

Meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials

March 16-17, 2016 | Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Wood Center Ballroom

Plenary Meeting

Final Provisional, Annotated AGENDA

DAY 1 | Wednesday, March 16, 2016

7:45-8:45am Breakfast Event (by invitation only) – SAO Chair meets with WG Chairs/Exec Secs

Location: Wood Center on UAF Campus

9:00am Meeting Convenes

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Welcome remarks
- 1.2. Approval of agenda

2. Reports from other meetings

2.1. COP21 Arctic Council side event(s)

Speaker(s): Arni Thor Sigurdsson, Icelandic SAO

Background: Report out of the Arctic Council (AC) side event(s) at COP21 in December 2015.

Action: For information

Document(s): None

2.2. Four Regional Councils meeting

Speaker(s): David Balton, SAO Chair

Background: Report out from the November 2015 meeting.

Action: For information

Document(s):

- 1) Meeting Report

2.3. SAO Chair meeting with WG Chairs

Speaker(s): David Balton, SAO Chair

Background: Report out from the December 2015 meeting.

Action: For information

Document(s):

1) Meeting Report

3. Arctic Council 20th anniversary

Background: Brief read-outs from any celebrations that have already occurred and update from all those planning celebratory events.

Action: For information

Document(s): none

10:30am Coffee Break (~30 minutes)

4. Working Group updates and written reports

4.1. Working Group showcase

Speaker(s): WG Chairs

Background: Each of the six WGs will have 10 minutes to present one key initiative.

4.1.1 ACAP: Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network (CLEO)

ACAP will also briefly present the report Circumpolar Best Practices: Policy and Financing Options for Black Carbon Emission Reductions from Diesel Sources. The report assesses options and challenges of reducing black carbon emissions from diesel vehicles in Russia.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to review and consider approving the report as an Arctic Council document for submission to the 2017 Ministerial meeting.

Documents:

- 1) CLEO fact sheet
- 2) Circumpolar Best Practices: Policy and Financing Options for Black Carbon Emission Reductions from Diesel Sources

4.1.2 AMAP: Arctic Freshwater Synthesis Report

4.1.3 CAFF: Invasive Alien Species

Document(s):

1. CAFF and PAME Memo on Invasive Alien Species
2. Arctic Invasive Alien Species Project description

4.1.4 EPPR: Search and Rescue

4.1.5 PAME: Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

4.1.6 SDWG: Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)

Document(s):

1. Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA) Project Overview
2. Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA) Project Proposal Template

4.2. EPPR Strategic Plan

Speaker(s): Amy Merten, EPPR Chair

Background: EPPR will present their updated Strategic Plan. The updates reflect recent changes in mandates for SAR and the implementation framework on oil pollution prevention.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to review and consider approving the EPPR Strategic Plan.

Document(s):

- 1) Updated EPPR Strategic Plan

4.3. Written reports

Speaker(s): None

Background: Progress Reports from the WGs and the ACS have been submitted in advance of this meeting. Under this agenda item there will be no prepared oral presentations. SAOs/PPs will have an opportunity to ask any clarifying questions they might have regarding the written reports.

Action: Progress reports are for information and clarification purposes. The SAOs/PPs are invited to take note of the ACS Annual Report and approve the 2015 ACS accounts and external auditor's report.

Document(s):

- 1) Progress Reports from six WGs
- 2) 2015 Annual Report from the ACS

12:30pm Lunch

2pm Reconvene

5. Strengthening the Arctic Council

5.1. Funding mechanisms in the AC

Speaker(s): Magnus Johannesson, ACS Director

Background: The SAOs/PPs may wish to consider how the AC is currently financed from a holistic perspective to include projects, secretariats, and PPs; as well as mechanisms such as the PSI, funding from Observers, funding from non-Observers, and extramural funding from the Arctic States. This discussion is intended to “tee up” the key issues for a deeper discussion at the fall 2016 SAO meeting with the goal of gaining a fuller understanding of the entire financial picture and whether the SAOs should be engaging in new thinking on the AC’s finances.

