

NJDEP Science Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

Attendance:

SAB Members

Judith Weis, Chair	Dan Cooke	Rob Lippencott
Clint Andrews	John Dysken	Tavit Najarian
Tony Broccoli	John Gannon	Nancy Rothman
Tina Chu	Rick Kropp	

DSR Liaisons

Gary Buchanan, Co-Lead	Heather Genievich	Alex Polissar
Heidi O'Neill, Co-Lead	Lori Lester	Metthea Yepsen
Joe Bilinski	Lee Lippincott	

Chairperson Judith Weis was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so Clint Andrews offered to step in as Chair for the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

Dr. Gary Buchanan gave a status update on current issues to the SAB. DEP employees will be phasing back into the office starting in August, with a full return in September. The reappointments to the standing committees and full board have been approved by the Commissioner. David Velinsky has been moved from the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committee to the full board. Nicole Davi has been appointed to the Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee. Joann Held of the Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee asked to not be reappointed. Gerald Kennedy was not reappointed to the Public Health Standing Committee. There is an ad hoc committee of 8 members that has been approved by the Commissioner to work on a charge question regarding microplastics. The Ecological Processes, Public Health, and Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committees are always looking for new members, so the members were encouraged to reach out to their colleagues.

Dr. Tony Broccoli gave a brief update of the Climate & Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee. The Committee has recently been charged with a question regarding biofuels. The current committee does not have much expertise in this area, so Dr. Broccoli has reached out to three external members (Pankaj Lal from Montclair State University, Eric

Lam from Rutgers University, and Serpil Guran from Rutgers University) to see if they would like to join. Clint Andrews expressed interest in joining the workgroup for the biofuels charge question. Dr. Broccoli proposed the idea of forming a new standing committee regarding energy issues, depending on the Department's anticipation of upcoming energy related charges questions.

Mr. Chuck Harman was unable to attend so Heidi O'Neill gave the brief update of the Ecological Processes Standing Committee. The SAB report regarding vernal habitats has been presented to the requesting program and the Commissioner will be briefed on the report on July 19, 2021. There is an upcoming charge question regarding carbon storage capacity of forest soils, but that has not been started yet.

Dr. Michael Gochfeld was unable to attend so Heidi O'Neill gave a brief update on the Public Health Standing Committee. A background document on estrogens and pharmaceuticals is being developed by the requesting program to be presented to the Standing Committee and is still being reviewed by upper management.

Dr. Lisa Axe was unable to attend so Heidi O'Neill gave a brief update on the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committee. The draft of the Horizontal Directional Drilling charge question is complete and has been reviewed by DSR and is now being reviewed by the requesting program.

Mr. Chuck Harman was unable to attend so Mr. Dan Cooke presented the report on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping. A discussion followed with only minor editorial suggestions, e.g., add blue carbon as a benefit, and clarify rhizomes in the text. The SAB agreed that once these changes were made the report was acceptable and consensus was given.

This was followed by an open discussion.

The SAB report that was approved by the Commissioner in 2020 regarding salt marshes was used to submit a manuscript that has been accepted by an academic journal.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.