

Palmer Area User Committee
(*PAUC*)
Annual Meeting
4 August 2011
Raytheon Polar Services Company
Centennial, Colorado

Table of Contents

Committee Recommendations	3
Agenda	4
Meeting Minutes	5

Palmer Area User Committee (PAUC) Meeting
4 August 2011
Committee Recommendations

Recommendation:

Palmer's Major System Study should be distributed to the PAUC.

Action:

Palmer's Major System Study will be posted to the *Supporting Documents* section of the PAUC meeting report.

Recommendation:

A list of chemicals with a known history of shipping problems should be distributed to the PAUC.

Action:

Palmer Labs will begin compiling an ongoing list of chemicals for which RPSC encounters shipping problems.

Recommendation:

The items up for life cycle replacement should be distributed to the PAUC.

Action:

Palmer's life cycle replacement list will be posted to the *Supporting Documents* section of the PAUC meeting results.

Recommendation:

Distribute a list of available field camp supplies to the PAUC.

Action:

Palmer's field camp supplies will be posted to the *Supporting Documents* section of the PAUC meeting results.

Recommendation:

The PAUC requests reconsideration of the policy preventing grantees from using LabCorp for the PQ process. For some college students the cost of such blood work is high and not covered by university insurance. Could grantees be allowed to use LabCorp through RPSC, with grant money being used to reimburse RPSC for the costs?

Action:

The NSF does not currently have plans to change the policy with regard to the use of LabCorp and the PQ process.

Topic: Palmer Area User Committee's Annual Meeting

Date / Time: 4 August / 12:30 MST – 2:30 EST

Location: Palmer Auditorium

Host: Eric Pohlman

Purpose: To provide a forum for interactive exchange of information, formulation of recommendations, and reporting of action on past recommendations.

Call in Number: 1-877-336-1275

Access Code 1274113

Committee Members

	Charles Amsler (Chair)		Deborah Steinberg		Germar Bernhard
	Bill Detrich		Beth Simmons		Christopher Ruhland
	Richard Lee		Alison Murray		Kristin O'Brien

Discussion:

<u>Time: Eastern (MDT)</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
2:30 (12:30)	Welcome	Charles Amsler/ Eric Pohlman
2:45 (12:45)	National Science Foundation	Tim McGovern/ Jessie Crain
3:00 (1:00)	National Science Foundation	Scott Borg
3:15 (1:15)	Raytheon Polar Services	Tom Ellis
4:15 (2:15)	New Topics and Discussion (including 2010 recommendations Status),	Topic specialist

Topics:

- Status of the R/V Point Sur deployment possibility
- Status the proposed safe boat-type small boats that are under study for use in the Palmer vicinity and the expanded small boating limit
- Cargo system:
 - How is the overhauled system working for samples?
 - Warehouse security update
 - Streamlined addressing system for sending vendor supplies directly to PTH
- Status of the joint use equipment wish list
- Status of the "Palmer Major Systems Study" submitted to NSF by RSA Engineering on 5 January 2011
- Status of comprehensive list of peninsular-available field gear
- Request for Labcorp system to be available to grantees (billed to grantee)
- Microfiche update
- Selection of next years new PAUC members

**Palmer Area User Committee (PAUC) Meeting
4 August 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees

PAUC Members

Charles Amsler (Chair)	University of Alabama	amsler@uab.edu
Germar Bernhard	Biospherical Instruments, Inc.	bernhard@biospherical.com
Bill Detrich	Northeastern University	w.detrich@neu.edu
Richard Lee	Miami University	leere@muohio.edu
Beth Simmons	LTER Education & Outreach Coordinator	besimmons@ucsd.edu
Deborah Steinberg	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	debbies@vims.edu
Alison Murray	University of Nevada, Reno	murray@dri.edu
Christopher Ruhland	Arizona State University	christopher.ruhland@mnsu.edu
Kristin O'Brien	University of Alaska Fairbanks	kmobrien@alaska.edu

**NSF (Contact Information: first initial last name(no breaks)@nsf.gov;
sborg@nsf.gov)**

Scott Borg	ANT Division Director
Jessie Crain	AIL Research Support Manager
Tim McGovern	AIL Oceans Projects Manager

**RPSC (Contact Information: first name.last name.contractor@usap.gov;
eric.pohlman.contractor@usap.gov)**

Eric Pohlman	RPSC Planning Support Manager
Tom Ellis	RPSC Director of Operations
Rebecca Shoop	RPSC Palmer Area Manager
Phil Spindler	RPSC Supervisor Science Support, Palmer Station
Steve Kottmeier	RPSC Director of Science Support
Bob Farrell	RPSC Area Directorate, Palmer Station
Bob Kluckhohn	RPSC Marine Superintendent
Ken Navarro	RPSC Logistics Supervisor, Palmer Area Directorate
John Rand	RPSC Planning Support Manager
Patricia Jackson	RPSC Planning Support Manager
Mike Raabe	RPSC Logistics Manager
Samina Ouda	RPSC Planning Support Coordinator
Deborah Roth	RPSC Planning Support Coordinator
Chad Naughton	RPSC Planning Support Manager
Steve Wickins	RPSC Facilities Engineer, Palmer Station
Lora Folger	RPSC IT Manager, Palmer Area Directorate
Lindsay Powers	RPSC Manager Science Support Planning
John Evans	RPSC Planning Support Manager
Addie Coyac	RPSC Planning Support Manager
Carolyn Lipke	RPSC Assistant Supervisor Lab Operations, Palmer Station

