

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Board of Scientific Counselors

Executive Committee

Virtual Meeting Summary

September 14, 2021

Dates and Times: September 14, 2021, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Virtual

Executive Summary

On September 14, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Executive Committee (further referred to as the Committee or EC) convened in a virtual meeting. The goals of the one-day meeting were to hold discussions about the Homeland Security (HS) and Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) subcommittees' draft reports. The meeting format allowed for subcommittee presentations, open dialogue, Committee deliberations and questions, and EPA responses to questions.

Dr. Bruce Rodan, Associate Director for Science, ORD, welcomed the BOSC EC members, EPA staff members, and other attendees and thanked them for their attendance. He stated the EC would facilitate the BOSC HS and SSWR reports to further EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) projects.

Deliberation on the Homeland Security Subcommittee Draft Report

Dr. Paula Olsiewski provided an overview of the HS subcommittee's four-day meeting to discuss research implementation to support wide area incident response. She then reviewed the four charge questions from the meeting and the subcommittee's draft suggestions and recommendations for each question. Dr. Olsiewski commented that the HS Research Program (HSRP) is well equipped to develop decision support tools that are behaviorally realistic for diverse groups. Following Dr. Olsiewski's presentation, the Committee engaged in discussion. Discussion topics included the emphasis on criticality of connections and communication in the report, the inclusion of vulnerable populations, the current challenges HSRP faces in how to prepare communities for waste management in advance, and staffing and equipment issues.

Homeland Security National Program Director and Center Comment

Dr. Shawn Ryan, National Program Director, HSRP, thanked the Committee and HS subcommittee for their focus on furthering engagement. He mentioned the importance of community engagement, identifying community gaps, and highlighting tools HS can provide to meet unique needs. There was a question raised about how to better understand the type and scope of the daily threats communities are experiencing, and how communities can respond to disasters. Dr. Ryan mentioned that the issue of how to incorporate community engagement into current research activities in various communities is under consideration.

Deliberation on the Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Subcommittee Draft Report

Dr. Joseph Rodricks provided a brief overview of the BOSC SSWR subcommittee report presented in May 2021, describing its focus on water treatment and infrastructure, particularly in

Research Areas 7, 9, and 10. He reviewed the three charge questions and the subcommittee's draft suggestions and recommendations. He noted that many of the suggestions and recommendations are already being implemented and that a major topic of current concern is climate change impacts. Following Dr. Rodrick's presentation, the Committee engaged in discussion. Discussion topics included climate and stormwater systems design, the stormwater research process, the link between stormwater and disadvantaged communities, and how to examine research through a cumulative impacts lens.

Safe and Sustainable Water Resources National Program Director and Center Comment

Dr. Suzanne van Drunick, National Program Director, SSWR Research Program, stated that the charge question responses were extremely helpful, specific, actionable, and insightful. She appreciated the engagement between the subcommittee and the researchers. Dr. Greg Sayles, Center Director, Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response (CESER), Dr. Alice Gilliland, Acting Center Director, Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling (CEMM), and Dr. Jamie Strong, Associate Director for Health and Ecology, Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA) echoed thanks to the subcommittee on their efforts and comments on the report. Dr. Sayles noted the recommendations would be helpful for future research areas. Dr. Strong mentioned that CPHEA looks forward to working with partners to align these recommendations with CPHEA's expertise to build responsive research products that will address the needs of vulnerable populations.

Board of Scientific Counselors Executive Committee Deliberation

Dr. Gilman invited additional questions and discussion. The Committee engaged in discussion, with topics including the extent to which the recommendations incorporate a stronger focus on vulnerable populations, heat islands and water use, and current areas of ORD's interest including cumulative impacts, risks, community engagement, consultation, environmental justice, and children's needs.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Rodan thanked the BOSC members and presenters for their participation and Mr. Tom Tracy, Designated Federal Officer, adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Agenda and Other Meeting Materials

The [agenda](#)¹ and other meeting materials can be accessed at [BOSC Executive Committee Meeting: September & October 2021 | US EPA](#).

Meeting Participants

BOSC Executive Committee Members:

Paul Gilman, *Chair*
Lucinda Johnson, *Vice Chair*
Viney Aneja
Shahid Chaudhry*
Kari Cutting
Courtney Flint*
Charlette Geffen
Matthew Naud
Paula Olsiewski
Joseph Rodricks
Leslie Rubin
Sandra Smith
James Stevens*
Justin Teegarden*
Katrina Waters

**did not attend*

EPA Designated Federal Officer (DFO): Tom Tracy, *Office of Science Advisor, Policy, and Engagement*

Presenters:

Alice Gilliland, *Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling Acting Center Director*
Paula Olsiewski, *Board of Scientific Counselors Homeland Security Subcommittee Chair*
Bruce Rodan, *Associate Director for Science, Office of Research and Development*
Joseph Rodricks, *Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Subcommittee Chair*
Shawn Ryan, *Acting Deputy National Program Director, Homeland Security Research Program*
Greg Sayles, *Director, Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response*
Jamie Strong, *Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment Associate Director for Health and Ecology*
Suzanne van Drunick, *Safe and Sustainable Water Resources National Program Director*

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/bosc-ec-sept-mtg-agenda-final.pdf>

Other EPA Attendees:

Chris Frey
Taylor Lass
David Lattier

Sang Don Lee
Mary Ross
Emily Trentacoste

Joe Williams

Other Attendees:

Lara Beaven
Gabriel Bellott-McGrath
John Byrd

David Dunlap
Kirsten Faulkner
Sriram Madabhushi

Linda Wilson
Jiameng Zheng

Contractor Support:

Canden Byrd
Afroditi Katsigiannakis
Denyse Marquez Sanchez