Action: For information

Document(s):

1) Arctic Council funding: An overview

3:30pm Coffee Break (~30 minutes)

5.2. Arctic Council Relations to Outside Bodies

Speaker(s): Julia Gourley, U.S. SAO

Background: At the October 2015 SAO meeting the U.S. was asked to develop draft guidelines for relations with outside bodies.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to discuss and consider approving the proposed draft guidelines.

Document(s):

1) Issue paper: Toward clarity and transparency in relationships with other bodies

5.3. Arctic Council Communications Guidelines and the Arctic Council Communications Strategy 2012-2016

Speaker(s): David Balton, SAO Chair

Background: During the Kingdom of Denmark’s Chairmanship the AC developed a set of communications guidelines but did not formally approve them. The U.S. Chairmanship and the ACS has updated these guidelines for consideration and possible adoption at the March SAO meeting. Separately, a more detailed Communications Strategy was previously adopted for the period 2012-2016. SAOs

and PPs may wish to look ahead to a review of the strategy at the October 2016 SAO meeting.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to discuss and consider approving the revised communications guidelines. SAOs/PPs may wish to consider whether the Arctic Council Communications Strategy needs to be reviewed in 2016.

Document(s):

- 1) Arctic Council Communications and Outreach Guidelines
- 2) AC Communications Strategy 2012-2016

5:00pm Adjourn for the Day

Day 2 – Thursday, March 17, 2016

7:45-8:45am Breakfast Event (by invitation only) – SAO Chair meets with Observers

(Location: TBD – UAF Campus)

9:00am Meeting Convenes

Thematic Areas / Cross-cutting Issues

6. Crosscutting Theme #1 – Climate change and resilience**6.1. Paris agreement and its potential effect on future AC work**

Speaker(s): Halldor Thorgeirsson, UNFCCC Secretariat representative

Background: Presentation from the UN Secretariat about the climate change agreement reached in Paris. The AC has already done a lot of work on climate change. During the U.S. Chairmanship, the AC is addressing climate change in the Arctic on a number of fronts, including black carbon and methane emissions. SAOs may wish to discuss the efforts the AC might take in the future to address climate change issues in the Arctic in light of the Paris Agreement.

Action: For information

Document(s): none

6.2. Black Carbon and Methane (BCM)

Speaker(s): Karen Florini, BCM Expert Group Chair

Background: The Chair of the BCM Expert Group will provide a report out from the January 2016 meeting.

Action: For information

Document(s):

1) Summary report from the first meeting of the Expert Group on BCM

6.3. Report from Resilience Workshop

Speaker(s): Joel Clement, U.S. Department of Interior

Action: For information

Document(s): none

6.3bis Update on the Arctic Resilience Assessment (ARA)

Speaker(s): Johan Kuylenstierna, Stockholm Environment Institute

Action: For information

Document(s): none

10:30am Coffee Break (~30 minutes)

6.4. One Health: Operationalizing One Health in the Arctic

Speaker(s): Roberta Burns, SDWG Chair

Background: The SDWG's One Health initiative is a cross-cutting project that would benefit from the contributions of other Arctic Council working groups. One Health approach seeks to forge co-equal, all-inclusive collaborations across multiple scientific disciplines and Arctic communities in order to strengthen resiliency of the Arctic inhabitants through an enhanced understanding of climatic change impacts on health risks to people, animals, and the environment.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to review progress and provide guidance, as needed.

Document(s):

- 1) One Health project proposal (provided as background. Proposal approved by the SDWG)
- 2) One Health Project Overview

6.5. Open discussion of climate change and resilience work in the Arctic Council

Document(s):

- 1) Discussion paper: Climate change activity in the Arctic Council

12:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Reconvene

7. Crosscutting Theme #2 – Future AC work on oil and gas

7.1. EPPR presentation

Speaker(s): Amy Merten, EPPR Chair

Background: EPPR will present on trends in Arctic activities, changes in conditions and risks for spills, and increased risk of SAR in Arctic conditions, as related to existing priority projects: MOSPA exercise planning, SAR coordination, and building capacity in communities.

