

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Science Advisory Board (SAB)  
Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee (STAA)**

**Minutes of the Closed Meeting on July 28, 2014**

Date and Time: Monday, July 28, 2014, 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. ET

Location: EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office, Suite 31150, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Purpose: The purpose of the July 28, 2014 closed meeting was for the SAB Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Committee to review scientific publications nominated by EPA managers and make recommendations to the Administrator for STAA awards, and to discuss possible improvements to the process and program.

Participants:

STAA Committee (See Roster, Attachment A):

Dr. George Daston, Chair  
Dr. Gregory Biddinger  
Dr. Jerry Campbell  
Dr. Peter Chapman  
Dr. Judith Chow  
Dr. James R. Clark  
\*Dr. John Giesy  
\*Dr. Philip K. Hopke  
Dr. Arpad Horvath  
Dr. Wayne Landis  
Dr. Timothy Larson  
Dr. Cindy M. Lee  
Dr. Michael I. Luster  
Dr. James Mihelcic  
Dr. Fred J. Miller  
Dr. Eileen Murphy  
Dr. Kenneth Portier  
Dr. Jay Turner  
\*Dr. Thomas Young  
Dr. Yousheng Zeng

\*Could not participate

EPA SAB Staff:

Mr. Edward Hanlon, Designated Federal Officer  
Mr. Christopher S. Zarba, Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office  
Mr. Thomas Brennan, Deputy Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office

## **Meeting Summary**

The closed meeting was announced in the Federal Register<sup>1</sup>. A summary of the meeting follows.

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) submitted a total of 71 nominations comprised of 114 publications in 12 science and technology categories for review by the SAB STAA Committee for the 2014 STAA awards.

The twelve topical categories and total number of nominations per category that were submitted to the Committee for review were:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Number of Nominations Submitted to SAB</b>
Ecological Research	10
Energy and the Environment	2
Environmental Policy and Decisionmaking Studies	3
Health Effects Research and Human Health Risk Assessment	11
Industry and the Environment	2
Integrated Risk Assessment	4
Monitoring and Measurement Methods	7
Other Environmental Research	4
Review Articles	13
Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration	1
Sustainability and Innovation	4
Transport and Fate	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>

In advance of the meeting, Committee members reviewed the nominations and reported their initial recommendations to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) who entered this information into a master table.

### **July 28, 2014**

#### **Opening Statements and Welcome**

Mr. Ed Hanlon, the DFO, opened the meeting, and made a brief opening statement noting that the STAA Committee of the SAB operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). He noted the meeting was closed to the public because it was concerned with selecting which employees are deserving of awards, a personnel matter with privacy concerns, which is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to section (c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act. He noted that the SAB Staff Office had assessed whether there were any conflict-of-interest or appearance of a lack of impartiality issues for any of the STAA committee members for this

review and whether they were co-authors or contributors for any of the nominated papers. He noted that the SAB Staff Office instructed some members to recuse themselves from the review of certain 2014 STAA nomination packages upon review of the submitted ethics information. Mr. Hanlon also noted that minutes were being taken to summarize discussions and action items in accordance with requirements under FACA. Mr. Thomas Brennan also welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance and participation. Mr. Hanlon then turned the meeting over to the Chair, Dr. George Daston.

Dr. Daston welcomed everyone and noted that scientists and engineers on the SAB STAA Committee have diverse backgrounds. He stated that this was an Advisory effort where an SAB report seeking consensus would be prepared by the committee, reviewed by the chartered SAB, and sent to the EPA Administrator. He reviewed the charge to the Committee, which included identification of SAB recommendations for Level I, II, and III STAA awards, and recommendation for Honorable Mention. He then discussed the criteria associated with recommending each of these categories for STAA recognition.

The Committee discussed each nomination. Each nomination was assigned to two Committee members for review, and the principal reviewers started the discussion on each nomination followed by full Committee deliberation. The Committee decided whether it agreed on a preliminary final ranking for each nomination. In instances where a strong majority of members did not agree on a single final ranking, Dr. Daston requested members to further deliberate on the nomination, and then vote on the preferred recommendation of the Committee. The Committee's preliminary final rankings for each nomination were recorded.

