

McMurdo Area User Committee
(*MAUC*)
Annual Meeting
13 August 2009
Raytheon Polar Services Company
Centennial, Colorado

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**McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC) Meeting
13 August 2009
Recommendations from the MAUC Executive Session**

Recommendation #1: Solve McMurdo Staging Space Problem

Staging space continues to be an issue that requires a permanent solution in a dedicated building. The MAUC sees this as the top priority. Previously requested basic requirements of shelter, hard floor, power, and heat remain key. Open space to assemble and test equipment shipped in pieces or from various locations is difficult to find. There are currently 13 buildings being used in this capacity. RPSC personnel are being creative to assign space and scientists are making do with suboptimal solutions. The MAUC is writing a report detailing the requirements for a proposed new building plan that will be submitted by the prime contractor to NSF. The MAUC strongly recommends that a permanent solution to this issue be implemented within the shortest possible time frame.

Recommendation #2: Evaluate Infrastructure

NSF requested that the MAUC evaluate the Antarctic Program infrastructure and advise what needs to be done to ensure that it is well poised to support a variety of projects and can be easily redirected as needs change. The MAUC recommends examining the procedures used by the Arctic contractors for tracking cargo and samples, training, and staging field parties to streamline operations and improve efficiency within the Antarctic Program. Budget issues last year led to project deferrals and caused a larger bow wave than was anticipated. Large investments were made in IPY science and although IPY is ending continuation of these large scale projects over the next several years will be a challenge. The addition of stimulus funding has resulted in logistic challenges on how to improve field planning to understand the full commitments, avoid over-committing, and plan for flexibility.

Recommendation #3: Improve Communication

Grantees are not being notified of changes in policy and procedure in a timely fashion that allows for appropriate planning. It is critical to the success of science missions that relevant information is provided to all scientists and NSF personnel. For example, grantees must now pay costs for medical lab tests out of grant funds. Notification of this change in policy sent by Dr. Scott Borg last summer did not reach many grantees. Additionally, NSF program managers were apparently not all advised that supplemental funding to include these costs should be considered.

Recommendation #4: Streamline Weather Observer Training

Current requirement for scientists using fixed wing support is 5 days of weather observer training in Denver each year. This is an untenable time commitment for an active scientist, especially if the field team is small. Creeping administrative duties such as this keep scientists from doing their work. The weather data that are obtained are of questionable utility due to the complexity of coding needed for incorporation into models. The MAUC recommends that the contractor obtain weather prediction data from other sources, allowing the science programs to focus on science.

Other action items:

ASPA/ASMA Process

ASPA management plans are reviewed every 5 years and the scientific community would like to participate in this process. Currently the permitting process is opaque and driven by individual and political interests instead of best scientific practice.

Reinstate face to face meeting

There is a strong sense that recommendations from the MAUC are not being taken seriously. Reestablishing a face to face meeting will help alleviate this.

Housing

Detailed requests written in the Housing Request Forms are ignored by the contractor housing department. Attention to these requests, when reasonable, would avoid having to request reassignment and overall dissatisfaction with housing.

Update McMurdo Area User Committee webpage

The MAUC web page has not been updated in some time. The contractor webmaster will update 2008 MAUC meeting notes, and all meeting notes and attachments for 2009 will be uploaded.

Publish Antarctic Geospatial Information Center Documents

AGIC documents will be passed on to all Principal Investigators and grantee work groups by Planning Support Managers. The MAUC sent announcements to the ANSWER and ArcticInfo listserves. Documents will also be posted McMurdo Area User Committee webpage:

<http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/sctnMAUC.cfm>

Energy Efficiency

The MAUC recommends adding a segment on energy efficiency in camps to the Dry Valleys Training video, as well as providing hands-on training on how to use the solar and wind instrumentation effectively.

