

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Conference Call Summary

August 6, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Welcome

Dr. Jim Clark Exxon Mobil Research & Engineering Co., BOSC Executive Committee Chair

Dr. Jim Clark welcomed the Executive Committee members and others to the conference call and thanked everyone for taking the time to participate. He explained that the purpose of the call was to review two draft mid-cycle review reports, discuss the schedule for upcoming program and mid-cycle reviews, provide feedback on the rating tool applications, and receive updates on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) review of the Report on the Environment (ROE) and the progress of the Standing Subcommittees for the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) and the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL). Dr. Clark stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on September 17 in Washington, DC. He then asked Ms. Lorelei Kowalski, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Executive Committee, to conduct the roll call and provide the DFO remarks.

Roll Call and DFO Remarks

Ms. Lorelei Kowalski, EPA/ORD/OSP, Designated Federal Officer

Ms. Kowalski asked participants to identify themselves. A list of the participants and the agenda for the conference call are attached to this summary. Ms. Kowalski stated that the BOSC is a federal advisory committee that is subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As the DFO, she serves as the liaison between the BOSC Executive Committee and EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and ensures that all FACA procedures and requirements are met. All meetings involving substantive issues, whether in person, by phone, or by e-mail, must be open to the public. This applies to all group communications that include at least one-half of the Executive Committee members. In addition, there must be time set aside for public comment at each meeting. Ms. Kowalski noted that she received a request for the call agenda but did not receive any requests for public comment prior to the call; there is time on the agenda for public comment at 11:00 a.m. The BOSC Chair and the DFO must be present at all Executive Committee meetings and conference calls. A notice was placed in the *Federal Register* to announce this conference call and it was entered into the federal docket management system (www.regulations.gov, Docket ID EPA-HQ-ORD-2007-0608).

A contractor, Beverly Campbell from The Scientific Consulting Group, is present to take notes during the call. A summary of the call will be prepared and it will be posted on the BOSC Web Site (www.epa.gov/osp/bosc) after it is approved by the BOSC Chair. Ms. Kowalski has ensured

that all ethics requirements have been satisfied, each BOSC member has filed a standard government financial disclosure report, and all members have completed the required ethics training. She asked the members to notify her if any potential conflict of interest arises during the call. The purpose of this call is to discuss and vet the mid-cycle review reports for the Ecological Research and Drinking Water Research Programs and to discuss activities planned for late 2007 and 2008. The following items were distributed to the Executive Committee members via e-mail prior to the call: (1) the draft agenda, (2) the Ecological Research Mid-Cycle Review Report, (3) the Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report, (4) a list of typical materials for BOSC program reviews, and (5) a schedule of proposed out-year BOSC program and mid-cycle reviews. Ms. Kowalski asked if everyone had received these items prior to the call and no one indicated that they did not.

Dr. Clark asked the members to identify themselves when they made comments so that it could be captured in the record of the call. He asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Ecological Research Mid-Cycle Review Report

Dr. Jim Clark, Ecological Mid-Cycle Subcommittee Chair and Dr. Clifford Duke, The Ecological Society of America, Report Vettor

Dr. Clark stated that three of the four-member Ecological Mid-Cycle Review Subcommittee had served on the Subcommittee that conducted the 2005 program review of the Ecological Research Program. He was the only member who did not serve on that previous Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's face-to-face meeting was held on May 23, 2007, the day before the Executive Committee meeting, in Newport, Rhode Island. Following that meeting, the Subcommittee prepared a draft report, which was finalized during a conference call that was held on July 30, 2007. Dr. Clifford Duke agreed to vet the report so Dr. Clark asked him to chair the discussion of the report.

Dr. Duke thought the report was concise and clear; he had a few comments and questions that he would raise as he called for comments on each section of the report. He had an overarching comment concerning the changing focus of the program toward ecosystem services. He was concerned that the program would shift from an ecological focus to a human focus with this change. Dr. Clark responded that the Subcommittee discussed this issue during the review. The program staff provided two examples—the Everglades and the Willamette River—to demonstrate that the program will be looking at the ecological benefits as well as the health benefits of ecosystem service. He added that the Subcommittee recommended that the program include individuals experienced in land management to build on what others have already learned. He noted that because this focus shift is recent, there were only a few examples.

