

STEAC MEETING REPORT (06/09/2021)

The STEAC met on June 09, 2021 with a quorum of eight members attending (Anne Giblin, Emily Bernhardt, Kim Novick, Mike Dietze, Peter Groffman, Rob Guralnick, Sarah Bevins, Sparkle Malone). Six NEON-Battelle staff attended (Chris McKay, Kate Thibault, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Zoe Gentes, Mike Kuhlman).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Review of the Spring Bi-annual Report; II. Response to STEAC recommendations; III. Relocatable' terminology proposal; IV. Update on STEAC nominees; V. STEAC term lengths.

- I. **Spring Bi-annual Report:** The STEAC produced a report at the end of the Spring Bi-annual meeting. The report was finalized and sent to NEON.
- II. **Response to STEAC recommendations:** NEON provided a thoughtful response to the STEAC Bi-annual Report. After reviewing NEON's response, *the STEAC suggests a few changes to our recommendation.*
 - A. *Although the STEAC initially recommended the use of Slack, we recognize that the communication tools being used by the community are dynamic. The STEAC encourages NEON to remain flexible and responsive to the community's choice in engagement tools.*
 - B. *The STEAC would also like to clarify that our encouragement for informal community engagement was for informal events at meetings (e.g. out-of-venue get togethers) to target power data users and early career individuals rather than more formal and expensive receptions.*
 - C. *The STEAC previously recommended that NEON should explore other ways of citing NEON data. The STEAC recognizes the challenges of this recommendation and encourages NEON to continue working with data scientists to develop a solution.*
 - D. *Domains previously expressed concern for the amount of time needed to record outreach information. NEON confirmed that the survey currently takes <10 minutes and the system mainly sends reminders to reconnect with stakeholders.*
 - E. *The STEAC would also like NEON to consider reaching out to social scientists and economists, who are interested in studying the impacts of outreach activities.*
- III. **'Relocatable' terminology proposal:** In response to a former STEAC recommendation, NEON is proposing to change the name of "relocatable" sites to "gradient" sites. While the original intention was for these sites to be periodically relocated, due to their robust design and cost, moving infrastructure is likely to be less common than intended (see discussion in the Fall 2019 STEAC report). The STEAC expressed concern that changing the name of these sites may create the perception that there is a shift in the NEON study design. Consequently, *the STEAC recommended modifications to some of the language in NEON's proposal to reinforce that this is solely a terminology change to align with the original scientific intent of the non-core sites, and reduce confusion. The STEAC encourages NEON to prepare a communication plan for the proposed changes. The STEAC voted to approve the proposal.*
- IV. **Update on STEAC nominees:** Two nominees will be joining the STEAC September 1; a selection was recommended for the remaining position.
- V. **STEAC term lengths (Tabled)**