

AMS Weather Analysis and Forecasting Committee Meeting Agenda
13 September 2021, 12:30p ET/11:30a CT/10:30a MT/9:30a PT

Attendance

Stephanie Avey	x	Daniel Lloveras	X
Robert Banks		Katie Magee	x
Matt Beitscher	On shift	Shawn Milrad	
Alicia Bentley	X	Louisa Nance	X
Stephen Bieda	X	Philippe Papin	X
Tomer Burg	X	Sarah Perfater	X
Austin Coleman	X	Rosimar Rios-Berrios	
Keenan Eure		Sara Sienkiewicz	X
Clark Evans	X	Jennifer Tate	night shifts
Victor Gensini	X	Andrew Winters	X, class at 11a MT
Aaron Hill	X	Kim Wood	x
Joseph Koval	X	Chasity Wright	
Ryan Lagerquist		Nusrat Yussouf	X

Discussion Items

1. New Business: A Moment of Celebration (lead: Clark)

2. New Business: WAF STAC Award (lead: Stephen)

- a. This year's award for consideration is the Early Career Achievement award: *"an individual within 10 years of having earned their highest degree, or are under 40 years of age when nominated, who has made significant contributions to the discipline and is on a path to becoming a science leader in the community. Consideration will also be given, however, to those who are still in the early stage of their careers but have seen these interrupted for up to 5-10 years by military service, or family and career circumstances."*
- b. Our nomination must be submitted to the STAC Commissioner by **1 October**, which means we'll have about a week to evaluate whatever nominations we receive.
- c. Nomination request released to the public 8 September. Please encourage your colleagues to submit a nomination, and please share our advertisements with your professional networks as appropriate.

- i. We've had to innovate in sub-ideal circumstances. Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond to serve/lead in these times? Please nominate them!

3. ***Continuing Business: Society-Level Awards*** (lead: Stephen)

- a. The ESP Award evaluation committee provided the following feedback in early June regarding that award's nomination process:
 - i. Private-sector competition limits the likelihood that a private-sector entity would be nominated for, yet alone would receive, this award. There has only been one such recipient in the last fifteen years; all others have been with the National Weather Service.
 - 1. We as a committee desire to ensure that this award is accessible to all across the enterprise who might qualify.
 - ii. The required three recommendation letters pose a significant burden to prospective applicants. STAC Commissioner Ankur Desai notes that some of the awards given by the Commission on Professional Affairs have lower recommendation letter requirements.
 - iii. The overall burden of nominating people for the award is high.
- b. **Discussion:** Should we propose changes to the Awards Oversight Committee regarding the ESP Award's nomination procedures?
 - i. Victor: reduce the required number of letters from three to one.
 - ii. Kim: emphasize communication. (This may require updating our rubric to be less NWS-centric in this regard and a discussion with the Awards Oversight Committee to update the award's terms.)
 - 1. Further concurrence on and discussion of this point from Clark, Austin, Tomer, Alicia...
 - 2. Sarah: clarify communication; e.g., prediction of the *impacts* (using the recent northeastern United States flooding as an example).
 - 3. Stephen: structure the award around the Murphy (1993) quote about how forecasts obtain value?
 - iii. Katie: what can private-sector individuals talk about in the required nomination materials? Are there limits in what they can share that might make them less competitive for this award?
 - iv. Sarah: What push-back can we anticipate on these changes? What are the consequences of going from 3 letters to 1? Are we detracting from the physical science of prediction by expanding to communicating impacts? Will these things be questioned if we attempt to make changes?
 - 1. 3 letters to 1: We do not anticipate push back as much.
 - 2. Detracting from physical science: Depends on composition of the Awards Oversight Committee (which has responsibility for any changes to the award's terms), though it is not entirely possible to just go with communication. James Spann is an example of making refined forecasts, though he is relying on information that

is partially put together by other forecasters. Consider putting together some examples of potential nominees that would be highly competitive for the award (in the form in which we are envisioning it) so that the Awards Oversight Committee/AMS Council can better understand our intent. We may be in a gray zone in this context, and would depend on each person being nominated and each person on the Awards Oversight Committee who is considering our request in whatever form it is made. The fact that the NCEP Strategic Plan is mentioning communication is a good example, and could be bolstered by similar examples from the private sector (if any exist and can be shared). Likely to be a prolonged process; any changes would likely not occur until the 2023 award cycle.

- v. Louisa: can we make the awards more prestigious, such as by offering cash to awardees? (Clark: probably not, but AMS might be persuaded to offer a complementary annual membership or registration to the Annual Meeting at which the awardee is to receive the award.)
- vi. **Possible Action Item for October meeting:** what changes to request and how to go about making them.
- c. **Discussion:** How can we make the nomination process simpler for the ESP, Mitchell, and Reichelderfer Awards?
 - i. Pre-July-meeting feedback from Jennifer: *"A shorter application may help. But from the NWS perspective, we have a lot of internal awards as well that may feel more prestigious to some in the NWS, and often even come with cash awards. So people may spend their time on those Department of Commerce, NOAA, and NWS level awards."*
 - ii. **Further discussion to come in the future** - please be thinking about potential changes for the Mitchell and Reichelderfer awards!

