National Atmospheric Deposition Program

Executive Committee Meeting
2021 NADP Spring
Friday, May 19, 2021

Greg Wetherbee opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

PI Introduction

Jamie Schauer provided comments, mentioning the difficulty of the last year with the pandemic. He also mentioned new opportunities, such as the aeroallergen and mercury front and we also need to be thinking about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Coordinator Report

David Gay presented the NADP Coordinator's report, with Mark Olson. Discussion points included:

- overall goals from fall 2021,
- AMON price reduction tests
- bag sampling implementation for CAL
- integrating new hires,
- site loss issues (net balance: we lost 1 NTN, 4 MDN, no AMON, and 3 AMNet,
- new website development,
- a training program for the Program Office,
- HAL litterfall improvements, and AMNet.
- For data, we wanted 30 days to post to the web – which is mostly done – and three months prior for the Program Office and all networks.
- Financially we are in good shape and are preparing the budget for 2022. Tracking of expenses by network is improving
- completed a full-time hire on Monday for a 6-month position: Wyatt Sherlock.
- We now have the IL11 archive
- reviewed the recycling issues for gloves and bags. This is not a lot of money but probably a good thing for us to be doing.
- restated the summary goals: restart AMNet visitations, restart the trips to market NADP (we hope to have travel approval later this summer), bring on new employees, getting the new website up and public, increasing training and site visits, confirming the new

budget (2022), having the new Total N + Total P (a.k.a. SNIPIT), and the 2021 annual maps summaries.

There was additional discussion about the last belforts, and using naphthalene as a deterrent. Additional discussion concerned the funds spent to print the annual summary and CALendar.

Subcommittee Reports

NOS – Report of the CAL update. Bag sampling is nearly fully rolled out. The IL11 sample archive is now at WSLH. Discussion on the WSLH to meet the 90-day turnaround time to push data to the Program Office. A QA update from the labs: MDLs are largely unchanged, and AMoN travel blanks continue to trend lower.

We had two *motions* on the use of pesticides and entry of leaf data. We had a *motion* on NTN chemistry to site historical data for determination of sample validity.

We received a site survey report, and discussed an audit, ACM lid seal problems, and new techniques using drone data to address siting criteria violations. The siting criteria workgroup discussing debris counts, comparing siting criteria violations, and the consideration of changing the NTN collector 30 degrees to a tree as a rule instead of as guidance. Results of the USGS External QA report look good.

Joint – some discussion on some continuing impacts from COVID (CAPMoN sample analysis suspension, CASTNet USPS delays in delivering samples, and some impacts on the external QA program. Other discussion about the status of methylmercury measurements at a subset of the MDN sites. There was a proposal to discontinue analysis of methylmercury in recitation except for special purposes. We passed three *motions* in NOS and one motion in Joint Subcommittees session.

Joint Motion: The transitional Hg litterfall network shall become an official network of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). The publicly available data release will occur after approval by QAAG. Links will be provided on the NADP web site to previous data collected by earlier versions of this network."

QAAG – Received a site upstate from EE&MS, and they are essentially on track. Several site QC issues were raised. We received a siting criteria update, and discussed the virtual lab reviews, received a data quality objectives update, discussed the new tools in the LIMS systems for data metrics. We added a new q-notes code, and data that resulted in A codes.

Motion regarding historical data comparisons.

Greg presented the USGS QA precipitation chemistry report. Discussion of different lab investigation projects involving the blue and white AMON study. Also discussed was

AMoN core preparation in the CAL along with total nitrogen and phosphorous monitoring development. We also started pH stirring this past May; so that all samples are stirred when they are measured.

DMAG –The labs are meeting their 90-day data targets. We talked about development in the LIMS and meetings this summer, and a discussion about the SL coding. We received a status update and tour of the new website. There were no motions.

EOS – Committees getting their minutes out within 60 days has been helpful.

Motion: For the governance handbook, adding the improved EOS section and consolidating paragraphs, requirement to post subcommittee minutes within 60 days, and deleting the number of committees along with other minor edits.

Significant discussion about social media and coordinate with other groups. We have a preview of the NADP factsheet, reviewed the Wikipedia page, and an update of the webpage. We had updates from all of the subcommittees as well.

Budget Committee –Budget Committee met in August 2020. Rodney Vance is the principal contact person at USDA NIFA. The subscription costs will remain the same for now.

Motion and second to accept subcommittee reports (and subcommittee). Subcommittee reports were accepted.

Science Committee Reports

TEDP – It was noted that TDep had a motion to approve CityDep as an official workgroup, and the structures, roles, and duties for TDep leadership were discussed. This included more clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Script transcription for TDEP measurement model fusion is almost complete. There was an update on the WMO Global Atmospheric Watch and there may be an opportunity for TDEP to be involved with this.

