

STEAC MEETING REPORT

(07/15/2026)

The members of the STEAC met on July 15, 2026, with eight members attending (Kelly Aho, Ben Baiser, Kin Onn Chan, Jennifer Edmonds, John Kochendorfer, Sydne Record, Dan Rubenstein, and Samapriya Roy). Six NEON-Battelle staff attended (Keli Goodman, Darcy Gora, Tanya Maslak, Chris McKay, Hojun Song, and Kate Thibault).

- I. The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Call to order, approval of minutes, II. Update on new STEAC members, III. Consideration of NEON's Strategic Accomplishments (in preparation for the upcoming Mid-Award Review), IV. Quick reminder on video note to Paula at Memento website.
- II. **Approval of previous minutes for 06/17/2026 monthly meeting:**
 - . Minutes were approved.
- III. **Update on new STEAC members:**
 - . Four new STEAC members were invited to join, and they all accepted.
- IV. **Consideration of NEON's Strategic Accomplishments (in preparation for the upcoming Mid-Award Review):**
 - . This report is new and higher-level, as it is focused on the 5-year strategic plan cycle rather than the normal annual report. It will help support NSF's decision to make the new contract either non-competitive or competitive. NEON is thinking about how to best capture and summarize their accomplishments.
 - A. A link to the accomplishments document was shared with the STEAC, and was discussed.
 0. STEAC member asked about if there is a template available, and if NSF is looking for it to cover certain achievements or subjects.
 1. STEAC member asked about demonstrating that NEON is responding to executive priorities and initiatives.
 2. STEAC member commented on documenting the care NEON has put into using new tools like AI responsibly, with an eye towards using these new technologies while maintaining the integrity of the entire record.
 3. Question from STEAC about collaborating with NASA and being on their vendor list to leverage/demonstrate the importance of NEON data.
 4. What level of detail is wanted in terms of documenting every bullet in the strategic plan, or does it make more sense to focus on the higher level goals/themes?
 5. Kate said that NEON's primary metrics are data availability, not pubs or other deliverables that are outside of NEON's control. This includes an "uptime" metric that is being developed in collaboration with NSF.
 6. Question from STEAC on how to provide the reviewers with something that is easy to use and refer to. A suggestion to create a

new version of the strategic plan with links to content showing progress and deliverables.

7. Comment from STEAC on creating figures to demonstrate growth of deliverable data. Potentially by data product area.
8. Comment from STEAC on how to report on progress on the other charge questions (other than the accomplishments).
9. Documents are due at the end of July, and the review will take place in August.

V. Other updates

- . Update on all the work NEON is doing at the upcoming ESA meeting
 - 0. Kate showed the STEAC a list of all of the NEON involvement at the ESA meeting
- A. Update from Tanya on a new call for potential NEON ambassadors opening next week