ECW

Currently science personnel are not allowed any issue pants beyond the required wind pants. The MAUC requests that some option be made available to them, such as Carhartts or field pants. We also suggest standard issue of socks for personnel working in the field be increased from 2 to 6 pairs.

Scientific Journal Subscriptions

The request for the MAUC to review the scientific journal subscriptions resulted in: No need for hard copies of journal that are available online. Maintain subscriptions to Antarctic-specific journals, as many libraries do not provide access to them; online-only subscriptions are fine.

McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC) Meeting
13 August 2009
Committee Recommendations

Recommendation #1: The MAUC will review McMurdo infrastructure and advise what can be done to ensure that it is well poised to support a variety of projects and can be easily redirected as needs change.

IPY as an opportunity and a challenge: Budget issues last year led to project deferrals and caused a larger bow wave than was anticipated. Large investments were made in IPY science and although IPY is ending continuation of these large scale projects over the next several years will be the challenge. Furthermore, many are traverse-based. The addition of stimulus funding has resulted in logistic challenges on how to improve field planning to understand the full commitments, avoid over-committing, and plan for flexibility.

Recommendation #2: Publish Antarctic Geospatial Information Center Documents

AGIC documents will be passed on to all Principal Investigators and grantee work groups by Planning Support Managers. Documents will also be posted to the McMurdo Area User Committee webpage:

<http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/sctnMAUC.cfm>

Recommendation #3: Create McMurdo Staging Space Committee

Staging space continues to be an issue that requires a permanent solution. The MAUC sees this as the top priority. Open space to assemble and test equipment shipped in pieces or from various locations is difficult to find. There are currently 13 buildings being used in this capacity. A warehouse optimization plan evaluated the safety and energy efficiency of old buildings, and demolition recommendations have been sent to NSF that include T site, 63, NWR, cold storage on Ob Hill and the heavily used 126 warm storage. IceCube in particular will need space equivalent to their use of 126 (1/4 of building) for 3 more years. Right now RPSC personnel are being creative in assigning space and scientists are making do with suboptimal solutions. A new section in the SIP attempts to capture these needs more fully. The MAUC will write a report detailing the requirements for a proposed new building plan to be submitted by the prime contractor to NSF. Previously requested basic requirements of shelter, hard floor, power, and heat need to be supplemented with size and timing of needs, and potential additions such as internet and heavy lift capability.

Recommendation #4: Scientific Journal Subscriptions

The request for the MAUC to review the scientific journal subscriptions resulted in: No need for hard copies of journals that are available online. Maintain subscriptions to Antarctic-specific journals, as many libraries do not provide access to them; online-only subscriptions are fine.

Recommendation #5: Update McMurdo Area User Committee webpage

The 2008 MAUC meeting notes will be updated. All meeting notes and attachments for 2009 will be uploaded.

**McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC) Meeting
13 August 2009
McMurdo Auditorium/Teleconference Agenda**

NB: All times are in Mountain Standard Time

7:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 am **Welcome and Introductions**

National Science Foundation
Raytheon Polar Services

Stacy Kim
Brian Stone
Tom Ellis

8:45 am **Upcoming Science Plans**

General science outlook
Funded out-year science (Byrd, PIG, WAS, WISSARD, etc)

