

STEAC MEETING REPORT

(02/19/2025)

The members of the STEAC met on February 19, 2025, with a quorum of eight members attending (Meghan Avolio, Jennifer Edmonds, John Kochendorfer, Shannon LaDeau, Sydne Record, Samapriya Roy, Daniel Rubenstein, and Adrienne Sponberg). Five NEON-Battelle staff attended (Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Tanya Maslak, Chris McKay, and Kate Thibault).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Call to order, II. 2025 STEAC spring in person agenda planning, III. NEON updates.

I. Approval of previous minutes for 1/15/2025:

Minutes from prior meeting were approved by STEAC by voice vote.

II. 2025 STEAC spring in person agenda planning:

NEON has several high priority agenda items for the spring in-person meeting in Boulder to be held March 31 - April 1, 2025. NEON requested a discussion about replacing the soil sensors, which would be large in scope in terms of needing parallel collection efforts between the new and old sensors to allow for a comparison between the two approaches. There will also need to be a discussion about discontinuing the dust data product. NEON would also like feedback on how to evolve community feedback mechanisms. For instance, do the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) need restructuring? There will be an external evaluator at the meeting who may be able to help provide some ideas for assessment for these sorts of questions. A discussion of if NEON is aligning with economic impacts that NEON data may have was also suggested.

Both the STEAC and NEON thought it would be helpful to have a discussion about the potential to relocate NEON domain facilities to be closer with academic and federal partners moving forward as leases expire. It was challenging to do this at Fresno State from an economic standpoint, but the benefits of such partnerships could far exceed the costs and maybe other partners would be more cost effective.

The STEAC had several points that they would like to discuss during the meeting, primarily related to the sustainability of NEON and refreshing NEON tools and partnerships to remain at the cutting edge. STEAC members also discussed plans to prepare questions for the NSF in advance of the meeting as is usual.

III. NEON updates:

Updates were given on NEON's compliance with recent executive orders.