



NASA EARTH SCIENCE DIVISION

APPLIED SCIENCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 17, 2014 • 1:00-4:00 PM EDT
via teleconference

Annotated Agenda – Final

Background

The Applied Sciences Advisory Committee (ASAC) serves as a community-based, multi-sector forum to discuss Earth science applications and provide strategic and programmatic guidance to the Earth Science Division (ESD) and the Applied Sciences Program. The ASAC provides analysis, findings, advice and recommendations to inform decisions on the programmatic scope, ambition, and priorities regarding applied research, knowledge utilization, and applications.

Within ESD, the Applied Sciences Program has a specific focus on expanding Earth science applications, building applications knowledge and capacity, and enhancing the applications value of satellite missions. There are some topics, such as data access, that are ongoing issues and cut across ESD overall.

Purpose & Objectives

The meeting serves to inform the ASAC of key issues facing ESD on applications and to enable the formulation and receipt of ASAC advice and recommendations. The primary purpose of this meeting is to address topics that were postponed and deferred from the recent January 2014 ASAC meeting. The specific set of topics for this teleconference-based meeting includes:

- Budget Information for FY15
- Applications & Mission Planning
- Format and Style of ASAC Meetings

Important objectives of the meeting include:

- Feedback on ESD progress toward applications support within mission planning, including identification of issues for upcoming decadal survey
- Gather ASAC views on current and alternative meeting formats and styles

A product of the meeting is a draft summary or outline of the ASAC's findings and recommendations.

April 17, 2014

Set-up and Introductions 12:50 – 13:00

Session 1: Overview and Meeting Objectives 13:00 – 13:05

Opening Remarks (*Green, Friedl, Meister*)

This session will briefly review the agenda and purpose of the meeting.
(We will notify members of the public when time is allocated for their remarks.)

ASAC Decision or Action

None planned.

Session 2: ESD and Applied Sciences Program 13:05 – 13:20

ESD and Program Activities (*Friedl*)

Background

This session will briefly summarize major changes or issues since the January 2014 ASAC meeting, such as information about the FY15 President’s requested budget.

ASAC Decision or Action

Program and budget information is primarily to provide context and engender feedback.

Session 3: Missions & Applications 13:20 – 14:45

Introduction of Topic & Summary of Activities (*Friedl*)

Speakers:

Applications in Mission Planning and Life Cycle (*C. Bonnicksen, ESD-Flight Program*)

Perspectives on Missions, Applications and Decadal Survey (*R. Friedl, NASA-JPL*)

Discussion (*Led by Friedl and Green*)

Recap and Advice/Recommendations (*Green*)

Background

ESD and the Earth science community have been looking for ways to support applications – and to shorten the time it takes users other than research scientists to work with our data in their own applications. ESD has initiated several steps to engage the applications community and to integrate them into the mission planning, formulation, and development efforts.

This topic of applications role in satellite mission planning was addressed in depth at the ASAC meeting in October 2012. ASAC recommended that “NASA Earth Science should increase the consideration of applications in mission planning, including the incorporation of applications into criteria for mission selection.”

This session will describe recent and upcoming activities in this area for particular missions, and it will describe a possible way to introduce applications into the formal satellite planning and formulation process. This session will also cover efforts for a proposed study on the “applications value” (aka, benefits, return) of future satellites missions, including indicators of this value and the effectiveness of activities to affect the value. The session will also provide perspectives on applications in Earth science decadal surveys as well as a possible framework to assess research and applications capabilities in Earth science satellite missions.

ASAC Decision or Action

An ASAC action is to provide feedback to ESD and Applied Sciences on this topic, including on progress, merits, and deficiencies. ASAC might provide advice or recommendations on metrics or indicators to consider the “applications value” of missions as well as advice or recommendations on consideration of applications in the satellite planning process.

Session 4: Advisory Committee Meeting Styles and ASAC

14:45 – 15:30

Introduction of Topic (*Green, Friedl*)

Discussion (*Led by Green*)

Background

The session will discuss the format of the ASAC meetings overall. Traditionally, each ASAC meeting has addressed numerous topics related to aspects of Earth science applications. Other Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations use different formats for their advisory committees, such as ones that address fewer topics in greater depth. This session will solicit input from ASAC on the traditional format as well as other effective formats and approaches that ESD/Applied Sciences might consider.

ASAC Decision or Action

ASAC should provide feedback on the ASAC meeting format as well as input on preferred methods and formats for ASAC activities or meetings.

Session 5: Public Comments and ASAC Meeting Synthesis

15:30 – 16:00

Open Period for Public to Make Statements for the Record

This session allows for members of the public to make statements for the record. If there are significant numbers of public commenters, we will ask for written statements.

ASAC Decision or Action

None planned. ASAC can determine whether to formulate actions in response to comments, topics, or issues raised by the public.

Review of January & April 2014 Meetings, Findings, Recommendations (*Green*)

This session will review key findings and recommendations from this meeting together with those from the January 2014 ASAC meeting in discussion of the ASAC report to NASA.

The session will also discuss the timeframe for the next ASAC telecon/meeting (which may depend on the discussion in Session 4 about ASAC meeting style).

ASAC Decision or Action

One output is a set of key topics for the letter/report, identification of writing assignments, and agreement on a schedule for production.

Additional outputs include a list of actions and timeframe for next ASAC meeting.

Adjourn ASAC

16:00

Note: The teleconference line can be available longer than 16:00.