After the Committee developed preliminary final rankings for all nominations, Dr. Daston asked if all members were satisfied with the deliberations and preliminary rankings on each nomination, and wanted to further discuss any nomination. Dr. Daston summarized the tally of preliminary final rankings in comparison with recommendations from the previous several years of STAA awards to provide a level of comfort that the Committee had "calibrated" its initial recommendations correctly.

The Committee then agreed upon the final recommendations for awards. The Committee recommended one nomination for Level I, the highest award; 2 for Level II; 21 for Level III, and 27 for Honorable Mention.

The Committee then discussed and identified several administrative improvements to certain aspects of the STAA nomination process that would be documented in the final SAB Report to the EPA Administrator.

Dr. Daston thanked the STAA Committee members for their efforts. With the meeting business concluded, the Designated Federal Officer Ed Hanlon adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm ET.

Respectfully Submitted:

*/signed/*

Mr. Edward Hanlon  
Designated Federal Officer

Certified as Accurate:

*/signed/*

Dr. George Daston, Chair  
SAB Scientific and Technological  
Achievement Award Committee

**NOTE AND DISCLAIMER:** The minutes of this closed meeting reflect diverse ideas and suggestions offered by Committee members during the course of deliberations within the meeting. Such ideas, suggestions and deliberations do not necessarily reflect consensus advice from the Committee members. The reader is cautioned to not rely on the minutes to represent final, approved, consensus advice and recommendations offered to the Agency. Such advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisories, commentaries, letters or reports prepared and transmitted to the EPA Administrator following the meeting.

**Attachments**

A. 2014 SAB STAA Committee Roster

## Materials Cited

The following meeting materials are available on the SAB website: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>, at the July 28, 2014 meeting website:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/a84bfee16cc358ad85256ccd006b0b4b/a349d4ba39d4e03185257cb0003edde1!OpenDocument&Date=2014-07-28>

<sup>1</sup> Federal Register Notice announcing the meeting.

## **ATTACHMENT A – ROSTER**

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board SAB 2014 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards Committee (STAA)**

#### **CHAIR**

**Dr. George Daston**, Victor Mills Society Research Fellow, Proctor & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

#### **MEMBERS**

**Dr. Gregory Biddinger**, Managing Director, Natural Land Management, Inc., Houston, TX

**Dr. Jerry Campbell**, Scientist and Associate Director of the Center for Human Health Assessment, Institute for Chemical Safety Sciences, The Hamner Institutes for Health Science, Research Triangle Park, NC

**Dr. Peter M. Chapman**, Principal and Senior Environmental Scientist, Golder Associates Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

**Dr. Judith Chow**, Nazir and Mary Ansari Chair in Science and Entrepreneurialism, and Research Professor, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada

**Dr. James R. Clark**, Independent Consultant, Edmonds, WA

**Dr. John Giesy\***, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology, Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences and Toxicology Centre, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan, Canada

**Dr. Philip K. Hopke\***, Bayard D. Clarkson Distinguished Professor, Director of the Center for Air Resources Engineering and Science, and Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

**Dr. Arpad Horvath**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

**Dr. Wayne Landis**, Professor and Director, Institute of Environmental Toxicology, Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

**Dr. Timothy Larson**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Dr. Cindy M. Lee**, Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences, Clemson University, Anderson, SC

**Dr. Michael I. Luster**, Professor, School of Public Health, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

**Dr. James Mihelcic**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

**Dr. Fred J. Miller**, Independent Consultant, Fred J. Miller and Associates LLC, Cary, NC

**Dr. Eileen Murphy**, Director of Research Development, Office of the Vice President for Research, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

**Dr. Kenneth Portier**, Managing Director, Statistics and Evaluation Center, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA

**Dr. Jay Turner**, Associate Professor, Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

**Dr. Thomas Young\***, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

**Dr. Yousheng Zeng**, Managing Partner, Providence Engineering & Environmental Group LLC, Baton Rouge, LA

#### **SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD STAFF**

**Mr. Edward Hanlon**, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board Staff, Washington, DC

\*Did not participate in this review.