



# National Atmospheric Deposition Program

## Executive Committee Minutes Summary

**NADP Spring Meeting  
Brown Hotel, 335 West Broadway  
Louisville, KY 40202  
April 27, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 am.

In attendance: D. Burns, M. Olson, R. Larson, T. Blett, C. Cruz, R. Artz, D. Schwede, M. Rhodes, L. Volk, K. O'Brien, M. Risch, J. Lynch, G. Wetherbee, R. Tanabe, E. Elliott, P. Padgett, M. Nilles, C. Rogers, A. Dudley, K. Morris, D. Schmeltz, R. Brunette, C. Lehmann, A. Morse MacDonald, D. Maxwell, D. Kenski, J. Webster, A. Johnson, D. Gay, R. Grant

1. Introductions, review of voting members
2. Minutes from the Fall 2016 meeting were approved (Wetherbee introduced motion, Elliott second).
3. Program Office (PO) Report: David Gay provided oral report.
  - a. Illinois has not had a state budget in a few years. All state surveys, including the Illinois State Water Survey are now under the jurisdiction of the Prairie Research Institute.
  - b. List of sites in jeopardy or recently closed was discussed along with new sites that will start soon.
  - c. A draft version of a site stoppage flyer was shown that could be used to generate interest in sites that are in jeopardy.
  - d. All new hiring actions (Asst. Coordinator, Asst. Site Liaison) are on hold and cannot move forward currently; future positions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
  - e. Mark Nilles reminded the committee that budget committee membership follows that 1.5% rule, only agencies that contribute at 1.5% to the NADP budget. Current budget subcommittee members were listed.

- f. Responses to the last Program Office review were provided, focused on responses to the 10 principal findings.
- g. Donna Schwede is developing SOPs for the NADP Officers.
- h. The purchase of 23 digital rain gages for sites that lack this update has been halted and is on hold currently.
- i. Concerns were expressed and discussed regarding the filling of Bob Larson's database management position when he retires at the end of 2018.
- j. A compilation of Executive Comm. motions was provided: 122 motions since David has served as Program Coordinator. Thirty-one of these motions are still open and 90 have been closed.
- k. A new Trouble Ticket system was discussed. This system began on Feb. 23, 2017 and seems to working well. Most tickets have been closed. This system will be adapted so that NADP funding agencies can have access to the data.
- l. Acid Rain 2015 conference is behind us now. The special issue of Atmospheric Environment came out in late 2016. There has been some progress on discussions in Japan about holding the 2020 conference in that country.
- m. Update on International Mercury Conference to be held in July in Providence, RI. Planning is going well and approximately 1000 abstracts were submitted. Sponsorship dollars look good. NADP will have a booth at the conference.
- n. Discussion about making stronger effort to re-distribute equipment for sites that have closed to new sites. This could help reduce start-up costs.

**4. Committee, Subcommittee and Advisory Group Reports:**

- a. Joint- Greg Wetherbee reported. Two motions were introduced:
  - o Convert the temporary litterfall mercury network to a permanent NADP network (Padgett introduced motion) - failed. Concerns were raised about the availability of sufficient program office staff to make this a permanent network at this time. Note that further discussion resulted in superseding this motion with another to continue the network as transitional for two more years-passed (Rogers introduced motion, Padgett second).
  - o Appoint and ad-hoc committee to recommend alternative methods to estimate total deposition – passed (Elliott second).
- b. NOS- Greg Wetherbee reported. Four motions were introduced:
  - o Grant provisional approval to the Tekran 2537x (CVAFS automated mercury analyzer) for use at AMNet sites, accept historic data collected using the Tekran 2537X, provide an update at fall 2017 meeting. Friendly amendment: to remove the word provisional from Motion 1 (Greg Wetherbee) – passed.