Dr. Duke asked if there was any discussion about the SAB's efforts on ecological services. Are there any links between the program and those efforts? Dr. Clark replied that the National Program Director (NPD) and other program staff members mentioned the input and feedback from the SAB evaluation activities and that it would be useful to the program. It was clear that the program staff is aware of the efforts but it was not stated that the program would use them as a starting point. Dr. Duke asked if there were any other general comments. Dr. Rogene Henderson said she liked the format of the Summary section—it made the report easy to read. She suggested adding a glossary and an acronyms list. Dr. Kenneth Demerjian said he did not think the text of the report supported the ranking of "meets expectations." He thought the report

was more critical of the program than the rating would indicate. Dr. Henderson said she had the opposite impression—that the text and rating were better balanced than in the Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report. Most of the limitations identified by the Subcommittee could be attributed to the severe budget reductions. Dr. Barry Ryan said he thought the text and rating were right on target. Dr. Deborah Swackhamer agreed with Dr. Demerjian that the text was more critical than the rating, especially with regard to Charge Question #1. She mentioned that the bulleted items on page 6 seem to be rather important areas that have not been addressed since the 2005 program review. Dr. Clark said that all of the members who served on the Subcommittee that conducted the 2005 program review thought that the program was responsive to the review and the BOSC's recommendations. There were some items from that review that had not been addressed yet and the Mid-Cycle Subcommittee members specifically listed them in the report because they did not want them to fall off the program's "radar." Overall, the Subcommittee members thought the program had worked on the right questions and had the right priorities. Dr. Clark explained that initially the Subcommittee members disagreed on the rating; however, when they evaluated the program's progress relative to the criteria, everyone agreed that the program had met expectations. They all agreed that the program is meeting most of its goals, working on the right areas, and setting the right priorities. There were just some recommendations from the 2005 program review that had not been addressed yet.

Dr. Swackhamer thanked Dr. Clark for his explanation, stating that it satisfied her concerns.

Dr. Duke then called for comments page-by-page.

Page 3—No comments.

Page 4—Dr. Duke asked that "progressing development and refocusing" be changed to "ongoing development and refocusing" in line 6. He also suggested deleting "that" after "scientific perspective, but" in line 10 of the second paragraph. Dr. Carol Weiss suggested reversing the order of "communication and evaluation" in line 8 of the second paragraph so that it would be "evaluation and communication." Dr. Duke pointed out that these terms appear multiple times in the report and should be changed throughout. He then mentioned that the report uses both "ecosystem services" and "ecological services"; he would prefer that a consistent term be used throughout the report. Dr. Gary Sayler noted that ecosystem services is probably the more commonly used term. Dr. Henderson said that "be" should be inserted after "approaches that can" in line 8 in the third paragraph.

Page 5—In the third line of the fourth bullet, the word "resources" is only partially italicized. Dr. Ryan asked for a definition of "Tiger Teams." He suggested defining it in the glossary.

Page 6—Dr. Duke noted that an "s" should be added to "decision" to make it plural in the first line on page 6. He also asked that DPR, DSD, and DSP be defined in the list of acronyms. Dr. Swackhamer asked about the basis of the first bullet on the page. It might be clearer if the two items—ecological assessments and decision-making basis—were separated. The current sentence is awkward. Dr. Clark said he would reword that bullet. Dr. Weiss suggested changing it to "basis for decision-making."

Page 7—In line 9 of the last paragraph on the page, the word "author" should not be subscript. Dr. Duke asked if the Subcommittee was provided publication metrics for intramural versus

extramural papers. Dr. Clark said that he did not have that information, but it is clear that the extramural program is providing a basis for EPA scientists to publish articles and reports that communicate the science of the program. Dr. Weiss expressed some concern about the disproportionate cuts in the extramural funding. She pointed out that although the Subcommittee mentioned that this reduction will have a serious impact on the publication record, the report did not mention other potential impacts of this reduction. Dr. Clark said that the Subcommittee was concerned about the impact on the quality of the program's science, the breadth of the program, and the number of publications. The danger was most evident in terms of the publications but it is clear that the reduction could have other impacts. He agreed to add more on these concerns on page 7 and in the Summary section. Dr. Ryan agreed that these negative impacts should be emphasized more strongly in the report. Dr. Sayler asked if the other Subcommittee members would agree with such a change. Dr. Clark replied that this was discussed in a broader context and the Subcommittee members agreed that the reduction in the extramural program would have negative impacts. He thought that the Subcommittee would concur with the change.