CLAD –CLAD has been conducting a monthly seminar series on fourth Wednesday of the month, January through July. We have had 40 -50 people in attendance. CLAD approved a motion to start a new working group: Working Group 6, Ecological Effects and Critical Levels of Ozone. The group discussed critical load uncertainty. Working Group 2 developed a framework for summarizing uncertainty arising from ecological data and analyses. The USDA critical load videos will be available soon and CLAD is planning a fall science symposium.

MELD –MELD objectives were noted, including presenting mercury updates from the Program Office and a report from the January 2021 mercury measurement workshop. Mercury measurement AMNet findings were presented along with a plan for a co-located field study. We had a session on the Minamata Convention which focused on processes, and discussed the national mercury monitoring bill. Litterfall mercury was also discussed –

mercury in litterfall is an important component of atmospheric deposition in forested settings. The path forward is to modify the current draft 12-point plan to reflect goals.

AMSC –21 people participated, and we regained participation by CDC and NAB. The aeroallergen monitoring methods comparison study is underway. We approved the motion that the AMSC be reauthorized to continue its work as a science committee for the next four years. There was discussion of need to create a workgroup within a science committee.

Agency and Stakeholder Reports

USDA/NIFA report (DG on USDA's behalf). We received only 2 of the 6 interagency agreements. On June 1st we will start the continuation process for the project. NIFA has still not hired a natural resource/air quality program leader, so no change until further notice.

USGS—Expecting level funding. We are operating two sets of side-by-side collectors. Greg Wetherbee also noted that our inability to travel has an impact on USGS site contributions.

EPA – Part of the CASNET appropriation is used to support NADP. We have been static in terms of budget, but we received a 1% cut in FY21. We've been evaluating changes in operation. The budget status is unknown, but asked for a significant increase for refurbishment of equipment and improvement of sites. We are building on our tribal monitoring efforts. and the American Rescue Plan may have some funds. PFAS monitoring is also an agency priority.

NPS – The purchase request for NADP has been submitted. We were looking at making some monitoring cuts, but we were able to keep all our sites and we also had a few sites added including the MDN in Alaska. There is a new study that is looking at PFAS in fish.

BLM – has acquired three new sites, and ask for a new cost estimate for 9/1/21 to 06/31/22. These three new sites were acquired from the NPS/USFS, and were able to keep them going.

USFWS – the USFWS still owes funds, we should be able to get this resolved. We've maintained all of our sites and added a new one. We also participated in the Litterfall network. We obtained permission to perform some dragonfly monitoring and are including 5 sites. Also working on incorporating the critical loads into federal land manager guidance.

USFS – supporting 32 NTN sites, 1 MDN site, 2 AMON sites, and 1 Litterfall site. The FY21 obligation is in. Funding has been level for some years, but site operation and maintenance is funded at the unit level. But as of now, no net change in number of sites.

ECCC—Currently status quo for site funding. The contract is in place and options will soon be exercised for this fiscal year. Most sites have remained operational throughout the COVID pandemic, but not the analytical laboratories, and there is a large backlog.

Maine DEP – Participating with the EPA ORD PFAS study, and relocating our ME09 site (our oldest site, move to airport). The budget is not in good shape because of a tracking software issue (error) that shows a deficit, but are ok for right now.

SAES – Noted they have a new Hatch Act project. There is a lot of activity, particularly within the animal agricultural segment, and bringing more people into the group.

NOAA – Currently involved in the support of 9 NTN stations for ARL. Some reduction is necessary, due to several reasons. Noted how DOE can potentially help with TN00. USGS committed resources to help NOAA relocate and find new site operators for the TN00 and OK17 sites. The WV site will be lost.

GOS4M – This is the global observation system for mercury and the flagship program improving the accessibility of data, and a federation of ongoing regional and national mercury monitoring networks. Although it is air-focused, there is a biotic component as well. There is a membership agreement and organizational structure. We have representatives from Europe, China, Russia, South Africa, and the U.S. There was an ask to provide metadata for mercury.

Other Issues

An issue was raised regarding an MOU for the NADP AMSC pollen study and pollen sense. It was discussed whether we need to have an MOU. At the moment, this is part of a study. An MOU was drafted just for the study that includes the expectations. DG volunteered to write the first draft of this. More discussion followed. The MOU will be modified and send it to the Executive Committee for approval.

Fall Meeting. A contract is in place. We have until about the 25th of July to verify an in-person meeting, decided mainly on the federal ability to fly. It was recommended to not make this decision today. We have plenty of time to confirm. It was noted that if we are charging attendees for a virtual meeting, we should have a viable hybrid alternative.

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:45 p.m.