

STEAC MEETING REPORT

(06/17/2026)

The members of the STEAC met on June 17, 2026, with six members attending (Kelly Aho, Kin Onn Chan, Jennifer Edmonds, John Kochendorfer, Dan Rubenstein, and Samapriya Roy). Seven NEON-Battelle staff attended (Keli Goodman, Darcy Gora, Tanya Maslak, Chris McKay, Hojun Song (ASU), Kate Thibault, Kelsey Yule).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Call to order, approval of minutes, II. Biorepository destructive use policy and TWG update, III. Evolving Working Groups - next steps, IV. Consideration of NEON's Strategic Accomplishments.

I. Approval of previous minutes for 05/20/2026 monthly meeting:

- Meeting minutes were approved

II. Biorepository destructive use policy and TWG update:

- Biorepository destructive use policy was presented by Kelsey Yule
 - STEAC annual meeting (March 2026) follow up regarding the destructive use policy. Single project limits were $\frac{1}{3}$ per sample series but are difficult to operationalize and challenging to approve in a fair way.
 - An example of the vastly different sample sizes was shown.
 - Feedback from the STEAC meeting was summarized.
 - Proposed new sample limits were presented along with a definition of terms.
 - Examples of the proposed destructive sampling policy were presented.
 - Outstanding issues and questions were summarized, such as how do we decide what the threshold of value added data is for complete description of a sample type.
 - Proposed policy to be taken to new Biorepository TWG for detailed review.
- Biorepository TWG update
 - The previous TWG was comprised mainly of natural history museum experts.
 - The proposed new TWG members are from biorepositories (NIST, Univ of MI Central Biorepository (medical), Colorado State (Arthropod Diversity), and the Smithsonian Natural History Laboratory of analytical biology (LAB)).
- General biorepository comments from the STEAC
 - Enforcement of return of value-added data and publication documentation. Perhaps a threat of exclusion from future biorepository uses if policy is not followed?

III. Evolving Working Groups - next steps:

- Evolving TWGs - next steps

- How do we inspire and incentivize community-led TWGs?
 - a) Social media
 - a) Connections to NEON partners - ie. a new webpage listing Active Partners
 - b) NEON staff can provide expertise and templates for supporting research and education
- Naming
 - a) DATA working groups - with DATA as an acronym.
 - *Data Advancement & Technology Applications Working Groups*
 - a) TIP Working Groups (same acronym as NSF uses)
 - b) Community Working Groups (Jennifer votes for this one, Kochendorfer, Kelly Aho)
 - c) Community Innovation Working Groups (Dan)
 - d) Innovation Working Groups
- Kelly Aho presented some working group success stories and her idea for a new Community Working Group - using imagery for aquatic research
- STEAC asked to vote on what to name the new working groups directly in the minutes

IV. Consideration of NEON's Strategic Accomplishments: deferred to July meeting.

V. Honoring Paula's Retirement

- Memento Videos - Jennifer to send link.
- These organizations were suggested for a service award:
 - Innovative Leadership Award from American Institute of Biological Sciences
 - Distinguished Lifetime Service Award or Distinguished Service Citation from ESA
 - Distinguished Alumni Award from Duke University