Dr. Swackhamer asked about the first sentence in the last paragraph on page 7. Dr. Clark stated that EPA has negotiated with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to include bibliometric measures for the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) reviews. Dr. Swackhamer was concerned that the reduction in the extramural program may lead to OMB deciding that the program does not meet expectations. She mentioned that the word "tempered" seemed odd in that sentence. Dr. Demerjian suggested replacing it with the word "cognizant." Dr. Weiss commented that the program must take into account the realities of the extramural budget cuts and their subsequent impact on the program.

Page 8—Dr. Duke asked that the word "system" in line 2 on that page be replaced with "ecosystem." Dr. Weiss suggested inserting "been" after "path forward has not" in line 9 in the first paragraph under the response to Charge Question #3.

Page 9—Dr. Duke noted that the term "ecological services" is used in Charge Question #4. Dr. Swackhamer suggested stating in the report that ecological services and ecosystem services are used synonymously. Dr. Henderson asked Dr. Clark to define "Tiger Team." Dr. Clark replied that the 2005 program review recommended that ORD coordinate more with the Office of Water (OW) and state programs regarding monitoring. It was recommended that ORD solicit input on how the monitoring data could be used and applied more broadly. The program created "Tiger Teams" to work with targeted stakeholders and search out additional stakeholders. Dr. Sayler said the term originated with the Department of Energy (DOE). Dr. Clark said he will make sure that "Tiger Team" is defined in the glossary.

Dr. Henry Falk asked for definitions of economic and human uses in line 7 of the response to Charge Question #4. Dr. Clark responded that there was no specific connotation to human uses in that sentence. The Subcommittee is referring to the health impacts that arise from human uses (e.g., subsistence fishing, quality of life). These are part of the ecosystem services spectrum.

Dr. Duke suggested replacing "focusing" in the last line of the response to Charge Question #4 with "a focus on." Dr. Charles Haas asked about the clients surveyed in 2005 (mentioned in the last paragraph on page 9). Dr. Clark replied that the program surveyed regulatory agencies and groups involved in water monitoring activities (OW, states, state resource agencies, and the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]). Dr. Haas suggested including a brief parenthetical statement of who was surveyed in this paragraph.

Page 10—Dr. Duke pointed out that the citation of the Ecological Research Program Strategic Directions, 2008-2014, on page 10 differs from that on page 6. He asked that they be made consistent. Dr. Weiss suggested adding “two-way” before communication on this page. This might help clarify the discussion. Dr. Clark said he would make those changes.

Page 11—Dr. Weiss mentioned replacing the word “progressing” with “ongoing” in the first line of the second paragraph. She also suggested replacing the word “among” with “despite” in the first line of the third paragraph.

Dr. Weiss noted that the National Academy of Sciences is now the National Academies. She suggested inserting the parenthetical note “(now the National Academies)” after “National Academy of Sciences” at the bottom of page 11 in Appendix A. The citation on page 12 is correct.

Ms. Kowalski mentioned that “Executive Summary” should be “Summary” to make this report consistent with the other reports. She also asked that the recommendations in the report be made obvious so that ORD cannot accidentally overlook them. Dr. Clark said that he would underline or bold recommendations that appear in the report to make them explicit. Dr. Weiss asked if the last sentence under the response to Charge Question #4 was a recommendation, and Dr. Clark confirmed that it was.

Dr. Clark thanked Dr. Duke for vetting the report and leading the discussion. He then called for a motion to approve the report with the requested editorial changes. Dr. Duke moved to approve the report with the suggested changes, and Dr. Weiss seconded the motion. Dr. Clark then called for a vote to approve the report and it was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee members participating on the call.

Public Comments

Ms. Kowalski called for public comments at 11:00 a.m. and no comments were offered.

Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report

Dr. Gary Saylor, Chair of the Drinking Water Mid-Cycle Subcommittee and Dr. Charles Haas, Drexel University, Report Vettor

Dr. Clark asked Dr. Saylor to identify the highlights of the review. Dr. Saylor stated that the BOSC conducted a program review of the Drinking Water Research Program (DWRP) in June 2005, and submitted the review report to EPA on October 27, 2005. The purpose of the mid-cycle review was to assess the DWRP’s responsiveness to the 2005 program review. Dr. Saylor noted that of the original Subcommittee members who conducted the program review, only David Sedlak could not participate in the mid-cycle review—all of the other members of the Drinking Water Mid-Cycle Subcommittee served on the original Subcommittee.

The Mid-Cycle Subcommittee met face-to-face in Newport, Rhode Island, on May 23, 2007. Sections of the report were drafted at that meeting, and Dr. Saylor compiled the sections into a

consolidated report following the meeting. A Subcommittee conference call was held on July 13, 2007, to review and approve the draft report. Dr. Sayler revised the report in response to the Subcommittee members' comments and submitted the report to the DFO for distribution to the BOSC Executive Committee prior to this conference call.

Dr. Hass, who agreed to vet the Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report, said that the report reads well. He assumed that the Subcommittee members wrestled over the "Exceeds Expectations" rating. He thought the rating may have been a bit charitable. Source water protection is emerging as a theme. He was surprised that there was no discussion of linkages with other Clean Water Act (CWA) programs (e.g., Total Maximum Daily Loads [TMDLs]). Dr. Sayler responded that the Subcommittee did not really wrestle with the "Exceeds Expectations" rating. All but one of the Subcommittee members agreed to this rating very quickly, and after the Subcommittee agreed to explain why the rating was selected, that member agreed to the rating. The program had a leadership hurdle to overcome and the BOSC in the 2005 program review asked the DWRP to consider changes to its long-term goals (LTGs). ORD selected a new NPD who revised the program's LTGs and put them forward for OMB consideration. The program did not accomplish all of its goals because of the delay caused in responding to the BOSC's recommendation to revise the LTGs. The Subcommittee members agreed that the DWRP had exceeded their expectations given the substantial reorganization that was imposed on it by the BOSC. The program was very proactive in responding to the 2005 report.

Dr. Henderson pointed out that in the fifth bullet on page 3 of the report, the term "satisfactory" rather than "meets expectations" is used. Dr. Sayler replied that this wording is from the Subcommittee's charge and he did not think he could change it. Dr. Henderson asked if this program was better than the Ecological Research Program, which received a "Meets Expectations" rating. Dr. Sayler responded that he did not want to compare the two programs, but he thought the reformulated DWRP was much stronger than it was in 2005 and did more than meet expectations. The Subcommittee had no difficulty assigning a rating of "Exceeds Expectations." Dr. Weiss noted that it was only 18 months since the program review report was submitted to EPA, so the program accomplished a great deal in a short period of time. Dr. Sayler agreed stating that the program has undergone a dramatic shift with the change in leadership and LTGs and it was very responsive to the BOSC's recommendations. Very specific efforts were made to address the 2005 program review.

Dr. Clark commented that he changed the term "Satisfactory" to "Meets Expectations" in the charge question in the Summary of the Ecological Research Mid-Cycle Review Report. In the Appendix that contained the Subcommittee's charge, he changed the term "Satisfactory" to "Meets Expectations" and inserted the parenthetical phrase "(formerly Satisfactory)." He asked Dr. Sayler to do the same for the Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report. Dr. Sayler said that he would make those changes.

Dr. Hass then called for comments from the members page-by-page.

Page 3—Dr. Ryan pointed out that the meeting date on line 19 should be changed to May 23.

Page 4—Dr. Ryan asked that “6 year rule” (line 16) be defined in the report. Dr. Weiss questioned why nanotechnology was in quotation marks on line 18. Dr. Saylor said he would remove the quotation marks.

Page 5—Referring to line 22, Dr. Clark noted that there was some detail on what the Subcommittee meant by “further investigation, refinement, and application” in the body of the report. He asked that a little more detail be added in this Summary section. Dr. Saylor agreed to add a few lines to make this clear.

Dr. Henderson questioned the use of the word “supersede” in line 41. Dr. Saylor stated that the LTGs should take precedence over a change in leadership. Dr. Haas suggested replacing the word “supersede” with “transcend.”