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Charles Amsler and Eric Pohlman:

- Charles Amsler welcomed the group and went through introductions.
- Committee appreciates NSF and RPSC for attending.
- RPSC appreciates PAUC member participation.
- The USAP Station and Vessels Committee Charter and By Laws were read by Eric Pohlman.
- Eric Pohlman conveyed the responsibilities of the Antarctic Support Contractor (ASC) and the PAUC committee members for what needs to be accomplished during this meeting.

National Science Foundation (NSF): Tim McGovern/Jessie Crain/Scott Borg

- NSF appreciates everyone attending this meeting.
- Mr. Tim McGovern first started with the NSF in December 2010 as the new AIL Ocean Projects Manager.
- AIL Division Director, Mr. Will Colston passed away and Mr. Brian Stone has been hired in his place.
- Dr. Roberta Marinelli (ANT Organisms and Ecosystems, Program Director) and Dr. Lisa Clough (ANT Integrated System Science, Program Manager) have left the NSF.
- Dr. Kelly Falkner is the new Deputy Director of Office of Polar Programs.
- There has been no NSF decision on a new ASC.
- There is no Oden Icebreaker this year going to McMurdo Station. The NSF is currently looking into a resolution, but this should not affect Palmer Station.
- NSF/OPP expects to receive flat funding for fiscal year 12.
- NSF/OPP and Ocean Sciences are trying to deploy the R/V Point Sur to Palmer Station during part of the 2012-13 austral summer season.
- Scott Borg thanked the committee for their valuable input.
- Scott Borg explained there is a budget crisis and currently there is a lot of uncertainty at the NSF with no icebreaker at this time.

Raytheon Polar Services (RPSC): Tom Ellis

- This is the last PAUC Meeting for RPSC.
- RPSC will not get another extension.
- RPSC really appreciates this type of communication (PAUC meeting) and the recommendations from the PAUC to RPSC for science support improvements.
- RPSC has been preparing for a smooth transition to the new ASC, which should be seamless to the entire grantee community.

NEW TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

- Status of the R/V Point Sur deployment possibility:
 - In the 2012-13 season the R/V Point Sur will be deploying per Tim McGovern.

- Tim McGovern stated that crewing the vessel appropriately and budget issues for the R/V Point Sur are still being worked out.
 - There will be a Marine Tech aboard to coordinate with Palmer Station.
 - The R/V Point Sur will be on station from December 2012 into January 2013.
 - The R/V Point Sur will be out for a total of a 4 month period. Thirty days to transit to Palmer Station and thirty days for transit return to Moss Landing, CA.
 - Bill Detrich asked about the cruise range and endurance for the R/V Point Sur during the 60 day period.
 - The R/V Point Sur has a 12 science person capacity and can travel within a 5000 mile range.
 - The website for Moss Landing has the specifications of the R/V Point Sur.
 - Charles Amsler will distribute the website url to everyone.
 - Phil Spindler stated the LTER is looking forward to the R/V Point Sur coming to station.
- Status of the proposed safe boat-type small boats that are under study for use in the Palmer vicinity and the expanded small boating limit:
- There has been a request by some of the science community to allow for operations in brash ice with zodiacs.
 - The intent is to expand the research area.
 - Rebecca Shoop is leading the working group at RPSC.
 - Several investigations have been done on different boat options.
 - Need to have more capable boats to take groups out for a longer period of time and be safer.
 - The future is looking bright for Palmer Station, but currently it is still in the early stages.
 - Jim Karcher stated he was thrilled with the idea of the acquisition of the safe boat, which will have its limitations.
- Cargo System:
- How is the overhauled system working for samples?
 - Ken Navarro is pleased about using direct flights for hazardous sensitive shipments in Chile.
 - Ken stated that a local supplier of dry ice has been identified in Punta Arenas, Chile.
 - Science cargo tracking is improving at Port Hueneme, CA per Mike Raabe
 - There have been problems with drop shipping to Port Hueneme. Grantees have been required to drop ship to their home institutions.
 - Port Hueneme Operations is adding a new science cargo coordinator position .