Action: SAOs/PPs may wish to consider reviewing and approving the report accompanying this agenda item.

Document(s):

- 1) Report: Overview of measures specifically designed to prevent oil pollution in the Arctic marine environment from offshore petroleum activities
- 2) Background Paper: 2nd Functional Exercise of the MOSPA Agreement

7.2. ACAP presentation

Speaker(s): Ulrik Westman, ACAP Chair

Background: ACAP will provide a presentation on improving knowledge on and reducing emissions from black carbon and methane in the oil and gas sector in

the Arctic through action oriented efforts such as: technical and financial feasibility assessments and project design; and leak detection and repair (LDAR) activities.

Action: For information

Document(s): none

7.3. Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum (AORF)

Speaker(s): Mark Fesmire, AORF Chair

Background: The AORF is a forum of technical and operational offshore petroleum safety regulators whose members are dedicated to the common cause of improving offshore safety outcomes in the Arctic. Created to address a recommendation of the Arctic Council's Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention, the AORF's scope is the exchange of information, best practices and relevant experiences learned from regulatory efforts related to developing petroleum resources in the Arctic Regions of the globe. The Chair of the AORF will present an update on the Forum's objectives and activities.

Action: For information

Document(s):

1) AORF Terms of Reference

7.4. Open discussion of oil and gas work in the Arctic Council

Document(s):

1) Discussion paper: The Arctic Council's work on oil and gas issues

3:00pm Coffee Break (~30 minutes)

8. Other Arctic Council projects and initiatives

8.1. The Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic (TFTIA)

Speaker(s): Else Berit Eikeland, Norwegian SAO

Background: The TFTIA was established at the 2015 Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, Canada. The TFTIA is co-chaired by Norway and the Kingdom of Denmark. The second meeting of the TFTIA took place in Tromsø in February 2016.

Action: For information

Document(s):

1) Summary report from the second meeting of the TFTIA

2) Table of Contents (Latest draft following 2nd TFTIA meeting)

3) Work Plan (Latest draft following 2nd TFTIA meeting)

8.2. The Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic (SCTF)

Speaker(s): Evan Bloom, U.S. Co-Chair

Background: The SCTF was established at the 2013 Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna and is co-chaired by the U.S. and Russia. The SCTF held its eighth meeting in March 2016 in Arlington, VA.

Action: For information

Document(s):

- 1) Summary report from the seventh meeting of the SCTF
- 8.3. The Task Force for Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC)

Speaker(s): Brian Israel, U.S. Co-Chair

Background: The TFAMC was established at the 2015 Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, Canada, and is co-chaired by Norway, U.S. and Iceland. The second meeting of the TFAMC took place in Stockholm in February 2016.

Action: For information

Document(s):

- 1) Summary report from the second meeting of the TFAMC

9. Other Business

5:00pm Adjourn

List of documents submitted for information:

Info Doc 1: Amarok: Arctic Council Tracker

Info Doc 2: Update from the ACS on the Ratification of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic

Info Doc 3: Update from NEFCO on the Project Support Instrument (PSI)

Info Doc 4: Response to recommendations from the Future Arctic Leaders workshop

Info Doc 5: Memo on educational kits (CAFF)

Info Doc 6: Arctic Council 20th anniversary photo slide show

Info Doc 7: Cover Note on Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) Communication and Implementation Plans (PAME)

Info Doc 8: AMSP Communication Plan (PAME)

Info Doc 9: AMSP Implementation Plan (PAME)

Info Doc 10: Cover note on the Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) Project Plan (PAME)

Info Doc 11: ASTD Project Plan (PAME)

Info Doc 12: Report from the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning ICARP III

Info Doc 13: CBMP Coastal Biodiversity Monitoring background paper

Info Doc 14: Memo on the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)