Scott Borg
Rob Edwards

9:30 am **Staging and Storage Space**

2008 MAUC Recommendation Review
Current Situation
Long-Term Plans

Stacy Kim
Cara Sucher
Duffy Dyer &

George Blaisdell

Science Community Facility Requirements/Wish List

Stacy Kim

10:00 am **Information Security**

2008 MAUC Recommendation Review
Overview on New Regulations
Communication Limitations (e.g. Skype)
Wireless Availability

Stacy Kim
Joe Harrigan
Joe Harrigan
Joe Harrigan

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Medical/Travel Issues**

Flu Shots
Lab Fees
Deployment and Travel Changes

Douglas Freer & Karen Yusko
Douglas Freer & Karen Yusko
Lynn Dormand

11:15am	Other 2008 MAUC Recommendations and RPSC Progress Reports	
	Impact of support reduction on science	Steve Kottmeier
	Self service paradigm	Steve Kottmeier
	ECW changes	Cara Ferrier
	Energy efficiency	Tony Buchanan
(calling in)		
11:45 am	Grantee Training - On and Off the Ice	Brian
Johnson (calling in)		
	Length of Training	& Mike
Carmody		
	Number of Required Trainings	
	Waivers	
	On-Line Options	
12:15 pm	Break	
1:00 pm	Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs)	Nadene
Kennedy		
	Permit process, adding agents, changes in the field, etc.	
1:15 pm	Additional Information	
	Scientific Journal Subscriptions	Steve Kottmeier
	Sample Shipping, Thermosafes, and Ice Core Boxes	Michael Davis
	Housing and Recreation update	Lisa Wright
	New Policy: Field Lab Winter-Over Storage	Cara Sucher
2:00 pm	New Topics/Open Discussion Forum	Stacy
Kim		
3:00 pm	MAUC Committee Business and Wrap-Up	Stacy
Kim		

**McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC) Meeting
13 August 2009
Attendees**

Science Stacy Kim	MAUC Chair	
NSF	George Blaisdell	AIL Operations Manager
NSF	Scott Borg	ANT Division Director
NSF	Nadene Kennedy	PEHS Polar Coordination Specialist
NSF	Brian Stone	AIL Division Director (Acting)
RPSC	Tony Buchanan	RPSC Supervisor, Mechanical Equipment Center
RPSC	Mike Carmody	RPSC Coordinator, Meteorology
RPSC	Michael Davis	RPSC Supervisor, Science Cargo
RPSC	Lynn Dormand	RPSC Manager, Deployment Specialist Group
RPSC	Duffy Dyer	RPSC Director, McMurdo Area Operations
RPSC	Rob Edwards	RPSC Manager, Planning Support (Acting)
RPSC	Tom Ellis	RPSC Director of Operations
RPSC	Cara Ferrier	RPSC Asst. Manager, Field Science
RPSC	Douglas Freer	RPSC Director, Medical
RPSC	Joe Harrigan	RPSC Manager, McMurdo IT
RPSC	Brian Johnson	RPSC Manager, Field Science Support
RPSC	Steve Kottmeier	RPSC Director, Science Support
RPSC	Cara Sucher	RPSC Manager, Laboratory Science
RPSC	Lisa Wright	NANA General Manager, Station Services
RPSC	Karen Yusko	RPSC Manager, Health Services

MAUC:

Stacy Kim, Chair	California State University
Steve Barwick	University of California, Irvine
Ginny Catania	University of Texas at Austin
Peter Doran	University of Illinois, Chicago
Bruce Marsh	Johns Hopkins University
Bruce Vaughn	University of Colorado at Boulder
Diana Wall	Colorado State University

McMurdo Area User Committee (MAUC) Meeting
13 August 2009
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

George Blaisdell welcomed the group. Tom Ellis welcomes the group, and expresses excitement for the upcoming season. An overview is given of some topics that will be discussed: project storage and staging space, IT security, medical and travel issues, sample shipping, grantee training, housing changes for RPSC/NANA, improvements in McMurdo recreation and quality of life, and energy efficiency changes. RPSC is working towards making the USAP contract transition as smooth as possible.

Topic: Travel through Australia instead of NZ, addressed by Peter Doran.

The MAUC is inquiring about changes to the normal flight route. RPSC explains Qantas lost the code-share with American Airlines for the LA-Auckland-Christchurch route. Qantas is no longer flying domestically in New Zealand. Jetstar is the code-share that will operate in the future, but they are still in the inspection/approval process and thus the USAP program will not be able to return to the regular route for at least a few months (perhaps by December). The alternative is to fly Qantas through Sydney and then directly to Christchurch. The flight is 2 hours longer, and there is a minimal layover in Sydney; arrival in Christchurch will only be a couple of hours later than it has been in the past. It is recommended that grantees spend 2 nights in Christchurch to ensure that CDC clothing is obtained within regular working hours.

