

Meeting of the Science Committee, Laurier-GNWT Partnership Thursday August 7, 2014, 9:00 AM MDT / 11:00 AM EDT

Science Committee members present: J. Baltzer, D. Livingstone, B. Quinton, B. Hanna, P. Marsh, R. Jenkins, C. Parr-Vasquez

Regrets: K. Stevens, M. Wilkie, S. Kokelj, E. Kelly, S. Carrière, J. Kanigan, A. Applejohn, P. Cott, M. English, B. Sieben

SUMMARY

- Annual Report almost complete. Possible addendum with GNWT SC member project updates later in the year.
- Organizational structure for Science Committee needs to be reassessed.
- Sahtu site visit to ENR field stations successful. Need to identify GNWT science priorities in the Sahtu, as well as accommodation options for researchers. Hart Lake site of most interest.

ACTIONS

- C. Parr-Vasquez to provide a financial narrative for Annual Report
- B. Hanna to send Sahtu Forum Priority List and Sahtu Fracking reports to SC
- P. Marsh to circulate Sahtu discussion paper to SC
- B. Hanna to set meeting date for SC subgroup for Strategic Plan update

MINUTES

1. Welcome and review of agenda.
2. Review of minutes from last meeting. Minutes accepted.
3. Review of action items from July Science Committee meeting.
 - Remainder of project summaries for Annual Report to be submitted shortly.
 - Graham Strickert, CCRN met with GNWT staff and other agencies during visit to Yellowknife to open communication channels.
4. NWT employees pursuing gradates studies (standing agenda item, if updates)
 - July 31, 2014 meeting with B. Hanna, E. Kelly, J. Baltzer, Katherine Trembath and Jennie Vandermeer. Katherine is still interested in pursuing Masters, Jennie has decided not to at this time.
5. Partnership budget, spending, purchasing
 - NA

6. Committee member project updates

Phil Marsh

- New truck is now in Inuvik, stored in ENR's yard.
- 50' tower installed.
- Fly over of Inuvik Tuk Highway showed a number of washouts.
- Participated in Sahtu July 24-25 site visit.
- ARI presentation with Oliver Sonnentag- update on partnership activities.
- NSERC Discovery Grant application.
- Full time technician being hired.

Bill Quinton

- Changing Cold Regions Network conference call with CHARS and NASA ABoVE. Martin Raillard now head of CHARS.
- CCRN AGM October 19-22. Need to determine how Partnership is presented.
- Putting together a priority list for partnership between NASA and GNWT- working with A. Applejohn. Andrew's equivalent in Yukon has been in touch with NASA as well.
- Wrapping things up at Scotty Creek. New research projects instrumenting recent burn site across the lake.
- Jennifer Fresque-Baxter coming to Laurier in September to defend thesis.
- Susan Tighe, U of Waterloo on sabbatical in January- need to connect with GNWT-DoT again.
- New site on road to Wrigley as part of research transect in the fall (Oliver Sonnentag et al).
- Brian Sieben on board as community modeler. Working with John Pomeroy, Bill and others.

Jennifer Baltzer

- Sahtu site visit, helped coordinate Graham Strickert's trip to Yellowknife.
- Met with potential grad students and E. Kelly regarding expectations etc.
- Going to Fort Simpson on Aug 11 back on 13th
- Crew pulling out of Scotty Creek on August 13 and heading to Inuvik.
- Field course cancelled due to fire issues, will now be able to go to Inuvik.
- Co-supervising grad student with S. Kokelj – working on ground ice/ vegetation project.
- Kevin Stevens and two students conducting vegetation surveys along Baker Creek (Giant Mine) and at Colomac mine site.

Charity Parr-Vasquez

- CFI submitted, announcement expected March 2015.

Rob Jenkins

- Waters has a number of monitoring programs underway – community based monitoring, transboundary, Coppermine and Lockhart systems downstream of Ekati and Diavik diamond mines, Baker Creek (H2O quality/ hydrology).
- Opportunity for water samples to be taken for Jim McGeer and Scott Smith's DoC project.

7. Science Committee travel updates

- P. Marsh – in Inuvik August 18 for two weeks with two students

8. Important Dates:

- CCRN AGM October 19-22, 2014

9. Additional business

None

10. Next meeting date

September 4, 2014 - 9:00 AM in Yellowknife, 11:00 AM in Ontario.