

McMurdo Area User Committee  
(*MAUC*)

Annual Meeting  
17 July 2006

Raytheon Polar Services Company  
Centennial, Colorado

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## Recommendations

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### 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

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### 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.*

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### 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.*

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### **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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### **Safety Training for Scientists and online instruction**

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.*

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?*

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## **Proceedings**

### **Discussion: Analytical Services**

Two years ago, NSF stopped providing analytical services in McMurdo. Since then McMurdo LTER has been responsible for its own sample processing as well as other groups' as requested. The attached report is a draft output of a meeting held in May to determine the disposition of the analytical instruments on station because RPSC does not have the ability to maintain and operate the instruments. They will be transferred to the grantees although RPSC will still manage support for the instruments. Please see the attached report for more details.

### **Discussion: Staging space**

Over the last several years, staging space has become more of an issue on station and the problem is expected to increase in the future. This year and for the next 3-5 years the US/NZ drilling project, Andriill, requires lab, office, and staging space that would be assigned to other science projects. Additional projects funded for IPY will add to the pressure on available space on station.

Staging space is required to prepare equipment for the field, for example assemble and test equipment, prepare it to interface with vehicles. In many cases, adequate space for these tasks will help ensure success in the field and reduce the amount of time required for fieldwork. The requirements are minimal, shelter from

wind and dirt, hard floor, power, and heat (Preway for example). A big open space that doesn't have to be cleaned up every night is a bonus. This discussion resulted in a recommendation.

### **Discussion: Housing**

Double deployment vs all-season housing: Some projects require certain team members early in the project and then at the end. Double deployments are sometimes the reasonable option to make efficient use of their time and McMurdo berthing. This can most easily be accommodated at the proposal and/or project planning stages at the project level. Justifications for double deployments can be written into proposals, ORWs, and SIPs and discussed with program managers.

NSF housing guidelines: The question of grantee input to the housing policy has come up in several venues including outbriefs this past year. The guidelines are available on the McMurdo Intranet; excerpts relevant to grantees are attached to this document. The committee has no recommendations at this time. However comments can be sent to the MAUC POC, Patricia Jackson, or Peter Doran.

### **Discussion: Sample safety**

The Logistics Division is developing processes and procedures to insure the integrity of samples arriving at grantee institutions. Among the improvements to be implemented this year for the 2006-2007 field season are standardization of packing methods and materials, shipping notifications and communications, technological improvements, revising procedures including freight forwarder procedures, and electronic forms and labeling. The trend appears to be towards an increasing number of samples being shipped and RPSC is also planning for future improvements including increasing awareness of all involved, improved refrigerated containers, a new position for a staff member responsible only for samples, temperature controlled facilities, web access to shipping information, and more. This discussion resulted in a recommendation.

### **Discussion: Safety training for scientists**

The Environmental Health and Safety Division is developing procedures and materials for grantee safety training. The group will develop and implement a test program this field season (2006-2007) and they plan to develop web-based training in the future. They will include in the process, a waiver system so that grantees who receive training at their home institutions can get credit for it.

This is an opportunity for committee involvement, however at this time no specific mechanism was discussed. Staff members working on this (Brad Stefano, Denise Riad) will keep the MAUC POC, Patricia Jackson, apprised of their progress. This discussion resulted in a recommendation.

### **Discussion: Environmental topics**

The environmental department has published a booklet on Dry Valleys ASMA which includes maps and the code of conduct. It was handed out to Dry Valleys grantees last year in McMurdo and will continue to be made available. Identifying special features and developing guidelines for visiting them is a continuing process that will benefit from grantee involvement. Proposed guidelines for fuel containment, the Dry Valleys ASMA management report, and a poster depicting aspects of the ASMA are appended to this document. The environmental department will continue to provide updates, information, and training to grantees and welcomes input from them on the processes.

### **Discussion: Other committee suggestions/discussions**

- An on-ice POC knowledgeable about the project logistics would be of significant assistance to grantees arriving on the ice and preparing for their fieldwork. Currently, the field support office is the nominal on-ice POC, however that service is limited to problem solving and not day-to-day preparations. There are so many workcenters and departments to deal with on the ice that it makes grantee time less efficient, causes frustration, and adds two to four days to grantee deployments.

- Late November or early December will be a good time for the ad hoc MAUC meeting on the ice. It is open to the entire grantee community.
- The current hole melting technology used on the ice is outdated and has the potential to cause grantee injuries. This discussion resulted in a recommendation.
- RPSC recognizes the need for improved communications with the general grantee community. Improve. One or more email-based "listservs" may help facilitate communications between RPSC and grantees on specific topics of interest. A listserv would provide 2-way communications on specific topics as needed. Examples include development of grantee safety training materials, processes and requirements, the current discussions of the disposition of analytical chemistry equipment, implementation of the Dry Valleys ASMA, GIS issues and data sharing. No further action was taken at this time however this is an area that RPSC will be investigating for low- or no-cost solutions.
- Greater GIS awareness and data sharing would benefit many grantees as well as the RPSC GIS analyst. An RPSC-hosted listserv or web-based communications may facilitate communications on this topic. Last year the USGS and RPSC attempted to make the USGS Antarctic Atlas available on the Intranet. This discussion resulted in a recommendation.