Page 6—Dr. Ryan suggested defining the acronyms APG and APM used in lines 37-39. Dr. Saylor said he would define them at first use and include them in the list of acronyms. Dr. Henderson thought the term “operationalization” in line 37 was awkward. It was agreed that it should be replaced by the word “achievement.”

Page 7—Referring to lines 12-14, Dr. Haas noted that in-kind contributions are important but reliance on them might make it difficult for the program to get the needed research done on time. Dr. Saylor agreed to add that acknowledgement to the report.

Dr. Weiss asked if the paragraph on leadership (lines 23-27) includes grooming younger staff to take on leadership roles in the program. Dr. Saylor responded that this was not specifically discussed by the Mid-Cycle Subcommittee, but it was included in the 2005 program review report. Dr. Haas asked if it would be appropriate to address that issue in the mid-cycle review. Dr. Saylor responded that the mid-cycle review focused on the scientific leadership of the Agency rather than the individual researchers and the grooming of new leaders. The mid-cycle review also looked at coordinating leadership among agencies. Dr. Weiss asked if the Subcommittee looked at how other agencies are responding to partnering with EPA. Dr. Saylor stated that the 2005 program review recommended that the program partner with others to leverage its research dollars. He added that the program is doing a good job of partnering with others.

Page 8—Dr. Weiss commented that there is no mention of international collaboration or review of international literature. Dr. Saylor replied that this charge question applies to the program’s Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and international issues are not a part of it. This program has more statutory requirements than most of the other research programs.

Dr. Ryan suggested including a statement about the budget reductions in the STAR Program following the sentence that ends with the word “water” on line 16.

Page 9—Referring to lines 16-17, Dr. Haas expressed some concern about using bibliometrics to compare across programs. He noted that bibliographic patterns are very discipline specific. It would be better to compare discipline to discipline rather than across programs. Dr. Saylor agreed to modify this statement. Dr. Ryan cautioned against emphasizing the short-term impacts rather than the long-term impacts. Dr. Saylor mentioned that it is easy for EPA to embrace these

kinds of analytics because they are available. Dr. Haas asked Dr. Sayler to modify lines 16-17 and Dr. Sayler agreed.

Page 10—Dr. Swackhamer noted that the first paragraph on this page was the same in the Ecological Research Mid-Cycle Review Report. Is this boiler-plate language for these reports? Dr. Clark responded that there is no specific language required; it is up to the authors to draft their report, but they are free to use wording from other reports if they think it is appropriate. Dr. Swackhamer said she liked the text and could see why it would be used in several reports. Dr. Sayler added that the BOSC is trying to give the reports some degree of uniformity.

Dr. Haas asked about the overlap between carbon sequestration and drinking water mentioned on this page. Dr. Sayler replied that this example was brought up by the program during the review.

Page 11—No comments.

Dr. Sayler noted that this report is shorter than the other mid-cycle review reports. The Subcommittee discussed preparing a letter report. Is that a possibility for mid-cycle reviews? Dr. Clark did not want to be too prescriptive and preferred leaving that to the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair. Ms. Kowalski reminded Dr. Clark that this subject had come up during the May Executive Committee meeting and it was decided that the mid-cycle reports would be formatted as reports, even though some of them may be quite short. Dr. Sayler had some concern about the Subcommittee trying to create a program review report when it should be a mid-cycle review report. Dr. Clark stated that it is the Chair's responsibility to keep the Subcommittee focused and on target. He thanked Dr. Haas for leading the discussion of the report.

Ms. Kowalski confirmed that Brian Kleinman from OMB was still on the phone and mentioned that Mr. Kleinman had submitted editorial comments on the report to EPA that were never sent to Dr. Sayler. She asked if the Executive Committee wanted to review those comments on the phone. Dr. Clark reopened the discussion of the report to address Mr. Kleinman's comments. Mr. Kleinman said his comments focused on OMB's role in the process. He wanted to ensure that the report did not indicate that OMB was holding up the program's progress. Dr. Sayler responded that he did not mean to suggest that OMB was causing the delay; just that OMB was part of the process. Ms. Kowalski said she would forward Mr. Kleinman's comments to Dr. Sayler who will revise the report as needed.

