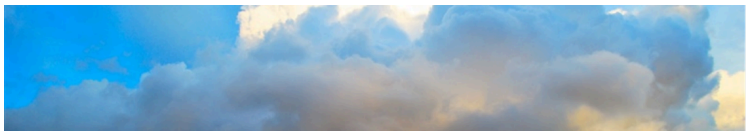
AMS American Meteorological Society | Scientific and Technological Activities Commission



AMS Committee on Severe Local Storms Meeting Agenda
12 December 2025, 10AM CT (Zoom)

Attendance

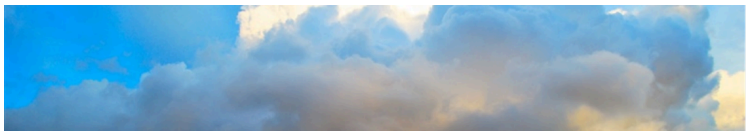
Logan Twohey		Andrew Wade	
Bobby Saba	X	Bryan Smith	
Luke LeBel	X	Jenni Pittman	
Victor Gensini	X	Matt Flournoy	
Chris Melick	X	Brian Squiteri	X
Scott Gunter	X	Burkely Gallo	X
Alex Anderson-Frey		Dan Dawson	X
Michael French	X	Kristin Calhoun	X
Anthony Lyza	X	Jim Ladue	X
Benjamin Schenkel	X	Kristen Axon	X
Holly Mallinson		Makenzie Krocak	
Keith Sherburn			

Keeper of the minutes:
Burkely Gallo

SLS STAC Google Drive

Agenda

a. Membership roster changes (AMS Profiles on SLS Committee Webpage)
    i. Please send any updates to Chris or Kristin
b. What is STAC?
    i. Best Practices
    ii. Resource page
c. Subcommittees
    i. Social
        1. **Chair: Andy Wade**
        2. Would like to see about 1 post a month.



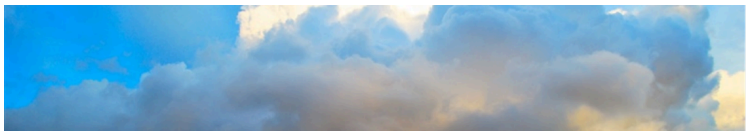
3. **Facebook is more recent but lagging behind X and Bluesky.** Let's start pushing information on the next SLS conference and be persistent and consistent in doing so. Aim for consistency & coordination between platforms.
4. Coordination between webpage and social sub-committees would be helpful to get conference out there.
5. **Next steps: Request volunteers for SLS planning committee on social media**

ii. Strategic Planning

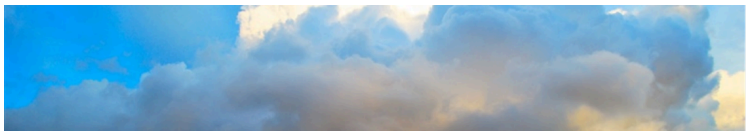
1. 5-y plan identifies a few things SLS wants to focus on to enhance participation, recruit new members into the community, and expand the reach of our science (at conferences and elsewhere). .
2. **Chair: Jim Ladue**
3. Updates from meeting yesterday (12/11).
    a. Brian Squiteri put together a great draft framework for the committee to wrap ideas around.Some new topics discussed during meeting to add to framework.
    b. Four parts: A headline piece and three main components. Science (including many ways of advancing the science), education, and outreach & public service (including dispelling misinformation and providing messaging grounded in science).
    c. Debate as to whether AI/ML should be its own component or integrated throughout, leaning towards integrating throughout.
    d. **What other major parts are there to focus on? Please feel free to contact Jim to see draft/comments and add ideas by 20 January 2026, especially for big topics.**
4. **Next Steps**:
    a. Meeting is 20 January 2026, group will put in comments/additional large topics by that date. Goal is to get all this done by the spring, well before the next SLS.
    b. Place document into the Google Drive subcommittee folder

iii. Conference Planning

1. SLS 32 in Fall 2026 [Co-Chairs: **Victor & Jenni**]
    a. Updates
        - Website for call for papers: https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/meetings-events/ams-meetings/2026-ams-madison-summit/sls-call-for-papers/