4. **Continuing Business: New Member Recruitment (lead: Stephen)**

- a. We seek one new member to join the committee this year, with Joe (3 yr), Katie (3 yr), and Austin (2 yr) all renewing for an additional term.
 - i. **Discussion:** Should we prioritize a particular sector and/or personal identification?
- b. The STAC Commissioner traditionally requests this information by **~1 November**.
- c. The new-member solicitation is available on the [AMS Community](#) (must be logged in to AMS to access), and nominees can apply there or by submitting the requested information via [Dropbox](#).

5. **Continuing Business: 2022 31st WAF/27th NWP Conferences (leads: Aaron/Stephanie)**

- a. Abstract reviewing has begun...289 submitted abstracts
- b. If you will be attending the AMS Annual meeting, and are not on the program committee, I will be asking you to serve as a session chair; we will be severely

limited on session chairs with many presenters/attendees opting for virtual participation

6. Continuing Business: Committee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives (lead: Clark)

- a. Last month, we discussed ways in which we as a committee can contribute to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.
- b. **Discussion:** Which activity or activities should we prioritize in the short-term? Medium- to long-term?
 - i. Victor: suggested aligning efforts with NSF JEDI project ([link](#); see also [NOAA Sea Grant JEDI Week](#))
 - ii. Katie: mentoring students (resume advice, REUs, “ask a career met” on social media, etc.)
 - iii. Stephen: suggested the Mentoring 365 initiative; BRAID is involved with this. Issues persist with applications for higher-level jobs from members of underrepresented populations; the bench at lower levels to prepare for these positions is still not as diverse.
 - iv. Highlighting diversity through social media; how to get started?
 - v. Sarah: I feel we can do a lot by raising awareness of these existing efforts across the weather enterprise using our social media outlets.
 - vi. Kim: leverage the AMS Student Chapters? (Engage with them, tell them what we do, what opportunities exist, etc.)
 1. Stephen: Community college students may not know how to even get started in the discipline; how to reach them?
 - vii. Sarah: Is there space in any of our awards to address excellence in serving vulnerable communities?
 1. Clark: Probably not (at least within the WAF committee’s domain, possibly within the broader AMS awards domain, though this is something we can look into).
- c. **Action Item:** Affirm our discussion that diversity, equity, and inclusion activities are the entire committee’s domain, with each of our subcommittees charged to consider how each of their efforts is serving the broader community (and changing them if necessary).

7. Continuing Business: AMS Statement on Weather Analysis and Forecasting (lead: Clark)

- a. Draft submitted to AMS Council for initial review on 18 August.
- b. Initial feedback from AMS Council received on 8 September. The statement oversight team (led by Shawn) is currently addressing this feedback.
- c. Next up: 30-day AMS membership comment period (hopefully in October).

8. Subcommittee Reports

- a. **Glossary (lead: Jennifer)**

- i. Working on adding the new term “heat dome” to the Glossary especially given its recent media popularity
 - ii. May add the term “digging” (as in “digging trough”, etc.) to the Glossary per request, but need subcommittee feedback
- b. **Social Media (lead: Katie/Aaron)** - Accepting new initiatives for social media that will further engage the WAF and broader atmospheric science community.
 - i. Member Highlight Form
 - 1. **Action item:** *Please fill out the member highlight form!*
 - ii. Monthly social media management (suggested topic list): The team will email you beforehand with login information and tips and can schedule 1-on-1 training - whatever works best for you!
 - 1. September: Kim Wood
 - 2. October: Chastity Wright
 - 3. November: Nusrat Yussouf
 - iii. Other ideas:
 - 1. WAF Early Career Award
 - 2. Solicit new member applications
 - 3. Feel free to contribute to the suggested topic list - include any ongoing DE&I initiatives to promote, as well!
- c. **Webmaster (lead: Matt)** - no updates

9. Chair's Report

- a. **August STAC Newsletter** - available at <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/news-reports/monthly-stac-newsletter/august-2021-stac-newsletter/>.
- b. **New AMS Roles** - In early August, the AMS established a new Department of Community Engagement. This department will focus on volunteer and local chapter engagement, public outreach, the Weather Band, and Centennial initiatives. Claudia Gorski will head this department, with Jen Ives being promoted into the Director of the Meetings Department.
- c. **Committee Meeting in Houston** - I have formally requested a lunchtime meeting time for the committee during the Annual Meeting in Houston next January. A virtual attendance option will be available for those who can't or don't want to travel to Houston. More details soon!

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, 20 October 2021, 2p ET/1p CT/noon MT/11a PT