

August 20, 2020 Partners Working Group Call

Attendees: Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Cliff Duke, Güray Hatipoğlu, Jody Peters, Mike Dietze

Agenda and Notes

1. Work Plan - we started discussing Core Function 1 and compiling data sources from partners (e.g., NOAA) that everyone needs for creating forecasts (e.g., met data). What do we want to formalize on the Work Plan to focus activities of the group moving forward?
 - a. Güray is compiling information about forecasts used in legislation. We have an EFI [webpage of forecasting examples](#) from EFI Members and associates that could be a resource.
 - b. Hesitate to address additions that Jake, Kathy, and Melissa made to the Work Plan since they were not able to make the call today. So we will push to have people look over it and add comments by the next call
 - c. There was a question about the Task to compile a list of decision makers. This was something Kira added today to consolidate a couple of points. We will want to 1) make decision if we want to make it comprehensive or more ad hoc. If there is a forecast someone has/will be developing then do we do work with them in an active hunt for partners to develop relationships with? Or 2) do we have a list of people we have worked with in past, people willing to be early adapters, people willing to be contacted.
 - i. Kira is thinking of making this more of an opportunistic list for people we already have partnerships developed
 - ii. How precise do we want to be? E.g., NOAA or Jane Smith in the Ecological Forecasting Team at NOAA.
 1. More specific will be better and having an individual contact to work with we expect will be more fruitful.
 - iii. How to reach out/identify them?
 - d. First priority - have a better way of how to keep track of who we are already working with. Have more formality of who the people we have contacted in different agencies/industries.
 - i. NOAA example. Mike/Andy reached out to NOAA in 2015 for the 2016 meeting and the emails went into the void until 2018 until they made a connection with an individual on the NOAA Forecasting team. There were 3 years of nothing. Knowing who you are collaborating with is important. Or get a referral.
 - ii. Know who the highly connected node is and work with them. Woody Turner at NASA, Tony Janetos at BU was, Jake Weltzin at USGS
 - iii. Getting in touch with the highly connected nodes is better than cold calls or database.

- iv. For a database, once we have essential columns and starting filling in the roles, then we can have a campaign to connect with the highly connected nodes.
 - e. What would be the process of starting this database?
 - i. Google sheet with institution, relevance to forecasting (doing forecasts themselves, early adopters, etc). Then have people we know or someone in EFI already has contacts have add them or reach out to the highly connected nodes.
 - ii. Populate a spreadsheet with people we know and then go from there
 - iii. At first - be more strategic for people that we have an ask or a purpose for why we are reaching out. Need to have a reason for reaching out to individuals. Or before we compile the list, we need to think about who we want on the list and why we would want to reach out on them.
 - iv. Get what is stuck in the individual heads of people within the steering committee that is institutional knowledge that we don't want to have lost
 - f. Producer side
 - i. Expect it will follow academic lineages
 - g. Kira to mock up what a Google sheet might look like. Use what Mike has started and shared previously with Kira.
 - i. Other individuals to think about including STC contacts, new EFI members
 - ii. Format: NASA's webpage has an underlying database that connects the different pages. There are tags with individuals on different things they have been involved with - what are their grants, what are their roles.
 - iii. Think about flags/tags - some way of keeping track of the ways people have participated
 - iv. Flags for who is connected to EFI via the Newsletter, Slack, Working Groups, Member, Participants at EFI workshops/meetings
- 2. On a previous call we had talked about compiling data sources. E.g., NOAA met, geographical data. Kira had mocked up a Google sheet and will reach out to the student group. Also want to have tags for this. Things for Kira to add: spatial and temporal extent. Data source location url
 - a. This form could be useful for the RCN Design Team to add their data sources to
 - b. Each Challenge will have a GitHub repo. Want to encourage people to drop in code to how to access the data resources. But this Google sheet could be an easy way to let people know about the resources available.
 - c. Have tick box - do you plan to use this for one of the following RCN Challenges?
 - d. See if the Student group if they want to monitor it and share it?
 - e. As first pass - provide link off EFI Resource page? Or go through a process of curation and put on a page.
 - i. Originally said some curation would be good
 - ii. Is this a continuously updated data set? Dataset for calibration or for an iterative forecast

- iii. The highest priority for the forecast community is continuously monitored data that they haven't been aware of.

3. RCN NEON Forecasting Challenge Updates

- a. Reminder that the plan is to send text to Mike SanClements that can be shared with the NEON domain managers describing the Forecasting Challenges, the sites chosen, and asking if they know of any local partners that would be interested in connecting with any of the Challenges. Goal is to send out details in September after the Challenge Design Teams have developed protocols/ideas
 - i. Mike/Quinn thing to do after the RCN call tomorrow
4. Update on Kira's Survey (bit.ly/EFIpartnerssurvey)
- a. Have a few more entries after ESA that will be able to add to the spreadsheet of connections mentioned above
5. **For next time - encourage folks to look at Work Plan, make comments even if they can't make the call.**
- a. **Who is going to take charge of things on the Work Plan and that will help us to prioritize near term/long term goals**