- Authorize Program Office to purchase a second (used) 2537X to complete the QA testing – passed.
  - Accept the AMNet Report and bring findings forward to the Exec. Comm. – passed.
  - Authorize the Program Office to purchase an ECCC developed D400 model collector – passed.
- c. EROS- Pam Padgett reported. Five motions were introduced:
- Have David Gay travel to the Ecological Society of America Conference in August to represent the NADP network – passed (Nilles second).
  - Offer free student registration for those giving talks and posters at the Fall 2017 and 2018 conferences – passed (Elliott second).
  - Prepare a detailed proposal to offer an NADP-sponsored scholarship (probably in \$200 - \$500 range). Present this proposal to Exec. Comm. at Fall 2017 meeting – passed (Elliott second).
  - Direct the Program Office to begin preparing some special display items to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NADP in 2018. Items might include posters, flyers, a timeline, and other items to be displayed at conferences and events attended by NADP representatives – passed (Blett second).
  - Begin planning the NADP 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary road show. This would be a circulating educational display that might include free standing panels, video displays, and equipment used at NADP sites – passed (Elliott introduced motion, Morris second).
- d. QAAG- Mark Rhodes reported. Four motions were introduced:
- Approve revisions to Operation Manuals for AIRMoN, AMNet, MDN, and NTN - passed.
  - Approve NADP Site Operator Training Plan - passed.
  - Approve Site Operator Quick Reference sheets - passed.
  - Approve AMoN Annual checklist, with initial deployment by August 2017 – passed (Nilles introduced, Padgett second, all four motions).
- e. DMAG- Bob Larson reported. There was a conference call last week. Key issues: NADP map differences with total deposition maps, edges are problematic and maps need to snap to grids, needs a sites database, Bob is compiling list of all his activities for new database manager
- f. CLAD- Jason Lynch reported. One motion was introduced:
- CLAD wants to develop exceedance maps to be included in future map summaries. As part of this process, we are asking chairs to allow for a formal presentation at the Fall meeting to seek approval of including exceedance maps as an official NADP product. The first maps would be of exceedance of aquatic acidification critical loads and we would hope to have the first map ready in 2018, additional critical loads would follow when data are ready – passed (Nilles second).
- g. TDEP- Kristi Morris reported. One motion was introduced:

- Confirm John Walker as new TDEP Chair – passed.
- h. Aeroallergen - Andy Johnson reported. This interest group is becoming increasingly active and drawing in an increasing number of people. The list serve has grown to 28 members, and a recent conference call featured several excellent presentations. The Exec. Comm. will be looking for an effort by this group to continue as a more formal committee if warranted.
- i. SCUAM – Pam Padgett reported. Lively discussion about progress and the future of this group. Many see opportunity for NADP to grow in urban areas. Link with Greg Wetherbee's efforts in Denver area. May need new leadership that includes someone who regularly can attend the Exec. Comm. meeting. May be opportunities to link with aeroallergen group. Greg Wetherbee and Emily Elliott volunteered to lead this group.
- j. International Engagement Ad-Hoc Committee – Dave Schmeltz reported. Proposed an international advocacy group for NADP and will introduce a plan at fall 2017 meeting.
- k. Budget - Mark Nilles reported. Meets once/year, Aug. 2-3, 2017. There are four priorities:
  - Develop a more transparent funding process that tracks the movement of funds through various stages to NADP.
  - Clear indication of whether indirect costs can be charged to funds coming into NADP. Meeting next week to discuss this matter, but preliminary indication is that up to 10% can be charged.
  - Considering making some small changes to text of agreement with NIFA.
  - An alternative approach to purchasing the 23 digital rain gages.

## 5. Old Business:

- a. Old equipment donations: David Gay led discussion of what to do with old collectors that were being kept for possible use by those who want to operate sites, but have no budget for collectors or spare parts. ISWS would like to see NADP get rid of most of this material. There were a couple of offers by Greg Wetherbee and Emily Elliott to store a limited number of old collectors.
- b. Site telemetry: Mark Nilles led discussion of how to develop telemetry for precipitation amount in the network. Mark wrote an initial white paper on this topic, but was not successful in attracting funding. The funding opportunities seem limited currently. Mark will work further on the white paper and try to keep this issue alive as a possibility for the future.
- c. Phosphorus in atmospheric deposition: This issue continues to attract increasing attention. P is difficult to measure in precipitation, most samples below detection limit. Janice B. is testing some field collection methods with a 20K grant. She reported at NOS. Lots of discussion about how to measure P fractions in the field. Most important fraction is likely to be particulate and not in precipitation. Continue this discussion.