- Not just SLS, Madison Summit also has 7 add'l conferences. Full summit attendance numbers still unsure, schedule being designed. Similar to SLS31 w.r.t. number of rooms and sessions. Joint sessions proposed with WAF/NWP & AI, require abstracts to finalize joint sessions.
- From student affairs folks, idea of mentoring to solicit mid- to late-career scientists to pair with early-career scientists and students prior to conference. Meet at the conference for lunch, dinner, coffee, etc. to establish and increase mentorship within the community.
- Monday icebreaker expected to be large.
- Sponsorship opportunities being pursued currently.
- Wednesday evening session - this session might be a joint session with WAF/NWP and the character of the session may shift to a panel discussion/town hall/etc. with interactive components for audience engagement. Planning committee discussions will be held and feedback solicited from the committee on brainstormed ideas.
    1. The benefit of a science keynote session Wednesday evening is encouraging more interaction than usual, debating ideas, and soliciting lots of input and feedback.
- Women's dinner likely Tuesday evening, icebreaker Monday evening.
- Desire for memorial sessions or remembrances at the next SLS? Either formal AMS sessions with invited abstracts/speakers, or something informal (e.g., video night).
    1. ECSS had a Chuck Doswell session, talking about different aspects of SLS that he was particularly influential on and known for, along with panel discussion.
    2. Broad agreement of group that something for Chuck would be good at SLS, aim for forward-looking work in his honor, as well as operational applications in addition to theory. He added the art to the science. Maybe utilize the evening session? Dedicate the session to him? Colleagues we could request to speak/emcee,



particularly Harold Brooks. Chase colleagues as well? Potential to share some of his art and photography.

3. **Next Steps:** Planning committee will discuss further with this input.

b. Conference Planning Committee Assembled?
   - Conference programming/planning committee would meet after the new year. Conference planning committee needs to have more membership, SLS STAC likely to be tapped for abstract reviewing, student judging, additional responsibilities to carry off the conference.

c. Any assistance from the SLS committee before the abstract deadline?
   - See next steps, planning committee being assembled and STAC there to assist as needed.

d. Abstract Deadline for SLS Conf: 19 Mar 2026. Open now.

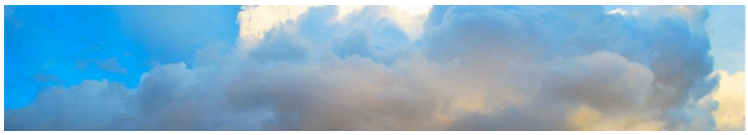
e. Next Steps: When2Meet poll going to be posted on our community board for timing of next planning meeting, meetings will increase in frequency in the new year.

iv. AMS Glossary

1. **Chair: Luke Lebel**
2. New Terms or Update existing ones?
   a. No asks to update or review anything received. No meeting in past couple months.
3. **From last meeting**: Look into examining the AMS Glossary to find terms that are candidates to be updated by our committee (if needed). **What's the status?**
   a. Recently started reaching out to subcommittee about reviewing SLS-specific terms, hoping to have more information by first meeting of next year. Glossary could work with Strategic Planning committee to ensure the glossary is a useful source of SLS expertise.

v. Website

1. **Chair: Benjamin Schenkel**
2. Updates sent to Peter Killelea at AMS [pkillelea@ametsoc.org]
3. **Coordinate with the Social Committee for post detailing the 32nd SLS Conference. Remove the summary highlights post for the 31st SLS Conference.**
4. Meeting minutes posted on webpage.



5. Updates: Information has been posted about the Madison Summit, will get with the Social Subcommittee to get information about next SLS on the webpage.

vi. Awards

1. **Chair: Michael French**
2. SLS STAC Early Career Award - Kristin
    a. Form submitted to STAC after gov't shutdown was over
    b. **Present award to Brice Coffer at the next SLS conference.** Any status updates?
        - Brice has been contacted, cv received and justification being written up. Planning to go to SLS but attendance is tentative due to recent position change.
        - **Next Steps: Send CV and justification to Clark Evans, form has been submitted by Kristin.**
3. Fujita Award - Kristin
    - Details below from last Committee Meeting
    - New AMS-level named award. Current proposal here
    - Kristin reached out to Dave Stensrud and he recommended adding additional letters of support.
    - Also will want to address that the NWA has a Fujita Award so there are no surprises
    - To submit - email Todd Glickman, AMS Secretary, secretary@ametsoc.org Make sure you have all the required elements in the proposal.
    - **Any status updates?**
        - Dave S. recommended coordination with Clark Evans, get co-signing and support from other STACs. Furlough caused delay, still in progress.

d. Chair's Report

i. No STAC Chairs/Vice-Chairs Meeting in Fall [Government Shutdown].
ii. STAC B/C Chair Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026 in Houston
    1. Chair will not be in-person at the 2026 AMS Annual Meeting; Will attend virtually
iii. Nothing new to report; will pass along information when needed

Next Meeting: Q1 February 2026 (watch for when2meet poll).