

October 16, 2015, 14:00-15:00 EDT Webinar

Polar Programs Subcommittee (PLR SC) participants: W. Berry Lyons* (Subcommittee Chair), Stefanie Brachfeld, Mary Elana-Carr, James Dixon*, Leigh Stearns, Julienne Stroeve,* and Jeff Welker (*designates subcommittee members who are members of the full AC GEO).

National Science Foundation Division of Polar Programs (NSF PLR) participants: Kelly Falkner (Director, PLR), William Ambrose, Andrew Backe, Scott Borg, Paul Cutler, Hedy Edmonds, Chris Fritsen, Pat Haggerty, Dan King, Sue LaFratta, Sonya Lyatsky, Diane McKnight, Marc Stieglitz, Brian Stone, Neil Swanberg, Thomas Wilch, and William Wiseman.

Discussion Notes

Berry Lyons, chair of the PLR SC, developed the agenda in coordination with Kelly Falkner, Director of NSF PLR. The agenda was outlined in a set of power point slides provided to all invitees prior to the webinar. Additionally, invitees were provided two other documents prior to the webinar: 1) comments from Polar SC member Greg Sullivan (who was unable to attend the Webinar), and 2) a previous working group document developed by the Polar Programs OAC on the topic of Broader Impacts.

The main webinar agenda items were as follows:

1) Committee of Visitors (COV) Preparations

Prior to the webinar, Scott Borg provided Berry Lyons with the following documents: 1) a history of COVs at NSF, 2) PowerPoint slides outlining the COV process at NSF, and 3) a COV template along with explanatory comments. It was agreed that Berry Lyons would share these with all PLR SC members.

Scott Borg provided an overview of the COV and its purpose. In accordance with NSF policy, each COV must have at least 25% of its members who have received no funding from NSF within the last 5 years.

Scott Borg noted that NSF guidelines stipulate that planning should begin 6 months in advance. Near-term planning requirements include:

- Determine whether the Arctic Sciences COV and Antarctic Sciences COV should be conducted simultaneously.
- Determine dates of the COVs.
- Identify potential members for each COV.
- Select a chair for each COV.
- Select a liaison for each COV.

Polar Programs Subcommittee of GEO Advisory Committee

By the next meeting, the COV chair and liaisons need to be selected.

Mary Elana-Carr indicated that she has recent experience serving on the GEO OCE COV, and offered assistance in planning for the Arctic and Antarctic COVs.

Scott Borg will provide further resources to Berry Lyons to aid in the COV planning process.

II) Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science (AIMS) Update

Brian Stone reviewed the current status of AIMS. On Oct 5, 2015, AIMS was approved to commence the preliminary design phase, which will determine the final scope, cost and schedule. AIMS will focus on core station facilities outlined in the new McMurdo Station master plan.

Brian Stone reviewed other near-term projects under the preview of the Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics Section (AIL). These include: 1) Palmer Station Pier, 2) Ross Island Earth Station, 3) Alpha Site Runway, and 4) USAP Network Upgrades.

III) Highlights from recent NAS Study Research: A Strategic Vision for NSF Investments in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research

Scott Borg gave an overview of the report. He indicated that NSF PLR is engaged with the scientific community to get input on the current prepublication version of the report. Scott acknowledged that Greg Sullivan (who was unable to attend the webinar) had provided his own comments of the prepublication version. Scott Borg encouraged the PLR SC to provide assessments and to encourage others to provide assessments.

Berry Lyons pointed out that the NRC committee had a specific charge in preparing the report. In addition to maintaining strong core research programs, the committee emphasized and focused on three strategic priority research areas:

I: How Fast and by How Much Will Sea Level Rise? The Changing Antarctic Ice Sheets Initiative.

II: How Do Antarctic Biota Evolve and Adapt to the Changing Environment? Decoding the Genomic and Transcriptomic Bases of Biological Adaptation and Response Across Antarctic Organisms and Ecosystems.

III: How Did Our Universe Begin and What Are the Underlying Physical Laws That Govern Its Evolution and Ultimate Fate? A Next-Generation Cosmic Microwave Background Program.

Polar Programs Subcommittee of GEO Advisory Committee

IV) Preview of Agenda for AC GEO Polar SC Meeting

a. Broader Impacts of NSF research

Kelly Falkner noted that further clarity regarding Broader Impacts is under discussion at NSF. Hence Broader Impacts will be discussed at the AC GEO PLR SC session on October 22, 2015. A 2001 working group document developed by the Polar Programs OAC on the topic of Broader Impacts has been provided to PLR SC members and AC GEO members more generally. This topic will be discussed in the PLR SC session of the AC GEO meeting.

b. Robust Science & Data

Kelly Falkner noted that reliability of scientific findings has been a recent issue in the press (e.g., empirical work has attempted to replicate key clinical trials and social scientific studies with limited success). Dr. Wakimoto will speak about robust science at the upcoming AC GEO.

Kelly Falkner also noted that Marc Stieglitz of the Arctic Sciences Section is working on updating the current Polar Data Policy which dates to 1998. This topic will be discussed in the PLR SC session of the AC GEO meeting.

Kelly Falkner noted that GEO OCE has completed a survey of Data Management Plans (DMPs) for awards over the past 4 years. All Divisions will be conducting similar reviews. She indicated that the OCE results will be provided as an example to the PLR SC, along with a link to NSF PLR's current data policy.

Berry Lyons noted that we have to consider how stored materials and samples should be addressed in data management plans.

Scott Borg asked that PLR SC members consider ways to have data produced through NSF funded research to be made available quicker.

Kelly Falkner mentioned that international research poses its own unique set of challenges regarding integrity and ethics.

V) Other Matters

Kelly Falkner informed the Subcommittee and other attendees that NSF PLR has held its Arctic Connections Meeting (also known as the Arctic Summit) on October 9, 2015. She indicated that materials from the meeting would be available in the coming weeks, and that key ideas from the meeting would be discussed in a future PLR SC webinar.

Action Items

1. The PLR SC and NSF PLR need to complete several near-term planning actions related to the upcoming COVs:

- Determine whether the Arctic Sciences COV and Antarctic Sciences COV should be conducted simultaneously.
- Determine dates of the COVs.
- Identify potential members for each COV.
- Select a chair for each COV.
- Select a liaison for each COV.

These actions will be coordinated by B. Lyons, S. Borg, and E. Saltzman.

2. NSF PLR will provide the PLR SC a link to President Obama's interview with *Rolling Stone*, in which President Obama talks about the Arctic (A. Backe).

3. NSF PLR will provide the PLR SC a copy of the Data Management Plan Survey conducted by GEO OCE (A. Backe).

4. NSF PLR will provide the PLR SC a link to the Polar Data Management Policy (A. Backe).

5. NSF PLR will incorporate a discussion of the products from the recent Arctic Connection Meeting into the agenda of the next PLR SC webinar (A. Backe).