

STEAC MEETING REPORT **(07/14/2021)**

The STEAC met on July 14, 2021 with a quorum of nine members attending (Lilian Alessa, Anne Giblin, Kim Novick, Mike Dietze, Peter Groffman, Rob Guralnick, Sarah Bevins, Frank Davis, and Fanz Nico). Five NEON-Battelle staff attended (Chris McKay, Kate Thibault, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, and Zoe Gentes).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Approval of previous minutes; II. Guidelines for Publishing Research Outputs; III. LTAR-NEON workshop; IV. NEON Ambassador program; V. Review of Observatory Status website v2.

I. Approval of previous minutes: Minutes approved. Last meeting we discussed a proposal to change the name of the relocatable sites. The NSF supports the terminology change from “relocatable” to “gradient”.

II. Guidelines for Publishing Research Outputs: The STEAC recognizes that the publishing guidelines document is well-done and appreciates the encouragement to use EDI. The STEAC recognizes, however, that encouraging voluntary data publishing alone may not be sufficient to motivate open and accessible sharing of products derived from NEON data, or collected as part of the assignable assets program. The STEAC can play an important role in encouraging publication of these data, and can revisit this topic in future meetings to assess the effectiveness of the initiative.

III. LTAR-NEON Workshop Debrief: The main focus of the LTER-LTAR-NEON workshop was to bring diverse perspectives to figure out effective ways to leverage the cross-network resources to address ecological challenges. There was an emphasis on managed and unmanaged lands. Project ideas were identified and teams will be preparing reports and potentially proposals. A key finding was that it is hard to know exactly what data is available, and where to find it.

IV. NEON Ambassador Program: In response to users/stakeholders, NEON will develop an Ambassador program to meet the need for community engagement. The program will be synergistic with community needs and related programs and Ambassadors will initially focus on the scientific community and will eventually broaden to the general public. The STEAC is excited about the new program, which will be a great opportunity to promote community engagement.

V. Review of Observatory Status website v2: NEON made a new version of the site status page, which was developed during COVID19. The new version is designed for long-term relevance. The STEAC applauds forward thinking and recommends that the information on this page better highlight status information versus other details. It will be important for the information on this page to remain “up to date.”

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VI. Fall meeting planning. The STEAC proposes a hybrid meeting in late September/early October. The STEAC will poll all members to measure their comfort with travel.