- The science cargo coordinator will be the only person dedicated to tracking Southbound cargo in Polar Ice, which will connect directly with FedEx to track.
 - There will be a form that will need to be filled out and the coordinator will update the items as they are received. This sheet will be updated twice a week.
 - Mike Raabe stated there should not be a problem with drop shipping to Port Hueneme now.
 - Any problems that have occurred in the past the Polar Ice system should help to resolve these issues.
 - +Phase 2 will track Northbound cargo as well.
 - Grantees will be able to view where their samples are via the Polar Ice cargo tracking spreadsheet.
 - Cases of groups ordering project specific supplies have been handled really well.
 - Some hazardous chemicals are very strictly regulated.
 - Phil requested everyone to contact with him regarding any issues with the hazardous materials.
 - Alison Murray stated that a list of chemicals would be helpful.
- Punta Arenas, Chile, Warehouse Security Update:
- Approximately a year ago a site visit was done.
 - More fencing and security padlocks have been installed.
 - Ken Navarro and Mike Raabe went to Punta Arenas, Chile, to conduct an audit and everything seemed very secure.
 - Security tape and seals have been put in place.
 - Please inform Ken Navarro if you have any security issues
- Streamlined addressing system for sending vendor supplies directly to PTH:
- When ordering items directly from suppliers, Port Hueneme needs to know when something is affiliated with the grantee project.
 - All supplier items will not be shipped by FedEx.
 - There needs to be some sort of way to track these items shipped by other carriers.
 - The PAUC committee members asked the question, “How will this list of items be updated in the planning system.”

- Per Mike Raabe, all information is kept in the server, and Port Hueneme will be updating it twice weekly. There will be a last updated date as well.
- Status of the joint use equipment wish list:
 - Bill Detrich stated how PAUC members canvassed the Palmer community regarding equipment and received a number of responses back.
 - Currently there is a list of 14 items.
 - Phil Spindler stated the sooner he receives the list, the quicker he can plan for it.
 - Alison Murray, Charles Amsler and Bill Detrich will submit the list to Phil Spindler in about a week.
 - The prioritization of the joint use equipment needs to be worked on.
 - Alison Murray stated in addition to new items on the list, it is understood that life cycle equipment that needs to be replaced is being reviewed..
 - Per Phil Spindler this is being reviewed with respect to the budget. Some of these items will be replaced, some they will have to purchase new.
 - The PAUC requested to see the list of life cycle replacement equipment.
 - Tim McGovern requested to see all the lists combined into one list.
 - Charles Amsler, Bill Detrich, and Alison Murray volunteered to help prioritize the equipment list.
 - Phil Spindler will send the equipment replacement list to the committee.
 - Phil Spindler stated that RPSC did receive funding this year for two new F580 and two new F470 zodiacs.
 - Tim McGovern stated there is no information on how much the NSF/OPP budget is designated for equipment purchases.
 - Per Bill Detrich it would be a good idea to have a database for field camp supplies.
 - Information in the database should include the condition of the supplies and how quickly the supplies could be moved into the field.
 - This would help field camp groups and help in tracking these items.
 - John Evans does have a stash of certain items and in the past has been asked by Palmer scientists for items. John Evans has been able to provide for all requests.
 - Eric Pohlman will investigate developing a database.
- Status of the "Palmer Major Systems Study" submitted to NSF by RSA Engineering on 5 January 2011:

- Bob Farrell expressed how exciting it is to be involved in Palmer Station. It is very gratifying to see improvements at Palmer Station.
- Dick Armstrong did a major systems study at Palmer Station last year.
 - He brought new ideas and knitted other ideas together to easily grasp the concepts.
 - Palmer Station needs a new pier and the fuel system needs to be replaced by more modern tanks.
 - A new berthing building, water treatment facility, and power plant are needed.
 - Dick Armstrong gave a presentation at the NSF and it was well received but very ambitious.
 - Jessie Crain stated it would be good for Blue Ribbon Panel to see Dick Armstrong's presentation.
 - Chuck Amsler felt these ideas would be great improvements to the station.
 - The Palmer Major Systems Study needs to be put online.
- Status of comprehensive list of peninsular-available field gear:
 - Per Ken Navarro RPSC does a regular reorder.
 - Some items, such as boots that are reordered from a historic supplier that no longer carries them, but he has found similar boots from other suppliers.
 - Any comments on the field gear issue are appreciated and should be sent to Ken Navarro.
- Request for Labcorp system to be available to grantees (billed to grantee):
 - Would it be possible for grantees to either pay directly or pay the contractor for the LabCorp costs?
 - Grantees can not walk into lab facilities with the medical checklist form as a sufficient blood draw order because the lab facilities will not accept them.
 - It would be easier and cheaper for grantees to pay directly.
 - It is a hassle for students to get these tests done at the medical center on campus.
 - The grantees request having the LabCorp form issued and then having lab work costs billed directly to the grantee instead of billing through RPSC.
 - Eric Pohlman will investigate these billing questions.
- Microfiche update:
 - Last season the issue came up regarding the microfiche not producing good quality prints.
 - Phil Spindler reviewed what the McMurdo Crary Lab had to offer, and they have an aging machine as well.

- The American Geophysical Institute (AGI) currently has a project with the NSF in digitizing the Antarctic library.
 - Chuck Amsler has given Phil Spindler some articles to test this option out, and AGI was able to provide better quality documents.
 - You wouldn't have to be on station any longer to get these articles.
 - AGI is currently working with the PAUC committee.
 - This would also help with space in the computer room as well.
 - The question was asked if it is worth the effort to have everything digitized and does the committee support this?
 - Per Charles Amsler the committee was supportive and this alternate system would support the science needs when required.