Upcoming Science Plans: General Science Outlook

Scott Borg addresses the upcoming season. The IPY was an extraordinary opportunity and continues to be a challenge. The budget changes last year caused a number of things to be deferred. Investments in IPY science projects continue, with a focus on astrophysics and ice sheet-ocean interactions. Investments have been made towards understanding basal ice sheet conditions and the potential for microbial ecosystems beneath ice sheets. Traversing has become a significant method by which these projects are achieved, but logistics challenges exist. Increased funding from the federal stimulus package has increased the potential for new projects in the future. One of the biggest challenges for the USAP is how to improve the field planning in order to fully understand the project commitments that are being made; it is important to not over-commit, and also allow for flexibility. In particular, the McMurdo-based infrastructure needs to be examined to ensure that the USAP is well-poised for the future.

Topic: Winfly and Mainbody changes; extended seasons: addressed by Stacy Kim

The grantees are pleased to see that the Winfly schedule is back to normal. Scott Borg explains that last year Winfly was curtailed due to the budget. NSF advises that Winfly will be evaluated on a year-to-year basis, based on the science and operational needs for that season. NSF advises that any interactions/discussions regarding utilizing a Winfly period occur prior to proposals being written; a Winfly component cannot be added once proposals are funded in order to legitimize a Winfly season. MAUC members emphasize that they desire to have Mainbody start quickly and efficiently, even when Winfly is not

occurring. Also, MAUC emphasized the short window of opportunity during Mainbody and explained they will make objections to any shortening of the Mainbody season. An extended season is not planned for this year, but the capability has been shown and the operational mechanisms exist to do it again; proposals that require access to this could be accommodated in the future. Winfly will occur next year, partly due to the needs of the Concordiasi project.

Topic: Paul Morin and high resolution satellite imagery: addressed by Scott Borg

Paul Morin (Antarctic Geospatial Information Center, AGIC) has funding for the next few years, thus will be a great asset for anyone needing geospatial information in the Antarctic. Chad Naughton will send out a service plan document to all PIs with contact information for Paul Morin and Michelle LaRue.

Upcoming Science Plans: Funded out-year science

Rob Edwards explains outlook for new projects. There is an increase in the deep field presence as the USAP moves into the future; more complex projects are being supported in the deep field as well. Different modalities are being utilized, expanding from just flying LC-130s.

- LARISSA is a new project investigating the Larsen ice shelf. It is a multi-disciplinary, international project; involving the NBP, helicopters on the NBP, the British Antarctic Survey and Rothera, and scientists who have previously only worked on the continental side. Note: the NBP will not be in McMurdo this year.
- AGAP camp will be used for 2009-10 but will be shut down at the end of the year. Deployment of automated instrumentation will require air support, etc., in the future and planning is still ongoing to determine how best this will be supported.
- WAIS Divide camp will continue for several years; everything is going well with the drill. Bruce Vaughn explains that the drilling is on schedule and they are pleased with the support received thus far.
- New field support is proposed. A new Byrd camp with opportunities through 2014; a helicopter camp in the Central Trans-Antarctic Mountains (CTAM) in 2010-11 utilized by a number of different groups (note: for 1 month in 2010 McMurdo helicopter availability will be decreased); Pine Island Glacier in 2011 will provide field support and will use helicopters to deploy automated instrumentation; Pine Island Glacier will be multi-modal with heavy and light lift aircraft and traversing. The USAP is applying knowledge from the South Pole traverse to other scientific traverses. Another site survey for ANDRILL is proposed in order to assess capability out at Coulman High; the ice sheet has moved back over this area and deep sediment cores will be collected. There will be a multi-disciplinary deep drilling project (WISSARD) on the lower Whillans Ice Stream, primarily supported by traverse.