Dr. Clark asked if there were any additional comments. When none were offered, he called for a motion to approve the Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report. Dr. Haas moved to approve the report with the suggested editorial changes. Dr. Swackhamer seconded the motion. Dr. Clark called for a vote and the report was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee members participating in the conference call.

Dr. Daston, who had just called in, apologized for joining the call so late.

Executive Committee Updates

Dr. Jim Clark, BOSC Executive Committee Chair

Schedule for Upcoming Program/Mid-Cycle Reviews

Dr. Clark stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held September 17, 2007 in Washington, DC. The Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) Mid-Cycle Review meeting and the Air Mid-Cycle Review meeting will be held September 18, 2007 in Washington, DC. The Human Health Risk Assessment Program Review meeting will be held in October/November 2007 and the Homeland Security Program Review meeting probably will be held in spring 2008. The Global Change Program Mid-Cycle Review meeting will be held in January 2008; the Land Program Mid-Cycle Review meeting will be held in May 2008, and the Water Quality Mid-Cycle Review meeting will be held in September 2008.

Dr. Duke suggested contacting Milton Russell, who chaired the Global Change Subcommittee that conducted the program review, about chairing the Global Change Mid-Cycle Subcommittee. Ms. Kowalski responded that she already has asked, Monica Rodia, who has agreed to serve as the DFO for this Subcommittee, to contact Milton Russell about chairing the Subcommittee.

Ms. Kowalski noted that the Global Change Mid-Cycle Review meeting will be held January 23 just prior to the January 24-25, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. The Human Health Research Program will undergo its second BOSC program review in fall 2008. The second program reviews of the EDCs and Air Research Programs will take place in early 2009. Ms. Kowalski said that the Executive Committee will talk more about these upcoming reviews at the January meeting. She mentioned that the subcommittees for the second round of program reviews will not include members from the first program reviews.

Dr. Clark said he will work with Ms. Kowalski to develop the agenda for the September 17, 2007 meeting. It will be a full day and will include review of the draft Technology for Sustainability Research Program Review Report.

Rating Tool Applications

Dr. Clark stated that the Drinking Water Mid-Cycle Subcommittee and the Ecological Mid-Cycle Subcommittee used the revised wording (i.e., "Meets Expectations" rather than "Satisfactory") in their reviews. Dr. Clark commented that the wording change made it easier to gain consensus on the rating for the Ecological Program mid-cycle review. Dr. Sayler said that his Subcommittee had little difficulty in reaching consensus on the rating; the Subcommittee members thought the terminology change was helpful.

Dr. Clark thanked Dr. Daston for his efforts in working with OMB to accept the terminology change.

SAB Review of the Report on the Environment (ROE)

Dr. Clark asked Dr. Sayler to provide an update on this review. Dr. Sayler said that the review meeting was held July 10-12. He mentioned that Dr. Swackhamer is chairing the SAB Subcommittee that is conducting the review. Dr. Sayler said he received comments from Dr.

Haas on two chapters of the ROE—Chapters 3 (water) and 5 (health). Dr. George Lambert is responsible for review of the health chapter. Dr. Sayler did not receive any other comments from the BOSC. He has to prepare his chapter of the report by August 10, 2007. He will make sure that Dr. Haas' comments are included. The review report will be sent to the DFO on August 17 and Dr. Swackhamer will compile a consolidated report for review by the entire Subcommittee. Dr. Sayler mentioned that the ROE is being used as a strategic planning document by the Agency.

Dr. Sayler commented that the level of detail in the various chapters in the ROE is a bit uneven but it is a broad report. It pulls a great deal of data from other agencies and it will take some time before the report is fully developed.

He explained that Dr. Swackhamer has planned for three drafts of the review report. She hopes to get a draft report to the SAB for review and approval by mid-December. Dr. Sayler said that the entire Subcommittee will review the first draft compiled by Dr. Swackhamer. The second draft of the review report will be posted on the SAB Web Site on September 21, 2007. The BOSC will have an opportunity to offer comments on that draft. The third draft (hopefully the final draft) will be presented to the SAB and approved for submission to the EPA Administrator in early 2008.

