

STEAC MEETING REPORT

(09/17/2025)

The members of the STEAC met on September 17, 2025, with four members attending (Shannon LaDeau, Sydne Record, Samapriya Roy, and Daniel Rubenstein). Six NEON-Battelle staff attended (Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Chris McKay, Tanya Maslak, Ryan Rekstis, and Kate Thibault).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Call to order, II. Introduction to new NEON Biorepository PI, III. Introduction to NEON new Communications Lead, IV. New Officers (Chair, Secretary, Co-chair) for AY26, V. NSF NEON AOR update, VI. Thank you to the officers ending term.

- I. **Approval of previous minutes for 07/16/2025:** Minutes from prior meetings were approved by STEAC by voice vote.
- II. **Introduction to new NEON Biorepository PI:** Dr. Song started as the Biorepository PI on 8/1/25 and gave us an update on how he is working to get oriented.
- III. **Introduction to NEON new Communications Lead, Ryan Rekstis:** Ryan gave a brief introduction about his new role as Communications Lead.
- IV. **New Officers (Chair, Secretary, Co-chair) for AY26:** There was not a quorum to vote on nominations for new officers. We need to fill the Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary. Paula already nominated Jennifer Edmonds as Chair and John Kochendorfer as Secretary. Dan volunteered to serve as Co-Chair if no one else was available. Role and timelines of STEAC leadership are in the STEAC's bylaws (https://www.neonscience.org/sites/default/files/Charter_ByLaws%2008%2021%202024.pdf).
- V. **NSF NEON AOR update:** NSF sent input from the Annual Operations Review (AOR) in August. NEON plans to discuss feedback more fully when we have a larger quorum of STEAC members at a future meeting. Recommendations from NSF to NEON in the AOR included: moving from an outreach to an engagement model, changes to handling instrumentation, exploring what more NEON may do to incorporate artificial intelligence, and one additional reporting requirement that NEON did not present. One difference in this year's review was that the AOR did not involve NEON sending NSF a spending plan for FY26 given the uncertainty of the federal budget. NEON's response to the AOR response is underway.
- VI. **Thank you to the officers ending term.** Several members are cycling off at the end of October 2025: Meghan Avolio, Henry Bart, Rich Fiorella, Shannon LaDeau, and Shawn Serbin. They were thanked for their service on the STEAC and have received certificates of appreciation from NEON. New members who accepted and begin on 10/1/25 include: Xi Yang, Kelly Aho, Ben Baiser, and Kin Onn Chan. Members who are cycling off 9/30/25 include Meghan Avolio, Henry Bart, Rich Fiorella, Shannon LaDeau, and Shawn Serbin.