#### **Discussion: NSF briefings**

- The Polar Sea will be breaking the channel this year and for the next several
- There will be no helicopters on the vessel and thus no flying over open water
- An additional foreign vessel is being considered

#### **Discussion: RPSC briefings**

- For the new PHI contract, no passengers will be allowed on cargo sling loads.
- The Marble Point traverse will be late so early October cargo will be flown to the Dry Valley camps rather than staged via the traverse.
- Committee reports will be posted on usap.gov. Each station committee has its own page. The site will continue to be developed to include a feedback form.
- RPSC recognizes the need to better disseminate information to the general grantee community and notes that the committee system is not the appropriate channel for general grantee communications.
- A proposal for town-wide wireless network access has been sent to NSF. This discussion resulted in a recommendation.
- GIS services are available upon request. One analyst provides all the services. There is no budget for purchasing data.
- The helicopter pad and rad lab at Lake Bonney will be moved because the lake is rising. John Priscu will be consulted about the rad lab site.
- Steve Kottmeier is the new director of Science Support. Cara Sucher is the new Crary Lab Manager. Other vacant positions are being filled as quickly as possible. In the mean time, they are covered by experienced contractors.

## Attendees

Name	Representing	Institution
Peter Doran	Committee Chair McMurdo LTER/Biology	Univ. of Illinois
Ted Scambos	Glaciology/Chair Emeritus	Univ. of Colorado Boulder
Opher Ganel	Aeronomy & Astrophysics	Univ. of Maryland
Stacy Kim	Biology/Marine environment	California State University
Bruce Marsh	Geology	RPSC Science Support
Mark Twickler	Glaciology/Deep field camps	Univ. of New Hampshire
Al Sutherland	Research Support Manager (acting)	NSF/OPP
Maggie Knuth	Environmental Policy Specialist	NSF/OPP
Dave Bresnahan	Systems Manager, Operations & Logistics	NSF/OPP
Steve Kottmeier	Director Science Support	RPSC Science Support
Jessie Crain	Planning Support Manager	RPSC Science Support
Steve Alexander	Planning Support Manager	RPSC Science Support
Patricia Jackson	Planning Support Manager	RPSC Science Support
Doug Miller	Project Engineer	RPSC Science Support
Woody Haywood	Science Construction Supervisor (acting)	RPSC Science Support
Dawn Scarboro	Administrative Coordinator	RPSC Science Support
Brian Johnson	BFC Supervisor (acting)	RPSC Science Support
Nick Andrew	Crary Lab Equipment Technician	RPSC Science Support
Rob Robbins	Dive Supervisor	RPSC Science Support
Cara Ferrier	Field Support Manager (acting)	RPSC Science Support
Joni English	Fixed Wing Supervisor	RPSC Science Support
Julie Grundberg	Fixed-Wing Assistant Supvr	RPSC Science Support
Liz Kaufman	Helicopter Supervisor	RPSC Science Support
Alice Doyle	Marine Superintendent	RPSC Science Support
Brough Zansler	MEC Supervisor (acting)	RPSC Science Support
Mike Embree	Director Logistics	RPSC Logistics
Derrold Burnett	Manager USAP Logistics	RPSC Logistics
Keith DePew	Cargo Supervisor (acting)	RPSC Logistics
Rebecca Shoop	Peninsula Cargo Supervisor	RPSC Logistics
Brad Stefano	Safety Trainer	RPSC EH&S
Cassandra Shenk	Environmental Manager	RPSC EH&S
Cleave Cleavelin	McMurdo IT Manager	RPSC IT
Karen Joyce	Crary IT Manager	RPSC IT
Allen Schonewald	Communications Manager	RPSC IT
Jessica Walker	GIS Analyst	RPSC IT

## Agenda

### McMurdo Area User Committee 17 July 2006, McMurdo Auditorium

7:30 – 7:45	Continental Breakfast	
7:45 – 8:15	Welcome and Introductions	Peter Doran Sam Feola, Steve Kottmeier, MAUC Members
8:15 – 9:00	Analytical Services	Cara Sucher, Steve Kottmeier, Rob Edwards, Nick Andrew
<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
9:15 – 10:00	Staging Space	Ted Scambos
10:00 – 10:30 (Travel),	Double deployment vs all-season housing in McMurdo	Peter Doran, Lynn Dormand Lisa Wright (Housing)
10:30 - 11:30	NSF Briefings: <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel support in McMurdo Sound: What can be done to improve through-ice access to the ocean? <input type="checkbox"/> Crowding is becoming an issue in Cray (and will get more challenging with IPY). What are plans to alleviate this?	
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
12:30 – 2:00	Sample Safety Panel:	Peter Doran, moderator Keith DePew (presenting) Cara Sucher, Steve Alexander Steve Kottmeier, Mike Embree
<b>2:00 – 2:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:15 – 3:15	Safety Training for Scientists	Brad Stefano, Denise Riad
	Environmental Topics	Cassandra Shenk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Specially protected features and grantee representation <input type="checkbox"/> Spill management guidelines <input type="checkbox"/> DV ASMA implementation (Dry Valleys Antarctic Specially Managed Area)	
3:15 – 3:45	RPSC briefings: <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in Science Support staff <input type="checkbox"/> User Committee web site <input type="checkbox"/> GIS Services <input type="checkbox"/> Status of Lake Bonney field camp	Steve Kottmeier Patricia Jackson Jessica Walker Cara Ferrier, Woody Haywood
<b>3:45 – 4:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:00 – 4:30	Loose Ends <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting large scale oceanographic instrumentation: Working group? <input type="checkbox"/> A McMurdo area GIS group would greatly benefit many users and potential users. <input type="checkbox"/> NSF housing policy for McMurdo. <input type="checkbox"/> Other topics identified during the meeting	
4:30 – 5:00	Close, Finalize recommendations	