

STEAC MEETING REPORT (08/19/2020)

The STEAC met on August 19, 2020 with a quorum of twelve members attending (Anne Giblin, Jackie Matthes, Jeff Dukes, Kim Novick, Lillian Alessa, Mike Dietze, Peter Groffman, Rob Guralnick, Sarah Bevins, Sparkle Malone, Frank Davis, Emily Bernhardt). Seven NEON-Battelle staff attended (Tristan Goulden, Chris McKay, Gene Kelly, Kate Thibault, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Zoe Gentes). Dr. Roland Roberts from the NSF was present for item III.

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. NEON updates; II. the Fall 2020 all-day meeting; III. NSF response to letter from STEAC; and IV. AOP data products.

- I. **NEON updates:** NEON had a strong presence at the Ecological Society of America's annual meeting (20 events). The AOP Platform video was released at ESA (118 views on youtube). NEON also held a webinar the week after ESA (6 participants). New NSF awards are enhancing collaborations. Laurel Anderson (EREN) is developing online teaching tools with NEON data. Benjamin Ruddell (ASU) is developing an eco-informatics course using NEON data and course materials will be distributed online. OBFS was awarded a new RAPID to make videos for teaching featuring researchers in the field. Currently the NEON team is preparing for the NSF annual operations review (Virtual Meeting).

NEON is interested in determining if NEON data are being used to study the impacts of COVID-19 on the environment. **STEAC:** There is an LTER paper in the works and NASA Goddard is doing a COVID-19 impact study. There may be an opportunity to look at changes in radiation in the flux data due to changes in air quality, although this has not been detectable at some sites.

- II. **Fall Meeting:** Please hold November 2nd and November 4th (ET afternoon). The STEAC will be polled to determine meeting times.
- III. **NSF Response to letter from STEAC** for early career support and the development of NEON data products: The NSF encourages the community to pursue funding to develop data products with NEON data. The NSF recognizes that storage, accessibility, and interoperability may become an issue with community-developed products. While supporting community-developed products is not within the scope of NEON, there might be avenues in the future to explore this. The NSF and the community must be proactive.
- IV. **Proposed changes to AOP data products:** There are major concerns about the canopy nitrogen, lignin, and biomass products. The raw data are and will continue to be collected and made available, but the algorithms for the derived products require improvements. Indices are an active area of research, and experts do not think the products are high quality. Once improved, products will be made available and the old data will be reprocessed. NEON will send a MEMO to NSF informing them of these changes with the support of the STEAC. **STEAC:** The STEAC supports these changes, recognizing that the algorithms for L2 and L3 products require significant improvements before they can be of use to the community. The STEAC recommends notifying the community of these changes.