

**RAISE Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport
16-17 November 2000**

Summary Minutes

Thursday, 16 November

The first day of the RAISE meeting was chaired by S. Forman.

The meeting began with remarks by Mike Ledbetter and Tom Pyle of NSF's Arctic Section. M. Ledbetter noted that the focus of ARCSS is on the Arctic System and that RAISE offers opportunities to support projects with larger, system goals. He complimented RAISE on inviting members of other ARCSS programs to its meeting, which promotes the further integration of ARCSS. The fact that so much of the Arctic is in Russia is another reason that RAISE offers important opportunities for research. M. Ledbetter stated that he has asked the RAISE Steering Committee to plan where RAISE will go next.

Tom Pyle pointed out the full complement of programs in the NSF Arctic Section. In addition to ARCSS, there is the Arctic Natural Sciences program and the Arctic Social Sciences program. By law, NSF is the lead federal agency for arctic research. The Director of NSF chairs the Interagency Arctic Research and Policy Committee (IARPC).

Program Overviews:

Steve Forman presented an overview of the RAISE program. The RAISE web address is: <http://arctic.bio.utk.edu>.

Jackie Grebmeier presented an overview of the Shelf Basin Initiative. The web site URL for this program is: <http://utk-biogw.bio.utk.edu/SBI.nsf>.

Terry Chapin presented an overview of the Arctic Transitions in the Land-Atmosphere System (ATLAS) program of LAII. The web site URL for this program is: <http://www.laii.uaf.edu>.

Jamie Morison presented an overview of the Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH) program. The SEARCH web address is: <http://psc.apl.washington.edu/search/>.

Lunch

RAISE Project Presentations:

RAISE project investigators reported on their research results and on the challenges faced in conducting research in Russia.

Bruce Peterson: Water and Constituent Fluxes across the Eurasian Arctic: Evolving Land-Ocean Connections over the Past 20,000 Years

Data can be found at: <http://www.R-ArcticNet.sr.unh.edu>, and also on CD-ROM (contact ARCUS at arcus@arcus.org).

Logistics problems:

- 1) Moscow customs – one week delay
- 2) Need to carry cash
- 3) Scheduling planes and vessels
- 4) Exporting samples to the U.S.

5) Time intensive

Jerry Brown: Information on International Arctic Coastal Dynamics Project Developments

Arctic Coastal Dynamics workshops were held in Woods Hole in November 1999 and in Potsdam in October 2000. Germany is the international lead. A newsletter is posted on their web site at: <http://www.awi-potsdam.de/www-pot/geo/acd.html>.

Larry Smith: Sensitivity of the West Siberian Lowland to Past and Present Climate

More about Larry's research can be found at his home page: <http://lena.sscnet.ucla.edu/>.

Russian logistics "wish list"

- 1) a way to import and return equipment for the field without paying undetermined fees
- 2) an agreement to allow samples to be exported through customs.

Hajo Eicken: Linkages Between Riverine Freshwater Dispersal, Sea-ice Formation and Large-scale Sediment Transport in the Central and East Siberian Arctic

Hajo's RAISE project is described at: <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/remsense/>.

Lyn Gualtieri: The Late Pleistocene Glacial and Sea Level History of Wrangel Island, NE Siberia

Lyn is a post-doc with Pat Anderson at the Univ. of Washington. She discussed the Paleoenvironmental Arctic Science (PARCS) program of ARCSS, and how it overlaps with RAISE. More information on PARCS can be found at: <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/paleo/parcs>.

Lyn presented a carefully considered list of positive and negative aspects of paleo-work in Russia. As the group thought this was the best summary presented, it is included below:

Positive Aspects:

- Exchange of ideas from many different disciplines
- Building of electronic databases
- Publication of results in both Russian and English
- Improved scientific networking
- Development of long-term relationships between U.S. and Russian institutions

Problematic Aspects:

- Bringing field and laboratory supplies into Russia (e.g., rafts, chemicals; Customs)
- Permits (knowing how many and from what agencies)
- Restrictions on important equipment (e.g., GPS, radios)
- Transfer of funds to Russia for fieldwork
- Field vehicles (e.g., trucks and helicopters aging or absent)
- Taking samples to the U.S. (import-export license)
- Difficulty of getting U.S. visa for scientists not living near Moscow or Vladivostok
- Communications (e.g., spotty availability of e-mail)
- Exchange of young scientists (senior scientists now linked to good international network, but access for young scientists is still restricted)

Igor Semiletov: Expedition in the Kara, Laptev, East-Siberian and Chukchi Seas: Experience and Preliminary Results

Igor presented an overview and preliminary data from his Trans-Arctic Expedition, which took place August 2000.

Igor Melnikov: The Russian High-Arctic Expedition-2000: Sea Ice Research.

Vladimir Pitulko: The Zhokhov-2000 Project: Overview and Results of the Excavations

Discussion:

Sergei Pryamikov discussed the Ecoarctic Expeditions. It is possible for foreigners to participate. He suggests that they use the AK Federov. This icebreaker can carry 80 scientists, has labs, and can carry heavy equipment. There is room for a broad array of projects. They want to include projects that relate to Arctic Council programs, to get the approval of the circumarctic governments.

