

Ecological Response and Outreach Subcommittee

NADP Fall Meeting

Portland, Maine

October 2, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Andrew Johnson, ME DEP

Chul-Un Ro, Environment Canada

David Gay, Program Office

George Bowker, EPA

Wayne Robarge, North Carolina State University

Rich Grant, Purdue University

John Walker, EPA

Ray Knighton, USDA

Bob Larson, Program Office

Cari Furiness, North Carolina State University

Kevin Mishoe, AMEC

Chris Rogers, AMEC

Tom Bergerhouse, Program Office

Gerard Van der Jagt, HAL

Srinidhi Balasubramanian, University of Illinois

Brian Kerschner, University of Illinois

Martin Risch, USGS

Chris Lehmann, Program Office

Maggie Kerchner, NOAA

By Phone: Susan Braxton, University of Illinois

Call to order and introductions

Select new EROS chair and secretary

Chair – John Walker

Secretary – Wayne Robarge

How to make NADP meetings more “green”

Maggie kicked off a discussion on how to make NADP meetings more “green”. Where appropriate, we should encourage adoption of green practices at meetings (transportation,

paper reduction, etc). Mark Rhodes suggested maybe getting rid of the NADP “booklet”. Perhaps we could make agendas available via smartphone or display them electronically in common areas. We could also let meeting participants choose electronic versus hardcopy materials during registration. Another option may be to use newsprint type material for a more concise hardcopy of the agenda including name, title and 250 character summary.

Action – Follow up with more discussion of these ideas at spring meeting.

How should NADP news be disseminated to meeting participants?

Maggie began the discussion by asking if we should send out NADP news to the listserv. Wayne Robarge noted that University people do not like unsolicited emails. David Gay responded that NADP doesn’t send out updates very often for that reason. Maggie noted that the Earth Magazine coverage was a good example of something that should be sent out to the NADP community. Ray Knighton suggested that an RSS feed may be another option for getting information out. Rich Grant noted that if an RSS feed does not change much you just get rid of it. Bob Larson noted that more people use Facebook now and RSS feed is not used as much. Srinidhi asked about the possibility of a blogspot. Andy Johnson noted that we really do not get many emails on listserv. Bob Larson added that we usually only say “no” to including things that are not specifically NADP content on website and listserv.

David Gay said that we can still send out a blurb on the Earth Magazine article to the technical listserv. Maggie formally requested a listserv announcement of Earth Magazine article.

Action - David Gay will request electronic copy for distribution because article is not free and send out blurb to listserv.

DMOS joined us at this point in the meeting and introductions followed.

Annual maps presentation - Bob Larson

This was a follow up to the spring discussion on whether to create maps prior to 1994. The protocol change in 1994 mostly influenced pH. When the protocol changed, it was decided that maps would not be made prior to change. Now temporal trends are much larger than the step change induced by the protocol change. So should we now publish maps prior to 1995? Changes in scale over time also make step change less noticeable.

Chris Rogers proposed a follow up motion to make it official that all analytes will be mapped back to 1985. This includes annual maps and animations for all analytes. Ray Knighton suggested putting a footnote about the protocol change on the page where you download the maps. Bob Larson noted that a footnote would be easy to add. Ray asked if the footnote could be added to the map itself and Bob replied that he would see how difficult that might be.

Maggie suggested that this does not need to be a motion and that we should just note the actions that Bob will pursue and will communicate by email, including addition of a footnote on the website before spring. Bob will check to see how much effort it would take to put footnote or just hyperlink on maps themselves. Other formats will require changes to metadata. Rich Grant noted that some political folks will not visit a link but would have to see the information if it appears directly on the maps. Ray suggested that we consider including a 2nd page for this information with each map, which the group seemed to like.

Action - Bob will draft something for spring meeting and share with EROS.

History table of changes to methodologies and equipment – Bob Larson

We have site specific tables but the question is what to include for the public. Completeness varies across networks. Bob suggested that we include major equipment changes, sample start and end dates, and interruptions longer than some standard period but should not include pH and conductivity probe changes or personnel data. This would be available on the Site page as a new tab “Site History”, which would bring up the table in reverse chronological order to the beginning of site operation. Rich Grant asked: “how long is a gap”? Bob suggested that 3 months guarantees a site will not make the map completeness criteria for a year.

Action – Bob will update EROS in the spring.

Universal poster template

A spring action item was to come up with a universal template for each network. David Gay put together a presentation of examples. These would ultimately be put in the educational section of the NADP website. Ray suggested that we put the templates where the general public can’t access them. To deter misuse, we could post pdf examples but people would need to request actual templates through the NADP website. Then at least template usage could be tracked. Susan Braxton recommended that we require proper citation for data use. Citation can be provided automatically for export to reference databases.

Action - Follow up in the spring.

Follow up to research on who is citing NADP data and for what purpose – Susan Braxton

Google scholar is the best search tool for finding references to NADP. Getting more hits than expected. This process is not automated yet. David Gay noted that he lists DOI in annual publication lists. We could possibly have DOI imbedded in map series and data requests for each NADP network? This would facilitate easier tracking. Susan encourages NADP to take advantage of DOI. She is hoping that the University will have DOI capability by the end of the

fiscal year (end of June 2013). Subscription will include unlimited DOIs so NADP will not absorb any cost.

Action – Update at spring meeting.

New business

Ray Knighton had a PhD student (Rodney Vance) go through the NADP bibliography list for 2011. 172 publications were rated by ability to access information.

42% publications used NADP data – significant documents

28% non-significant (referenced NADP but did not use data)

16% - not applicable (NADP only mentioned)

13% - citation not accessible

Of 42% significant publications

10% used data for model input

8% used for watershed deposition studies

5% used to check the accuracy of models and simulations

5% used for ecosystem assessment

2% used for various things such as assess soil quality, atmospheric PM, chloride mass balance, data comparison, etc

Ray wanted to extract a significant blurb from each publication but didn't get that far. The purpose was to document key significant findings and this should still be a goal. David Gay noted that this type of information does go into annual summary for agricultural experiment stations. Ray suggested that this information could be distilled down to a fact sheet for reporting to funding entities operating sites or thinking about contributing funding.

Maggie noted that his only addresses the research side and does not reflect use by education and others. We currently do not have a way to assess use by these other audiences. We really need to see how we can present this kind of information to larger NADP supporters. Ray noted that we should transition from reporting outcomes to impacts

Action – Revisit this in the spring.

Do we need a nitrogen educational tool? - Donna Schwede

Do we also need a 4H connection, which is now becoming more science oriented? They now send out experiments each year for teachers. Perhaps there could be a nitrogen experiment. It has to go through a land grant university so could NADP partner up to do this? Are there other ways to propose experiments on the website targeted to grade school?

Ray noted that he has experience developing 4H curricula. It is very difficult to get curricula approved and it does cost money. There are other outreach avenues. The trick is to get your content out to as many places as possible. For example, E-Extension develops content for a wide range of audiences. Perhaps we could reach other groups that develop and manage electronic teaching materials. We could develop material and have E Extension act as the curator of the information.

Action – Will follow up on this in the spring.

John Walker suggested that we try to work NADP into next International Nitrogen Conference?

Action – John will update the group on this in the spring.