Topic: Deep field dependence on LC-130s: addressed by Bruce Vaughn

Three LC-130s were down for maintenance last year. Deep field support is logistically intensive and relies heavily on LC-130s. NSF/RPSC explains that a new plan is in place for this season, increasing the LC-130 support. The crew rotation will occur on a 4 week schedule instead of a 2 week schedule, and will be grouped. The crews will rotate on C-

17s instead of on their own aircraft; thus, more LC-130s will remain on the continent this year rather than going back to Christchurch. Some crews will also fly missions on Saturday morning, then fly home that afternoon (on a C-17), thus maximizing productivity.

Staging and Storage Space: 2008 MAUC Recommendation Review

Discussion led by Stacy Kim.

The MAUC explains the necessity for more project staging space, especially with the increase in deep field science projects. A trend towards automated remote systems which require testing before deployment has also increased the need for more space. An increased need for charging of batteries, internet accessibility, and heavy-lift hoists is projected for the future. RPSC explains that utilization of any available space in 13 buildings around McMurdo has been planned for this season. A new section in the SIP has allowed for this planning. NSF emphasizes that the MAUC needs to come up with detailed requirements for their needs before things move forward. These requirements would include what type of shelter, how much square footage, type of floor, specs for hoists, heat, power, Internet/comms needs, differences in winter/summer needs, etc. NSF also suggests that perhaps there is a need to reallocate and rethink how science support space is used in McMurdo. A discussion also occurred regarding the demolition of buildings in McMurdo; specifically, building 126 was discussed as it is heavily used as warm storage for science projects and other groups but was on the list for demolition. The NSF will determine if this building needs to be kept.

Information Security: 2008 MAUC Recommendation Review

Overview given by Joe Harrigan. Discussion led by Stacy Kim.

New Regulations:

The USAP network is a federal network; regulations have become tighter and audits have increased. The NSF/OPP fully supports all of the requirements and is working to bring everything into compliance, including the science community. Individuals must respond within 7 days of notification if a scan/audit finds a vulnerability. Remediation must occur within 30 days. The MAUC expresses concern that many instruments run on older operating systems and trying to change to the newest operating system can not only be difficult but can be detrimental to the function of the instrument. RPSC will work with grantees on a case-by-case basis should issues arise, and will be aware of unique situations posed by grantees in the field; also, providing advance notice on the SIP will help RPSC prepare appropriately. RPSC emphasizes that every system on the network should have an appropriate contact so that the vulnerability notice can be replied to ASAP.

Skype:

It is recognized that Skype is a valuable tool, particularly for outreach opportunities. The challenge is to provide it as a securely managed service. Currently, there is not much control over what is transmitted over Skype; viruses can be transmitted. RPSC continues to do testing and will deploy Skype in 2010-11 if security concerns are alleviated. Exceptions can be made currently for educational outreach; SIPs should include this request but the approval can be made once on the ice if necessary (allowing a few weeks lead time as the approval must go through the NSF).

Wireless availability:

Wireless access will be newly available in dorms 208, 209, and 203 this year. It is possible that 155, Hotel Cal, and MMI will also have access. A new project proposal is in the works for a wireless network to cover all of the dorms, with a bandwidth utilization plan that will not impact science or operational data.

Medical Issues: 2008 MAUC Recommendation Review

Discussion led by Doug Freer, Stacy Kim.

