

STEAC MEETING REPORT (03/24/2021)

The STEAC met on March 24, 2021 with a quorum of eleven members attending (Anne Giblin, Emily Bernhardt, Frank Davis, Jackie Matthes, Kim Novick, Lillian Alessa, Mike Dietze, Peter Groffman, Rob Guralnick, Sarah Bevins, Sparkle Malone). Ten NEON-Battelle staff attended (Chris McKay, Kate Thibault, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Zoe Gentes, Rommel Zulueta, Keli Goodman, Chris Florian, Stephanie Parker, Corey Ritz).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Approval of previous minutes; II. Assignable Assets updates from NEON team; III. Tower heights and flux data quality follow-up; IV. Overview of STEAC recruitment; V. Visiting Scientist program call; VI. Agenda for the Spring meeting.

STEAC Recommendations:

- The STEAC encourages NEON to evaluate the co-spectra at tower sites BLAN, ABBY, and STEI to determine when changes to the tower need to be made.
- The current visiting science program draft does not provide support for participants limiting the potential pool of applicants to senior personnel. NEON might consider other sources of funding and developing partnerships that would provide enough funds to contribute to travel and lodging costs.

I. Approval of Minutes: Our last meeting was on February 24, 2021 . The following topics were discussed: I. Approval of previous minutes; II. Aquatic data product proposed changes; III. MDP promotional campaign; IV. NSF funding call for Center for Advancement and Synthesis of Open Environmental Data and Sciences; V. Amendment to Bylaws; VI. STEAC Nomination Call. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

II. Assignable Assets (AA): NEON has been encouraged to 1. Modify the current AA application process to increase efficiency, 2. increase the scientific value of the AA program, and 3. Model the AA after large infrastructure programs. NEON invested in streamlining the application process. With the new applications out to PI's NEON will soon be able to determine the effectiveness of the streamlining.

STEAC: Innovation may come from the AA program. The community is discovering the Mobile Deployment Platform and the STEAC expects this to become more popular into the future.

III. Tower heights and flux data quality: [On December 16, 2020](#) we discussed towers that have growing forests that are expected to exceed the tower height in the near future: Blandy (BLAN), Abby Road (ABBY), and Steigerwaldt (STEI). The technical working group advised NEON to monitor the co-spectra and at some point the towers will need to be raised.

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STEAC: The tower height is a major issue that requires regular monitoring to determine when towers need to be raised. Datasets for fast growing forests are unique and keeping pace with growth could provide important information. It is essential for data users to recognize that canopy height changes and that it is necessary to pay attention to important shifts in the footprint. Canopy height data can be accessed through other data products but this is a barrier. The STEAC encourages NEON evaluate the co-spectra at tower sites BLAN, ABBY, and STEI.

IV. STEAC recruitment: The STEAC has currently received 13 nominations and will reach out to people who would be good applicants.

V. [Visiting Scientist](#) program (draft doc): Visiting scientists would be invited to join the NEON team to kick-start their NEON-related research and/or educational goals and contribute their expertise to further NEON's research mission and to meet the needs of a diverse and inclusive user community.

STEAC: The current visiting science program does not provide support for participants limiting the potential pool of applicants to senior personnel. NEON might consider other sources of funding and developing partnerships that would provide enough funds to contribute to travel and lodging costs. NEON might also consider targeting individuals that can elevate NEON.

VI. Agenda items for the Spring meeting (4/19/ and 4/21)(10 min)

- Incentivizing NEON data users to cite data.
- Review of NEON draft Code of Conduct
- New model for [visiting scientist program](#)
- How to indicate what is being done with NEON data to be synergistic and not redundant.
- Making data collection accessible for non-NEON data.
- Status of the microbial data at NEON.
- Connect with Domain staff (re: AGU TEX fellows, community liaisons, hiring)