- d. NEON precipitation collection protocols: Emily Elliott led discussion. NEON precipitation collection will not be operation until 2019. They will likely have bi-weekly collections. Desire to cooperate directly with NADP has been limited. The CAL obtained a small contract to demonstrate glassware cleaning methods.
- e. Student activities at the fall 2017 meeting: Consensus was that we would like to award best student talk and poster if we get enough participants. Tamara Blett would like to see someone else lead this effort and Pam Padgett volunteered to lead.

## **6. New Business:**

- a. Introduction to Illinois Water Survey and Prairie Research Institute: Discussion was led by Kevin O'Brien (with Alan Dudley). NADP and IWS are now part of the PRI. Introduction to the various activities and projects carried out by PRI.
- b. New NOAA representative: Rick Artz was congratulated on his recent retirement and dedicated service to NADP. Rick announced that the new NOAA representative will be Ariel Stein.
- c. Succession plan for Bob Larson: Bob is developing a data management guide, SOPS for his various activities, and is implementing some critical cross-training for many of his key functions.
- d. Mercury Litterfall Network: This was discussed earlier in the meeting and was not rev-visited at this point in the meeting.
- e. Strategic Planning under potentially reduced federal budgets: There was extensive discussion about the possibility of reduced agency budgets beginning in FY2018. There is still much uncertainty as to how these budgets will play out in the future. Discussion about past agency budget challenges. May be a need to prioritize sites in terms of strategic importance. Doug Burns and David Gay volunteered to develop a strategic guidance document that would be reviewed by PRI and shared with the board in the future, possibly as early as the fall 2017 meeting.

## **7. Federal Agency Reports:**

- a. BLM: Dave Maxwell reported. BLM is renewing their agreement with USDA NIFA. New Toolik, AK NTN station sponsored by the National Science Foundation with a 5-year grant given to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. This station replaces the Bettles, AK site, which was a joint effort between the BLM and NPS. Due to the site operator becoming ill, the Bettles station had to close.
- b. NPS: Kristi Morris reported. NPS has picked up AMON site UT09, Glacier Bay (through June)
- c. USDA- NIFA: Karelyn Cruz reported. USDA has a new administrator, working on language in RFA with PRI, discussed USDA grant opportunities
- d. EPA: David Schmeltz reported. Currently maintaining funding obligations, next year is highly uncertain, making effort to protect core monitoring.

- e. FWS: Jill Webster reported. Currently maintaining existing monitoring until budget picture for FY2018 becomes clearer.
- f. NOAA: Rick Artz reported. NOAA does not yet have a new administrator, changes in emphasis of activities likely coming.
- g. USDA Forest Service: Pam Padgett reporting for Rich Pouyat. Half of the current dollars are moving through the system, the other half is not yet guaranteed. Changes in program emphasis likely to change, R&D may not fare well in the future.
- h. USGS: Mark Nilles reported. Currently maintaining site funding commitments, FY2018 budget may go down by 12%, but highly uncertain at the moment, ancillary research activities are continuing, USGS re-organization has had favorable outcome so far and will not likely affect activities funded by Mark.

#### **8. Stakeholder Reports:**

- a. State of Maine: Andy Johnson reported. Late getting agreements in, contingency planning for sites if federal dollars fail, current monitoring is being maintained.
- b. LADCO: Donna Kenski reported. Current monitoring should continue for now.
- c. Environment and Climate Change Canada: Anne Marie MacDonald reported. Some sites are being re-located, exploring idea of tiered sampling (six months on, six months off), modeling work by Amanda Cole going well, Leiming Zhang has mercury deposition paper coming out soon.
- d. SAES: Rich Grant reported. Nothing new to report except that the decreases in atmospheric S deposition are requiring increasing applications of S in fertilizer.
- e. SAES (Directors): Nothing new to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.