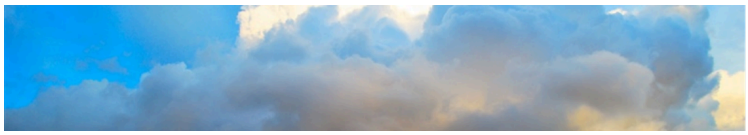
AMS American Meteorological Society | Scientific and Technological Activities Commission



AMS Committee on Severe Local Storms Meeting Agenda
06 February 2026, 1PM CT (Zoom)

Attendance

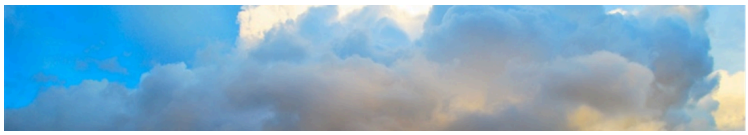
Logan Twohey		Andrew Wade	X
Bobby Saba		Bryan Smith	
Luke LeBel	X	Jenni Pittman	
Victor Gensini	X	Matt Flournoy	X
Chris Melick	X	Brian Squiteri	X
Scott Gunter	X	Burkely Gallo	
Alex Anderson-Frey	X	Dan Dawson	X
Michael French	X	Kristin Calhoun	
Anthony Lyza	X	Jim Ladue	x
Benjamin Schenkel	X	Kristen Axon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

Keeper of the minutes: *Scott Gunter*

SLS STAC Google Drive

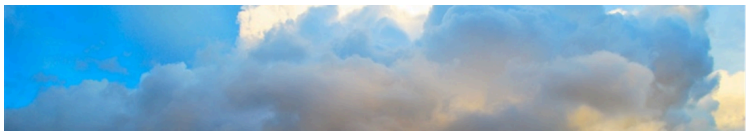
Agenda

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. For a variety of reasons, Bryan Smith has decided to step down. We will need to recruit new members for terms starting in 2027.
   i. Chris mentioned that we may need to recruit up to 3 new members plus 1 new student member. Six current members are also up, but they are eligible for renewal.



d. Subcommittees
    i. Social
        1. **Chair: Andy Wade**
        2. Would like to see about 1 post a month.
        3. Keep up the great work of promoting the 32nd SLS Conference on **Facebook, X, and Bluesky.**
        4. Notes:
            a. Recent activity across all platforms
            b. Andy sent out a poll for a subcommittee meeting to be held in the coming weeks.
    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. Any updates? You made some great progress thus far!
        4. **Recommendation**: Reconvene soon to further refine the document more.
        5. Notes:
            a. Subcommittee met Jan 20th and has another meeting scheduled for Feb 20th.
            b. Jim mentioned maybe two more meetings would be needed before the document is ready to go.
            c. Anticipate providing the document to STAC in late April for comments.

    iii. Conference Planning
        1. SLS 32 in Fall 2026 [Co-Chairs: **Victor & Jenni**]
            a. Updates
            b. First Meeting: Conference Planning Committee Assembled.
            c. **Abstract Deadline for SLS Conf: 19 Mar 2026**
        2. Notes:
            a. Requested the Social Network committee continue to advertise Summit / SLS Conf across all platforms in mauve a 2 week cadence.
            b. Victor sent out a poll to recruit conference planning committee. Around 20 people responded and meeting invite was sent for Feb 19th. Mike F. mentioned this was a good number so similar to where they ended up for their SLS.
            c. Soliciting ideas for joint sessions:



- Mountain Met was approached and open to idea. No plans yet.
- WXCOM will likely already have a joint session on SLS program.

d. Considering options for evening session and what that would look like, as well as some speed networking / mentoring opportunities for students

e. Logistics:
- Costs comparable to Virginia Beach SLS
- 95-100% of presentation slots as compared to Virginia Beach
- Victor brought up space concerns. May have to only offer folks a poster OR and oral presentation.
- Some student travel support may be available summit-wide. Share with network. Social Media to share opportunity online as well.

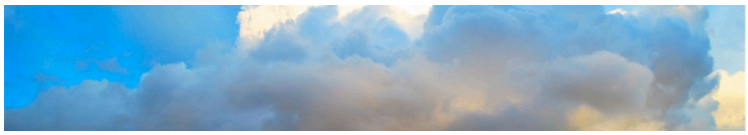
f. Discussion about future meetings:
- A lot of discussion centered on whether to hold a session at AMS annual in addition to the summit.
- Jim D. asked about the timeline to propose a symposium for AMS Annual. Proposal for 2027 likely past, but need to start thinking about that for AMS 2028.
- Discussed the logistics of future meetings as just SLS again, but there would be a lot of cost / risk associated with that. Jim D. mentioned partnering with other organizations, like AAWE. Regardless, it would require heavy sponsorship and a lot of effort.
- Consensus in the chat was to see how the Madison Summit goes then come back to this discussion.

iv. AMS Glossary

1. **Chair: Luke Lebel**
2. **No requests have been sent my way for glossary terms.**
3. **Status:** Look into examining the AMS Glossary to find terms that are candidates to be updated by our committee (if needed).
4. Notes:
   a. No new updates

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.**



4. Meeting minutes posted on webpage
5. Notes:
    a. Made contact with AMS website manager and was able to get a couple of things posted.

vi. Awards
1. **Chair: Michael French**
2. SLS STAC Early Career Award - Kristin
    a. **Present award to Brice Coffer at the next SLS conference.** Hard copy should be sent to Michael.
3. Fujita Award - Kristin
    - **Any status updates?**
4. Notes:
    a. Brice likely to be at SLS to receive the award
    b. Either make the presentation at the opening session, or at the beginning of a session including Brice.
    c. No other updates

e. Chair's Report

i. STAC B/C Chair Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026 in Houston [attended virtually]
1. Kristie Franz is still our contact person on the STAC board.
2. We are in a new paradigm with specialty meetings. Because of rising costs, the AMS will continue the idea of summits with multiple concurrent conferences moving forward.
3. Need to have someone help out with advertising new co-chairs for the 33rd SLS in 2028. I have a document template already for the Announcement
4. Notes:
    a. No discussion

Next Meeting: Q2 May/June 2026 (watch for when2meet poll).

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm CST