Flu Shots:

Vaccination was very beneficial in McMurdo last year, leading to only 2 presumed cases on station. The northern hemisphere flu shot has not yet been released (will likely be released in September). Deploying USAP personnel will receive a southern hemisphere flu shot in Christchurch until the northern shot becomes available. The MAUC was concerned as to the applicability of the northern hemisphere shot when deployment occurs in the southern hemisphere, but Doug explains that the cross-over rate is at 98%. It is typically high (it varies between 60-95%) and thus overall protection is good. The MAUC is also concerned about the mandatory flu shot impacting personal freedom; personal objections were strong last year in the science community. RPSC and NSF present it as a public health issue, not an individual issue, and they ask that the science community take into consideration the safety of the entire community. The MAUC also expresses concern for individuals hesitant to go to the clinic due to fear of penalties or quarantine. RPSC explains that new plans for medical are slated for this year with an emphasis on positive communication; also, individuals will not be quarantined.

Lab Fees:

Lab fees for grantees will not be paid for by RPSC, thus the fees must come out of grants. The MAUC expresses concern that costs have increased without being able to plan for it; notification is needed ahead of time to budget in these types of costs. Also, some grants are not eligible for supplemental funding. NSF explains that there will be some grandfathering to allow for supplements.

Deployment Issues: Deployment and Travel Changes

Discussion led by Lynn Dormand.

Route Change:

As mentioned earlier, Qantas lost the code-share with American Airlines for the LA-Auckland-Christchurch route. Jetstar is the code-share that will operate in the future, but they are still in the inspection/approval process and thus the USAP program will not be able to return to the regular route for at least a few months (perhaps by December). The new route will go through Sydney with a possibility of coming through LA or San Francisco. The connection times in Sydney are very tight but the DSG has been working very closely with the airlines to ensure a smooth transition. USAP participants will deplane and wait in a special transfer area; there is no need to go through customs and immigration again. Luggage will be transferred, though participants must go through security again. There are plans for arriving late in Sydney – the plane can be held for up to 50 minutes; there are 7 other flights going to Christchurch on those days and agreements have been made that participants can get on the next available flight. Finally, the Australian government has been given all USAP participant names and will grant an

immediate visa pass if it is necessary to stay overnight in a hotel. Again, it is recommended that grantees spend 2 nights in Christchurch to ensure that CDC clothing is obtained within regular working hours. The MAUC expressed that some grants are only written with 1 night allowed in Christchurch. The NSF explained that the program officers should be checking that and requiring the stay to be 2 nights. It is possible that exceptions could be made for special cases. Lynn will look into hotel delivery of CDC clothing for veteran USAP participants in those special cases. RPSC also added that there are more C-17 flights around Christmas time this year than in the past, which should aid in minimizing delays in Christchurch (and thus the associated cost for grantees). Also of note: if a grantee does not have a US passport, they need to make sure they have the applicable visas to pass through Australia.

Hand-carry Samples:

Grantees will not be able to hand-carry samples through Australia, due to the difficulties in obtaining permits from the Australian government. Thus, any grantee that needs to hand-carry samples must be re-routed through Auckland on their return flight. This is a significant expense and grantees should expect to be reviewed intensively if this request is made. The USAP cargo system has been very successful as of late and grantees are encouraged to use this system; COMAIR if necessary. The MAUC expressed concern not for the USAP cargo system but for Fed Ex, as some samples have made it all the way through PTH only to be damaged on the last leg to the home institution.

Impact of Support Reduction on Science

Discussion led by Steve Kottmeier and John “Woody” Haywood.

This winter, workcenter numbers have returned to normal levels and tasks are being accomplished accordingly. RPSC explains there is currently a proposal in with the NSF to get another facility in the ballpark. The schedule this year has been worked out in order to stagger projects, attempting to alleviate some of the space issues experienced in the past by the science carpenters. Staffing levels are up in FEMC significantly; there are twice as many utility technicians, carpenters, etc., at Winfly this year than normal.

Topic: SSC plans: addressed by Stacy Kim

John Haywood explains that in the next couple of years there will be a continuation of the large field effort that is going on right now, after which there will likely be a period of infrastructure and improvement in McMurdo. Thus, the SSC is likely 3-4 years away from being worked on.

