forum. Synthesis products were a key takeaway message as well as the fact that scientists don’t always know what decision-makers are looking for from them. Olivia added that the need for sustained observations was also a key message during that forum, but NSF leadership did not pick up on this during the brief talk by the NSF director.
* Hajo mentioned that Fiamma may be able to use her experience as a Leopold fellow to help provide guidance on how to package information to better support decision-makers.

**Permafrost**

* Christina gave an update on the review article that will soon be published in Nature (April)
* Names of potential Action Team members have been put together and individuals will soon be contacted to gauge their interest and commitment before sharing with the rest of the SSC.
* The Permafrost Carbon Network is planning a synthesis workshop for the summer which will involve early career scientists. Workshop funding anticipated from CliC (Climate and Cryopsher), IASC.
* A session proposal is being planned for the 2016 International Conference on Permafrost in Potsdam, Germany

**3. Hajo and Craig DC visit**

* The NSF meetings will allow Hajo and Craig to talk with Eric Saltzman, Neil Swanberg and Erica Key with particular focus on SEARCH and AON.
* Craig is leading the planning for the fall Open Science Meeting.
* Hajo: The lack of an NSF strategy for AON is a concern that we want to follow up on. Hajo and Craig mentioned wavering support from NSF for AON has come up from prior conversations with NSF.
* Concern for how to balance funding for long term observations and the flexibility to fund new projects is likely affecting NSF leadership particularly as budgets may get reduced. Craig mentioned that a return to 3-5 year project funding is being considered for AON.
* There is a new NSF call for a data center. ACADIS is not automatically being awarded the new contract. However the budget is reduced even though the workload appears to be higher.
* George: Consider highlighting models such as LTER for how to balance funding for sustained long with flexibility for funding new research. It is also important to find out from NSF what their reasoning is for reduced support for ACADIS.
* Hajo mentioned there is also some NOAA activities that may help with AON. He will be meeting with David Kennedy (Secretary of operations in NOAA) and Kathy Crane.
* Janet mentioned that the Calder’s former position has been advertised and is expected to be filled soon.
* Janet: the NOAA initiative for FY17 has been started, but prior experience has shown that while Arctic priorities are clear that does not always translate into additional resources.
* Janet: The Terms of Reference for the Arctic Test Bed is being worked on. A workshop in mid-April is likely for discussing initial projects.
* Hajo: Other NOAA-related activities to keep track of include the review of NOAA Cooperative Institutes.
* Other meetings will include ONR, and possibly DOE-ARM, Smithsonian, USARC
* **ACTION (Action Teams):** Send Hajo talking points in support of long-term observations with an emphasis on each specific Action Team focus for Hajo to use in discussions with NSF.

**4. IARPC**

* IPMC has been dissolved, but IARPC does not want the role of appointing new SSC members.
* SSC may become a self-appointing group.
* Neil is working on text to circulate to IARPC on how IARPC and SEARCH will interact.
* Anticipate that SEARCH will mainly interact with IARPC through membership in IARPC collaboration teams. There should be at least one SSC member in each IARPC collaboration team. Hajo mentioned that these collaboration team calls can lead to action and possible future funding actions from agencies. IARPC also pays attention to who from SEARCH takes part in these Collaboration Team meetings.
* **ACTION (SSC and Action Team leads)** : join relevant IARPC collaboration team.

**5. CLIVAR**

* CLIVAR will be represented in the 2015 Arctic Science Summit Week, but further discussion for SEARCH and CLIVAR collaboration was tabled for next call.

## Executive Session – SSC members (plus Helen and Olivia)

**6. SSC membership rotation**

* Revised straw poll and SSC rotation document was circulated prior to call. New names and notes were added to the document after the open nomination period. Materials are posted on the internal SSC page (circulated by Helen - <http://www.arcus.org/search-program/ssc/internal>).
* Hajo talked to Waleed who said he wanted a little more time to consider taking on the role of SSC Chair.
* Hajo reported that Marika Holland and Courtney Carothers both agreed to be on SSC.
* Mike Brubaker was the most qualified to represent Alaska native interests, but may not have the same cultural experience needed.
* **ACTION:** Hajo to talk to Karen Pletnikoff about filling in the Alaska native perspective on the SSC.
* Ray Bradley was nominated for SSC. Hajo and Steve mentioned he is highly regarded in the paleoclimate community. Hajo suggested he may be a good alternate SSC chair candidate.
* Dee Williams from BOEM may also be a very good addition to the SSC to bring in an agency perspective and to include BOEM - that has not been very involved in SEARCH in the past. Breck pointed out that Dee’s statement of interest was very BOEM specific, and Hajo said he will talk to Dee separately to see if there is a good fit for Dee’s and SEARCH interests and mutual benefits.
* **Action:** Hajo to contact Dee Williams to ensure that expectations for the SEARCH SSC role are in line with Dee’s interests in the position.
* Amanda Lynch may be a good second choice for the SSC Chair position. Neil said she was approached for the position in the past as well.
* Irina Overeem and Betsy Baker were also discussed as potentially good SSC members. Irina may be a better fit than Ben Jones, and Betsy Baker has a strong policy background. Hajo has worked well with Betsy in the past and she expressed interest in SEARCH.
* **ACTION:** Helen to send out a new straw poll for another vote on top SSC chair and SSC member picks. Focus on the filling positions for the first 4 SSC members that will be rotated off.

**7. Past-chair position**

* SSC voted to have Hajo stay on as past chair for SEARCH. Hajo agreed to stay on until end of the year.

**8. International Connections update (ISAC, ASSW 2015, AOS 2016)**

* Tabled for next meeting

**9. Other items**

* Timeline and expectations for Action Teams were not clearly established
* **ACTION:** Helen to remind Action Team leads to work on Action Team membership, and to ask for general timeline for Year 1 activities and potential roster for Action Team membership.

##meeting adjourned##