Laboratory/Center Standing Subcommittees

Dr. Clark stated that the NCER Standing Subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Martin Philbert, who was unable to participate in this conference call. The NCER Standing Subcommittee met face-to-face July 24-25, 2007 in Washington, DC. All but two of the Subcommittee members participated in that meeting. Ms. Susan Peterson is the DFO for the Standing Laboratory/Center Subcommittees. In addition to Dr. Philbert, the members of the NCER Standing Subcommittee include: Dr. David Baker (Heidelberg College), Dr. Dennis Clifford (University of Houston), Dr. Adam Finkel (Princeton University), Dr. Alan Hansen (Electric Power Research Institute), Dr. Sallie Keller-McNulty (Rice University), Dr. Kenneth Ramos (University of Louisville Health Sciences Center), Mr. David Rejeski (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars), and two consultants—Dr. Katherine A. McComas (Cornell University) and Dr. Seth Tuler (Social and Environmental Research Institute). The Subcommittee has a list of charge questions and will be moving forward with this review. Dr. Philbert will report the Subcommittee's progress to the Executive Committee at the September meeting. Dr. Clark asked Ms. Peterson if she had anything to add. Ms. Peterson stated that the Subcommittee will be holding a conference call in September.

Dr. Clark said he was pleased to see these Laboratory/Center Subcommittees moving forward. The members will get a good idea of the challenges that the laboratories/centers face in supporting the various programs.

Dr. Clark asked if there were any other topics that needed to be addressed on this conference call. None were suggested. Ms. Kowalski said that she would be sending out travel request forms for the September meeting. Dr. Ryan indicated that he would not be able to attend the September meeting because his son was getting married. Dr. Weiss asked if the location of the May meeting had been determined and Dr. Clark responded that it will be a topic of discussion at the September meeting. Dr. Clark thanked everyone for taking the time to review the

Subcommittee reports. He noted that their comments will help the Subcommittee Chairs finalize the reports for submission to ORD.

When there were no additional comments, Dr. Clark adjourned the conference call at 12:00 noon.

Action Items

- ✧ Dr. Clark will revise the Ecological Research Mid-Cycle Review Report based on the comments of the Executive Committee. He will provide the final report to Ms. Kowalski.
- ✧ Ms. Kowalski will forward Brian Kleinman's comments to Dr. Sayler who will revise the Drinking Water Mid-Cycle Review Report as needed.
- ✧ Dr. Sayler will revise the Drinking Water Research Mid-Cycle Review Report based on the comments of the Executive Committee and Mr. Kleinman. He will provide the final report to Ms. Kowalski.
- ✧ Dr. Clark will work with Ms. Kowalski to develop the agenda for the September 17, 2007 Executive Committee meeting.
- ✧ Ms. Kowalski will send out travel request forms to the Executive Committee members for the September meeting.

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July 24, 2007

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA****Monday, August 6, 2007****10:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm Eastern Time****CONFERENCE CALL
Participation by Teleconference Only**

10:00-10:10 a.m.	Welcome and Overview - Roll Call - Purpose of Teleconference	Dr. James Clark, Chair, BOSC Executive Committee
10:10-10:15 p.m.	DFO Remarks	Ms. Lori Kowalski, Office of Research and Development
10:15-11:00 a.m.	Ecological Mid-Cycle Subcommittee Draft Report - Overview of Draft Report - Discussion	Dr. James Clark, Chair, Ecological Mid-Cycle Subcommittee Dr. Clifford Duke, BOSC Executive Committee
11:00-11:15 a.m.	Public Comment	
11:15-12:00 noon	Drinking Water Mid-Cycle Subcommittee Draft Report - Overview of Draft Report - Discussion	Dr. Gary Sayler, Chair, Drinking Water Mid-Cycle Subcommittee Dr. Charles Haas, BOSC Executive Committee
12:00-12:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Updates - Review schedule for Upcoming Program/ Mid-Cycle Reviews - Discussion of Rating Tool Applications - Update on SAB Review of the Report on the Environment - Progress on Standing Subcommittees for Labs/Centers	Dr. James Clark, Chair, BOSC Executive Committee Dr. Gary Sayler, BOSC Executive Committee Dr. Martin Philbert/Dr. Ken Demerjian, BOSC Executive Committee
12:45-1:00 p.m.	Action Items/Wrap Up	Dr. James Clark, Chair, BOSC Executive Committee
1:00 pm	Adjourn	