Topic: Dry Valleys revamp: addressed by Stacy Kim

The MAUC inquires about the schedule of the Dry Valleys revamp. John Haywood explains Lake Bonney is being worked on due to rising lake levels – repairing the lab and upgrading electrical equipment. The helicopter pad at Lake Bonney has been improved. There was an electrical upgrade at Lake Hoare last year. The generator shack at Lake Bonney is slated for replacement this year. Some upgrades at Lake Fryxell will occur this year. All new fume hoods will be put in all the Dry Valley lab facilities this year. A timeline will be put together; the plan is to continue to slowly upgrade and replace labs, etc. Tony Buchanan is working to get funding for alternative energy projects. RPSC asked the MAUC to keep them posted of their priorities for the Dry Valleys as that will assist in planning.

ECW Changes

Discussion led by Cara Ferrier.

No changes have been made to the ECW gear this year. The MAUC would like another option as they are no longer being issued field pants. Carharts are available though not standard; they should be an option. RPSC will look into this. Standard issue for socks is 2 pair, but grantees can ask for more.

Energy Efficiency

Discussion led by Tony Buchanan.

Field camp upgrades:

RPSC advises field camps to use power wisely. If something is not being used, unplug it. Charge batteries only when necessary; do not charge them all day. Consider when the most efficient time is to use power – for example, when the wind is blowing or when the sun is out. Also, there are monitors (installed in 2008-09 in the Dry Valley camps) that will show power status. The MAUC suggests having a walk-through for grantees new to field camps to familiarize them with the facilities. This would require more staffing, thus RPSC will look into the possibility.

Alternative energy in McMurdo:

Wind turbines (3) will be installed by New Zealand this year and hooked up to the power grid. They should be up and running for winter. If this pilot project works well, 12 more will be erected. Efforts to increase energy efficiency consist of: a new heat trace system (sensor-based), infrared faucets, waterless urinals, and fluorescent light bulbs exchanged with incandescent bulbs. Digital thermostat installments would take significant funding. Other options - such as ocean sources, exhaust gas, geothermal heat - are only conceptual ideas at this point.

Antarctic Specially Protected Areas

Overview given by Nadene Kennedy.

An introduction was given about the Antarctic Treaty. An overview was given of the USAP master waste permit that covers stations, ships, and camp activities; an explanation as to how the master permit allows visits to Cape Evans, Cape Royds, and the Discovery Hut was also given. Arrival Heights is an ASPA, and thus is still off-limits to individuals not on the permit. ASPA plans are reviewed every 5 years; the Dry Valley ASPA is up for review this season. The MAUC inquires if any grantees can be a part of the site review process, especially if they are doing research in ASPA areas and might have relevant input or to assist in planning the work they'd like to do. Nadene will mention this inquiry to Polly Penhale.

Grantee Training – On and Off the Ice

Discussion led by Brian Johnson and Mike Carmody.

On-Ice Training:

There is always a push to get grantees through training ASAP. There have been some additions this year, for example, more training for snow machines. Also, the actual length

of some training has been extended; it averages 3-4 days total but can extend up to 7 days if there are weather delays. It is possible to conduct some of the trainings after a groups' cargo is packed up (rather than doing all of the training upon first arriving); email any requests to Brian Johnson or associated POCs. The MAUC appreciates that the training programs are flexible and contain variety (hands-on, video, presentations, etc.). Both the MAUC and RPSC agree that some web-based training done ahead of time could be beneficial. NOTE: Waivers are likely not going to be provided for anyone, even experienced Antarctic scientists and ex-FSTP employees. Jim Karcher from the NSF has not fully decided how and if waivers will be reviewed. Original USAP policies must be followed.

