

McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC)
Ad hoc MAUC meeting report
McMurdo Station
4 December 2006

Discussion Highlights

- MAUC charter
- Purpose of this meeting
- Review current list of members
- Review 2006 committee recommendations and NSF responses (draft attached)
- Polar Ice has been much improved this past year
- NASA and NSF are talking about testing prototype inflatable structures.

Meeting results

- The sample safety committee needs a representative for live samples. Kathy Welch will recommend someone
- An education campaign focusing on the importance of samples would go a long way towards improving sample safety
- Other possible topics for MAUC summer meeting or for working groups
 - It is still very difficult to drill holes in the sea ice and lake ice. A proposal will be considered by NSF for a workshop looking at better ways of getting through the ice thereby reducing time doing this and allowing for more spatially representative sampling.
 - Some of the equipment stored in the labs is old and no longer used. Cara Sucher will develop a list of the older equipment for discussion at the summer MAUC meeting.
 - There is currently no mechanism for maintaining a list of USAP grantee email addresses for general use by MAUC. A list-server that grantees can join would be beneficial. An ongoing list of USAP grantees and their disciplines independent of any particular field season would provide a way to contact the entire community or just a specific discipline.
- Brian Stone noted that NSF looks to MAUC recommendations for understanding what the community views as top priorities for station improvements.
- Steve Barwick joined the MAUC as representative for Aeronomy & Astrophysics.

Attachments

- 4 Dec 2006 ad hoc MAUC meeting at McMurdo Station
- 2006 MAUC recommendations and NSF responses
 - For the complete report go to <http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/documents/2006MAUCreport.pdf>
- MAUC current members
- USAP Station and Vessel User Committee System Charter
 - By-laws follow the charter. For a complete copy go to <http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/documents/usapcommitteecharter.pdf>

Attendees

A-127, A-142	Steve Barwick.	Univ California Irvine
B-043	Bowser, Sam	Wadsworth Ctr NYS DOH
RPSC	Christensen, Kaneen	Environmental dept
RPSC	Dean, Cindy	Environmental dept
B-426	Doran, Peter	University of Illinois at Chicago
B-043	Habura, Andrea	Wadsworth Ctr NYS DOH
B-043	Huang, David	UCSB
RPSC	Jackson, Patricia	Planning Support Manager
B-043, W-219	Kaiser, Henry	
B-195	Lanoil, Brian	Univ Calif Riverside
B-195	Mikucki, Jill	Harvard
RPSC	Robbins, Rob	Dive Supervisor & Science Support Lead
RPSC	Roberts, Paulene	Assistant Lab Supervisor
B0195	Samarkin, Vladimir	UGA Athens
NSF	Stone, Brian	NSF/OPP
RPSC	Sucher, Cara	Crary Lab Supervisor
G-081	Vogel, Stefan	Northern Illinois Univ
I-205	Voigt, Don	Penn State
B-420	Welch, Kathy	OSU

Recommendations from the annual meeting
17 July 2006

Full meeting report is available online at
<http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/documents/2006MAUCreport.pdf>

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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 Mastroianni, Independent
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.

Recommendation #2

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)
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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.

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 pre-deployment and factored into the "refresher training" required.

MAUC Committee Current Membership

					Representation	First regular meeting
Doran	Peter	pdoran@uic.edu	Chair, Biology (Dry Valleys LTER)	Univ of Illinois Chicago	312.413.7275	2004
Neuman	Tom	thomas.neumann@uvm.edu	Glaciology	Univ of Vermont	802.656.0687	?
Mastroianni	Joe	iceowl@mac.com	IT	Magee Scientific	408.656.5667	2004
Marsh	Bruce	bmarsh@jhu.edu	Geology	Johns Hopkins	410.516.7133	?
Kim	Stacy	skim@mlml.calstate.edu	Biology (McMurdo)	California State Univ	831.771.4429	2006
Twickler	Mark	mark.twickler@unh.edu	Glaciology (field camp)	Univ of New Hampshire	603.862.1991	2006
Scambos	Ted	teds@icehouse.colorado.edu	Chair Emeritus, Glaciology	Univ of Colorado Boulder	303.492.1113	n/a
Barwick	Steve	barwick@hep.ps.uci.edu	Aeronomy & Astrophysics	Univ of California Irvine		2007

USAP Station and Vessel User Committees

5 December 2005

Acronyms used:

- USAP - United States Antarctic Program
- NSF/OPP - National Science Foundation/Office of Polar Programs

Charter

The User Committees provide advice and recommendations to the USAP Prime Contractor on the support of science projects using USAP resources and facilities. The committees ensure representation of principal investigators to the management and operation of USAP research stations, vessels and field camps. The Prime Contractor's goal is to provide effective and efficient support to science projects. The committees advise the Prime Contractor on policies that guide their operation on stations, vessels and at field camps and how they may be improved. The committees also advise the Prime Contractor on USAP resources and how they can better meet grantees' needs. The Prime Contractor and the NSF/OPP will respond to the committee's recommendations as outlined in the Bylaws.

By-laws follow the charter. For a complete copy go to <http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/documents/usapcommitteecharter.pdf>