

STEAC MEETING REPORT (07/27/2022)

The STEAC met on July 27, 2022, with a quorum of seven members attending (Lilian Alessa, Mike Dietze, Anne Giblin, Peter Groffman, Jackie Matthes, Steve Petruzza, and Sparkle Malone). Five NEON-Battelle staff attended (Zoe Gentes, Darcy Gora, Chris McKay, Bonnie Meinke, Kate Thibault) and seven NEON Ambassadors (Jessie Walker, Chelsey Nagy, Chris Hakkenberg, Kelly Aho, Miquel Gonzales-Meler, Thresa Crimmins, and Benjamin Ruddell)

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Approval of previous minutes and II. the Ambassador Program.

I. **Approval of previous minutes:**

Minutes were sent out 1 hour before the meeting. To give the STEAC enough time to review them before approval we will revisit the 06-22-2022 minutes in the August meeting.

II. **Ambassador Updates :**

The STEAC met with the [Ambassadors](#) for the first time to discuss their projects/initiatives. The Ambassadors are working on exciting projects that will increase the footprint of Network science and lead to greater use of NEON data in derived data products.

Chelsey Nagy is from the Earth Lab at the University of Colorado, and is involved in the new synthesis center that is dedicated to solution oriented science. In the future we will discuss how NEON will interact with the center. The center will support community driven science areas creating great opportunities to integrate NEON data and develop derived data products. The center will host summits, working group meetings, and hackathons. Ambassadors are encouraged to submit proposals.

Kelly Aho is working on an initiative to make NEON data more usable by developing derived data products and encouraging the development of these products in hackathons. Through the initiative, data users can propose derived products and apply to attend a hackathon where the products will be developed. This group is also working on proposing a special issue focused on highlighting the derived products. The members of the STEAC encourage Kelly to connect with Christine Laney who led the development of derived data products for EcoTrends.

The members of the STEAC encourage NEON to think about how they will respond to issues identified in the development of derived products. The Dietze Lab identified challenges with soil respiration data coverage. The members of the STEAC are also interested in the plan for underutilized datasets, for data notifications, and a plan for how to integrate derived products into the NEON pipeline. The members of the STEAC also understand that NEON would need additional funding to maintain new pipelines.

Ben Ruddell is working on a digital [textbook](#) for an Environmental Informatics Course. Northern Arizona University has an informatics program for graduate students. He and his collaborator developed an online textbook that highlights observatories and

networks. They are interested in developing a plan to sustain and evolve the book over time. They are also looking for individuals to offer the course at their universities.

The STEAC encourages Ben Ruddell to share this resource on listservs and to create a survey to measure the level of interest in faculty workshops.