Off-Ice Training:

A weather observing course for grantees in the field using fixed wing support is required; this requirement has been in existence for 3 years. The course is meant to provide some ground truth to supplement satellite imagery and numerical models. This effort is greatly appreciated by operational forecasters, especially in areas with very little ground truth data. The course is in Denver and is 5 days long. The MAUC is concerned that the training takes up a lot of time and is an added expense for smaller field projects (larger field projects typically have an RPSC employee that has received the training). RPSC notes that the modeling has improved since the program has been implemented, and that only labor costs are the responsibility of the grantees (RPSC picks up the cost for flights and hotel). Bruce Vaughn points out that the program has been very helpful at WAIS, as it is critical to get accurate forecasts. It was suggested that the proposal solicitation outline that groups may need to plan for this training. A refresher course may be in the works but currently federal regulations require recertification after 60 days, thus grantees must go every year.

Scientific Journal Subscriptions

Discussion led by Steve Kottmeier.

NSF and RPSC request input from the MAUC regarding the scientific journal subscriptions for the USAP. Hard copy vs. online access is discussed. NSF requested the input be obtained before the upcoming budget meetings.

Sample Shipping

Overview and discussion led by Michael Davis.

Thermosafes:

RPSC has had great success in getting thermosafes returned; in 2008-09 almost 100% were returned. The added triwall outer/protective box has been beneficial, adding 2-3 years to the life of the thermosafe. Samples have been safely shipped since the USAP started using thermosafes.

Ice Core Boxes:

RPSC is now taking over ice core box management; thus, from now on, grantees will be asked to ship the ice core boxes back to PTH in the same way that the thermosafes are returned. Also, ISE boxes are still being used.

Hand-carrying samples:

Michael reiterates that using the USAP cargo system is the best choice. COMAIR shipments are still a bit high; it is good to ship samples out on the vessel if possible. If the need arises to hand-carry, plan ahead (as mentioned during the travel discussion) as tickets need to be re-routed.

Review of 2008-09 incidents:

Two incidents occurred when samples were almost compromised. One involved the shipping of ice core boxes, in which CTS was not double-checked with the labels on the ice core boxes. Michael has implemented a new system which involves visually checking every sample box with a CTS report as they get loaded into the reefers. The other incident involved PTH using an old address to ship samples via Fed Ex and thus the samples arrived at the wrong address; thus, now PTH will call/email each grantee to confirm the charge code and what address to use.

Topic: Hazardous chemical shipping: addressed by Peter Doran

RPSC explains grantees must ship their own chemicals that are not provided by Crary Lab (chemicals provided are listed on the basic stocked chemicals section of the SIP) and the grantee should list all chemicals they are shipping on the SIP. This list will allow RPSC to prepare in terms of having the proper clean-up materials, etc. Universities often have a certified hazardous chemicals packer; if that is not an option for a grantee group, they should make sure to order chemicals from a supplier and have them shipped directly to PTH with instructions to the supplier to pack the chemicals for air travel. Also, grantees should note that excess chemicals will no longer be stored on station when a grant period is finished; thus, the grantees must either dispose of them or ship them back to their home institution.

Housing and Recreation Update

Overview given by Lisa Wright.

Housing:

No changes have occurred to the housing plan for grantees. Note that grantees can live with the general community; if a request is made they will be put on the same point system as RPSC contract employees.

Recreation:

NSF has asked RPSC to bring in a consulting company in the future. Also there will be new equipment on station this summer that arrived on the vessel: treadmills, cross trainers, skis. Building 63 is still closed due to structure failure; the bowling alley and bouldering cave are still unavailable. The weight gym as well as the craft and sewing items have been moved and are still available.

Field Lab Winter-Over Storage: New Policy

Everything used in the summer season in the field labs must be accounted for – it either gets packed up and sent back to station or is organized and inventoried out at the camp. Winter-over storage is still readily available for chemicals; the MAUC added that Jesse Alcorta continues to be very helpful with this. RPSC continues to work to get rid of excess chemicals on station to open up storage space and to ensure that chemicals are properly segregated and stored.