

National Atmospheric Deposition Program
Ecological Response and Outreach Subcommittee Meeting
Lake Tahoe, California
October 19-21, 2010

Final Minutes

October 19

Participants:

Tom Butler, Cornell University
Larry Curtis, Oregon State University
Suzanne Fisher, Tennessee Valley Authority
Cari Furiness, North Carolina State University
David Gay, NADP
Andy Johnson, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Maggie Kerchner, NOAA, Air Resources Laboratory
Ray Knighton, USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture
Chris Lehmann, Central Analytical Laboratory
Pam Padgett, US Forest Service
Marty Risch, US Geological Survey
John Walker, Environmental Protection Agency

Update and Progress on the NRS-10

David Gay has spoken to Rich Grant about the new NRS project that Ray Knighton mentioned at the Spring subcommittee meeting. Rich did seem to think it was something worth pursuing. An Ag scientist needs to champion it if it is to move through the NADP process. Another suggestion was made to ask Wayne Robarge with North Carolina State University to be the champion.

Larry Curtis mentioned that the project with soil spores aerial distribution might be a better hook into the agriculture experiment stations. There may be more funding available from agriculture with the spores project than with an ammonia project. It is not clear whether this would be/could be associated with NRSP-3?

Outreach Activities:

Engaging Agriculture: EROS can propose to have a session at the fall 2011 meeting entirely on agriculture (e.g., ammonia). David suggested that NADP have a dedicated agriculture session every fall meeting. NADP needs for agriculture scientists to be involved.

Action: Suzanne Fisher will put together a strawman, including Pam Padgett and Cari Furiness, to work getting interest in a dedicated agriculture session at the next annual symposium. The purpose is to get agriculture interests back into the program.

Ray Knighton stated that a hot topic for agriculture is thresholds in managed ecosystems vs critical loads in natural ecosystems which is the main focus of the NADP Critical Loads group. Another focus is on climate change and air quality/deposition. The chemical climate has changed and NADP has a rich dataset to look at. What has changed in 30 years?

EROS discussed how best to address certain data interpretation issues/gaps, such as the relationship between climate and atmospheric deposition and the relationships between ammonia/um deposition and emission source regions.

Action: Pam Padgett and John Walker volunteered to evaluate whether there is a need to form an ad hoc group within NADP to address these gaps.

USDA Request For Proposals: Ray Knighton reported that USDA has an RFP out under their climate program looking at the impacts of climate variability on agriculture and how we can mitigate impacts. USDA is proposing to fund, over next 5 years, \$180 million worth of climate studies. EROS can take a look at the RFP to determine whether there are opportunities. A suggestion was made to identify gaps in how NADP data are used to interpret changes and trends in atmospheric chemistry. Although some of those gaps are not necessarily climate change related.

Action: Pam Padgett and John Walker will look at the USDA RFP to identify some ideas for moving forward.

Archive sample request: Chris Lehmann is going to provide EROS with more information on user requests of archived samples. This will allow EROS members to see what the user's purpose is for the archived samples and to possibly engage them in EROS or NADP fall sessions.

It was noted that there is an international meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia in July 2011 on mercury.

Website updates: David Gay ran through his list of NADP Program Office tasks associated with outreach via the website.

All education and outreach ideas for the website discussed at the Spring meeting have been implemented except for the following: an NADP timeline; a mercury link to human health; and a list publications using NADP data.

David offered other suggestions for EROS consideration:

1) Develop a page on how to join NADP (these would be steps one can take).

2) Develop and make available an on-line calculation tool: Putting Your Data Into Context. The user could compare their data to the closest 5 sites; to the region, and to the nation. David has used whisker plots quite easily for this. It would be for all networks, all data. David would look to Bob Larson to get this done. In an earlier look at this task, it appeared to be a relatively easy to do.

Chris Lehmann asked EROS for ideas on getting the word out about the availability of archived samples. The website appears to be the best idea but also notifying various groups such as ecological societies and the National Ecological observatory Network. At this time Dr. Jeff Welker is the only person asking for and getting archived samples.