Friday, 17 November

The second day of the RAISE meeting was chaired by V. Romanovsky.

V. Zhivago of the Russian Ministry of Industry, Science and Technologies gave a presentation entitled "Some Rules and Procedures that are Necessary to Receive Official Permission to Conduct Marine Scientific Research in the Areas under Jurisdiction and Sovereignty of the Russian Federation." His detailed handout on this subject was distributed to all meeting participants.

V. Yakukhin of Roshydromet gave a parallel talk to Zhivago's regarding obtaining permission for inland work. Roshydromet does not have as rigid a list of requirements as the Ministry. The rules change frequently, and you must check with them about the current rules. It is much easier to solve problems when there is an international agreement in place.

As of about one month ago, it appears that authority to grant permission for ecological research will be with the Russian Ministry of Natural Resource.

B. Levin of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) spoke about a German-RFBR agreement signed by V. Fortov on 6 February 1995 as an example for future actions. He also mentioned that the RFBR is producing a volume of abstracts of grants they supported in the area of arctic research from 1995-2000, in Russian and English. It was agreed that NSF-supported projects should be in the same volume, and that this volume should be available on the RAISE web site.

S. Pryamikov gave a presentation on Russian-German Cooperation in arctic research. This began in 1993 when a group of scientists had a meeting and defined priorities for arctic research. They defined geographical areas in which they would cooperate, picking less politically sensitive areas, including the Laptev Sea. They hold annual bilateral meetings to report results. To date, more than 100 joint papers have been published. There is very intense fieldwork each year. In 1997, they decided to establish a joint lab to help young scientists, based primarily at AARI. This lab has a fellowship program for Russians. They awarded fellowships to 9 out of 20 applicants in the first year. Pryamikov remarked that RAISE should do something for young scientists – the average age of Russian scientists is getting older.

The question was raised: Can the US duplicate the German-Russian agreement?

Answer: In the US, science is much more disaggregated than in Germany. In Germany, research institutes are much more centralized and resources are more concentrated. A joint strategy between Germany and Russia was more easily achieved because of this.

Lunch

Some of the meeting participants met with VECO Polar Resources regarding Russian logistics. One conclusion from the discussion was that it is not possible to provide the science community with a list of logistics providers in Russia, but a point of contact in Russia could be provided who would know the current and appropriate logistics providers.

M. Voevodskaya made a presentation on the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) and provided a handout of her presentation. NSF contracts with CRDF to provide support to grantees in Russia. CRDF's services are underutilized. CRDF is a non-governmental organization that can help find out who you need to talk to in the various Ministries. CRDF needs to be involved early in projects. They can help Russian partners of NSF grantees obtain their visas. CRDF can help with getting equipment to Russia. Only if you are permanently donating equipment to Russia are you exempt from customs. US export control laws need to be obeyed. Additionally, CRDF has helped with the export of samples. You can write the 7% service charge for transferring funds to Russia into your NSF proposal.

According to S. Pryamikov, if you approach the State Committee on Geology, they will stamp your materials as "Samples", and then there is no problem at the border. This can take about one day.

Discussion: Preparing a Guide for Russian and American Scientists

Items to be covered in the Guide:

- Official permission
 - Marine research
 - Inland research
- Visas and local permissions (can use a link to the US Dept. of State web site)
- Shipment of equipment and customs
- Communications during fieldwork and GPS use
- Shipment of samples
- Transfer of funds
- Local hiring and payment

Official Permission: This has been covered well by earlier discussions.

Visas: US embassies all over the world have tightened up procedures for obtaining visas to the US. These MUST BE applied for at least 30 days in advance. You can obtain multi-use visas in some circumstances. Information on visas will be put on the RAISE web site.

Local permission: This is an issue especially in remote regions like Chukotka. The best way to solve is to find a Russian host institution that understands the local rules.

Equipment: Get information from CRDF.

Communications: VECO Polar Resources say they can arrange for satellite phone. V. Romanovsky stated that in some near shore zones, you are not allowed to use these. S. Pryamikov commented that the best solution is to use equipment that is already in Russia.

Transfer of funds: This has already been discussed with regard to CRDF's role.

Local hiring and payments: This is a VECO issue. It is a good idea to use local providers as much as possible.

G. Sher suggested creating an informal coordinating structure in Moscow that would cross all organizations involved in permissions for research, to help with the RAISE program. Maybe CRDF could provide this service. M. Voevodskaya could be the RAISE contact person in Moscow.

The RAISE Science Management Office will pursue the production of a Guide for Russian and American Scientists, as well as creation of a web site.

M. Ledbetter commented that the next RAISE Announcement of Opportunity will be for 5-year proposals; this will help with continuity.

R. Dichtl gave a presentation on data exchange and archiving.

16:00 Meeting adjourned