

ABoVE Full SDT Telecon – 8/29/13

Attendees: Sharon Billings, Natalie Boelman, Steve Colt, Josh Fisher, Guido Grosse, Bob Harriss, Dan Hayes, Jeremy Karchut, Michelle Mack, Dave McGuire, Juha Metsaranta, Chip Miller, Mike Rawlins, Matthew Sturm, Colm Sweeney, Diane Wickland; Rapporteur: Elizabeth Hoy

Agenda:

1. Announcements
2. Discussion of small group write-ups for Chapter 3 of the ACEP

Announcements

- Members of the SDT Leadership Committee are currently on a trip to northwest Canada
- Plans are ongoing for the third SDT meeting in Ottawa, Canada from October 15th-17th
- Next full SDT telecon on **September 11th at 1:30 pm eastern time**

General Discussion

Prior to the telecon, all small groups distributed 2 page or longer write-ups about their research questions to the group for use in Chapter 3 of the ABoVE CEP (ACEP). Eric K. and Dan H. reviewed these write-ups prior to the telecon. Discussion centered on 3 main topics:

1. Placement of an integrative question and/or objectives within the ACEP
2. Structure and length of the Chapter 3 write-ups
3. Next steps in the writing process for the ACEP

1. Integrative Question

The current Question 7 (formerly Question 9; Integrative Group) was formed as an integrative question to bring together the other science questions posed in Chapter 3 of the ACEP. During the writing process, it was noted that this question could be 1) elevated to Chapter 2 in conjunction with the current overarching science question, 2) included as the first question in Chapter 3, or 3) included as the last question in Chapter 3. Dan H. brought this issue up to the group and the SDT discussed the appropriate placement of this integrative question. Main points of the discussion follow:

- One issue raised was the importance of modeling, and members questioned whether modeling should have its own set of questions in Chapter 3. Modeling will be an important part of ABoVE and has been mentioned in planning materials for ABoVE.
 - o Diane W.'s response: Modeling is a tool used to answer the science questions. Chapter 3 should focus on the science questions and issues surrounding modeling should be included in Chapter 4 as part of the toolset used to address the science questions
- The focus of Question 7 is on the “complex interactions” occurring within the system. There is a need for synthesis and integration and instead of a “modeling framework”, ABoVE could have an “integration framework”

Overall consensus:

- 1) There is a need to have an overarching objective on integration and synthesis as a part of Chapter 2. This objective can be based on the current Question 7. While modeling may be a part of the research, the objective should avoid be centered on modeling.

- 2) Question 7 (integration question) should still be included as a final question in Chapter 3, with fine-tuning as needed. Objectives which address integration and cross-cutting issues can be included here. This question will provide a segue to Chapter 4.

Action Item: SDT members can work on developing the overarching objective and fine-tuning question 7 if interested.

2. Structure and Length of Chapter 3 Write-ups

The lengths of the current write-ups from the small groups for Chapter 3 vary by group. Dan H. and Eric K. suggest that each group keep their write-up to 2 pages, and the SDT concurred. Additional material could be included in Chapter 4 as necessary.

Additionally, the structure of the objectives is different between groups. It was suggested that groups try and keep this consistent. It was asked that Dan H. and Eric K. provide the groups with a question/objective they feel is a good model for the other groups to follow.

Action Item: SDT groups to take another pass at their write-ups for Chapter 3 to round them out to 2 pages and also to ensure a consistency in structure. This would be due next week (around September 5th) to give Dan H. and Eric K. time to review prior to the next telecon.

Action Item: Dan H. and Eric K. to provide example of a model question/objective for the groups to follow.

3. Plan forward

Working groups will take another pass at their Chapter 3 write-up to ensure consistency in structure and length. Then Dan H. and Eric K. will begin working with the write-ups to create an integrated Chapter 3. Groups should review their objectives in relation to the other objectives for Chapter 3 and the overarching objective discussed in Chapter 2. This work should be completed by next week so that Dan H. and Eric K. have an opportunity to integrate the work prior to the next telecon on September 11th.

Groups should also begin thinking about Chapter 4. The permafrost and societal working groups developed tables related to the needs for Chapter 4. The other groups should consider creating this type of table as well. This will be needed by the Ottawa meeting in October, however groups should begin to create and refine these documents now.