## McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC)

# Recommendations and NSF responses from the annual meeting 17 July 2006

### The full meeting report is available online at http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees

#### Recommendations

#### Staging Space

Staging space is needed for assembly, testing, and re-packaging scientific equipment for transport to the field. All groups surveyed in 2004 reported that they will require increased staging space in the future. The ANDRILL project will displace 70% of the science in Phase 2 during the 2006-07 field season. No plans are in the works for improved staging space for science groups.

Note: Last year's (2005) MAUC recommended allowing science groups to use a temporary structure for staging space while ANDRILL requires much of the Crary Lab space. They also recommended that a longer term solution be determined.

#### Recommendation #1

A working group needs to be established to investigate options for providing additional staging space in *McMurdo*. Options to be considered should include establishing temporary structures adjacent the Crary Lab and identifying suitable space in existing structures which can be reallocated for this purpose.

Suggested committee structure: Tom Neumann (chair)

Potential Members: Terry Wilson, OSU Joe Mastriani, Independant Cara Sucher, RPSC UNAVCO Rep Al Sutherland, NSF Member of the oceanographic buoy community

#### **NSF** Response:

NSF concurs that a working group is needed to work with RPSC in defining requirements for the staging space. The NSF tasks RPSC (Jim Scott, McMurdo Area Director) to review possible existing space for use as staging space and then communicate the findings to the NSF.

#### **Crary Lab Space**

Over the coming years it is expected that space in Crary Lab in general will become exceptionally tight. The committee considered that one solution to this problem would be to allow grantees wireless access in areas outside of CSEC so that they might do the equivalent of a telecommute, thereby reducing the pressure on office space.

Wireless hotspots should be established in areas away from the Crary Lab for grantees use. As a start this could be fairly restricted, covering just the areas outside of the lab where grantees could find appropriate work space. This would include at a minimum public spaces in 155 (i.e. the galley and lounge) and the upper case dorms (i.e. lounges). Ultimately the best solution would be wireless throughout the dorms and 155 where grantees are housed. Security protocols could mimic those already used in CSEC (Mac address filtering, suppressing SSID broadcasting and 128 bit WEP encryption). Ideally once a computer is set up and cleared to work in CSEC it would work in these other areas as well. The cost of wireless these days seems to be relatively minor in relation to the trade off we could obtain with the relieved congestion in the lab. Hours of open use in the galley would have to be restricted to avoid congestion while clean up after meals occurs.

#### **NSF** Response:

NSF (Pat Smith, Technology Development Manager) agrees in principal and approves wireless for dorm buildings 208 and 209 pending approval through the Configuration Change Request (CCR) system used by RPSC FEMC (Facilities, Engineering, Maintenance & Construction) and Sandy Singer, NSF Area Business Manager for FEMC).

#### USGS mirror site in McMurdo

The USGS Antarctic Atlas site is a valuable resource for deploying grantees, but comes at a cost of high bandwidth.

#### Recommendation #3

A mirror site of the USGS Atlas site should be maintained at the Crary Lab.

#### **NSF Response:**

The NSF agrees in principle and tasks RPSC with the development of a New Project Proposal to accomplish this for submittal to the NSF.

#### Sample handling advisory group

Raytheon is undertaking and/or proposing a number of steps to improve handling of samples returning from the ice. Safe sample return is paramount and critical to the success of scientific research at McMurdo Station,

#### Recommendation #4

A committee of grantees should be established to advise the RPSC science cargo group in the development and monitoring of new cargo protocols.

Suggested committee structure Mark Twickler (Chair) Kathy Welch (OSU) Brent Christner (Virginia Polytech)

#### **NSF Response:**

The NSF concurs that a sub-committee should be established to improve the quality and safety of sample shipment throughout the chain of custody, and tasks RPSC Logistics to participate on the sub-committee. The sub-committee should submit advice and recommendations to the MAUC.

#### Safety Training for Scientists and online instruction

i. A presentation was given to MAUC on plans for online safety training for scientists being developed. MAUC would like to point out that many grantees are employees at their home institutes and have to go through similar training there.

#### Recommendation #5

During the development of online safety courses consideration should be given to allowing for individuals with similar prior training at home institutes to be able to opt out of the RPSC training.

#### **NSF Response:**

The NSF is skeptical that the opt out option for RPSC safety training of the scientists will be effective. NSF tasks RPSC EH&S (Environmental Health & Safety) to continue to work with the NSF EH&S to develop improvements in the safety training program, which optimize the training time spent by scientists

ii. MAUC was very interested in the concept of online courses prior to deployment as a way to reduce course time in McMurdo and decrease the time between arrival in McMurdo and carrying out the scientific objectives.

#### Safety Training for Scientists and online instruction

#### Recommendation #6

RPSC consider other course work which can be accomplished prior to deploying. For instance, the field safety refresher courses are about two-thirds class work and 1/3 hands-on (e.g. setting up tents, stoves, and radios). Could the course work go online thereby shortening the length of this on ice course?

#### **NSF** Response:

The NSF tasks RPSC to refine training requirements for each project and determine what courses can be presented in web format. RPSC should assess if the experience of USAP participants can be determined predeployment and factored into the "refresher training" required.