

STEAC MEETING REPORT
(04/15/2026)

The members of the STEAC met on April 15, 2026, with nine members attending (Kelly Aho, Ben Baiser, Kin Onn Chan, Jennifer Edmonds, John Kochendorfer, Sydne Record, Dan Rubenstein, Adrienne Sponberg, and Xi Yang). Six NEON-Battelle staff attended (Jim Boehmler, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Tanya Maslak, Hojun Song, and Kate Thibault).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Call to order, approval of minutes II. STEAC nominations: review areas of expertise, timeline, III. NEON questions re: STEAC Recommendations

I. Review of and approval of Annual STEAC Meeting Report

The STEAC reviewed and approved proposed changes to the Spring 2026 STEAC Meeting Report.

II. STEAC nominations: review areas of expertise, timeline:

Call for nominations: “NEON seeks U.S.-based, passionate, forward-thinking professionals who represent various institution types, areas of expertise, and post-graduate career stages. We are particularly interested in nominees with expertise in one or more of the following areas and have experience using NEON data and samples. Use of NEON data is not required but preferred (possible wording)”

Desired areas of expertise include:

- Ecological applications of AI (e.g., natural hazard forecasting)
- Ecological & Data Applications in the private sector
- Biodiversity informatics/collections
- Scientific community organization
- Biotechnology, Omics, Microbial ecology
- Sensor technology
- Curriculum/training
- Agriculture and bioeconomy/functional ecology (e.g., behavioral ecology)
- Disease ecology/Public health
- Translational science (use-inspired research and the translation of research results to the market and society)
- Disease ecology

Discussion about the list above and critical characteristics to further strengthen on the STEAC:

- Strong background in community engagement, someone with experience building partnerships and bringing the community together
- Staff member working with Ecological Society of America
- Scientist who regularly works with multiple data products across the TOS/TIS, AOP, and AOS/AIS
- AGU could be used to find new members. AGU was included in the long list of societies used to promote applicants last year.
- Regarding the need for NEON Biorepository expertise, it was noted that there is considerable expertise already available in the Biorepository TWG.

- Behavioral ecologist interested in thinking about how community can build on NEON images to answer questions that capture dynamic interactions within animal and plant communities

III. NEON questions and STEAC discussion re: STEAC Recommendations