



# **FPAW Organizational Updates**

## **Fall 2022 FPAW Meeting**

National Weather Center, Norman, OK

October 27, 2022

# FPAW Steering Committee – Motivation



FPAW is...

- Unique and important!

“FPAW is a national treasure. I am not aware of any other functionally based group of professionals as diverse as what FPAW has established with interested and active members participating.”

But...

- Results? Impact? Actions?



# Why the “Buts?”

- All “volunteer”
  - We all have day jobs
- No organizational (FPAW) funding/budget
- Diverse, wide-ranging constituency
  - Aviation weather users, providers, researchers and academicians, and regulators
- Very challenging to gain 100% consensus, and no good way to communicate majority/minority options



# Options

- Federal Advisory Committee (FAC)\*
- Funding
- Steering Committee

After several years of conversation, we decided that the Steering Committee opinion was the best path forward for FPAW.

# FPAW Steering Committee (1/2)



## Steering Committee

- The FPAW Steering Committee (SC) consists of 15 members.
- Thirteen members act on behalf of the four key aviation weather stakeholder groups: four represent the users of aviation weather information, three represent the providers of aviation weather information, four represent the aviation weather research, engineering and development community, along with academia, and two represent the regulatory, standards, and policy oversight community.
- The FPAW Co-Chairs fill the remaining two positions.
- Each member of the SC that represents a stakeholder group will actively solicit input from their constituents and use it to guide FPAW activities and discussion of important matters.
- The SC will also create, review and provide feedback on position papers intended to be published under the FPAW banner, and organize FPAW meetings.

# FPAW Steering Committee (2/2)






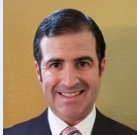
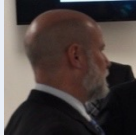

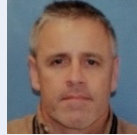


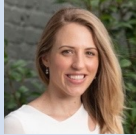


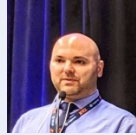


- The FPAW SC meets regularly, nominally four times per year.
- The initial FPAW SC selections were made by the FPAW Co-Chairs based on nominations received from the FPAW community. Significant attention was paid to incorporate diversity in its broadest sense, including but not limited to gender, race, organizational affiliation, expertise and career stage.
- The nominal term of service on the FPAW Steering Committee is three years, with an option to be reselected (no term limits). However, charter members were assigned terms of one, two or three years to facilitate regular turnover of about one-third of the thirteen rotating SC members annually. Starting in the Fall of 2023, new stakeholder group representatives will be selected based on a simple majority of votes from all 15 current SC members for the nominations received.

# The Inaugural FPAW SC



**Name** = In-person

Users	Providers	RED and Academia	Regulators	FPAW Leadership
Rex Alexander VFS through 09/2025 	David Bieger NWS ATCSCC through 09/2024 	Jim Evans MIT/LL through 09/2023 	Marilyn Pearson CAE through 09/2024 	<b>Matt Fronzak</b> MITRE 
<b>Eric Avila</b> NATCA through 09/2023 	<b>Matt Strahan</b> NWS AWC through 09/2023 	<b>Ian Johnson</b> FAA through 09/2024 	<b>John Steventon</b> FAA through 09/2025 	<b>Matthias Steiner</b> NCAR 
<b>Nathan Polderman</b> United Airlines through 09/2024 	Elizabeth Wilson Climavision through 09/2025 	<b>Heather Reeves</b> CIWRO/NSSL through 09/2024 		
Judy Reif JR Flight Services through 09/2023 		Joel Siegel BAH through 09/2025 		

# Why Them? (Or, What Were the Selection Criteria?)



- FPAW has a diverse constituency; the FPAW SC should be every bit as diverse (age, gender, race, career stage, organization, and others)
- Most FPAW SC members could easily represent multiple constituencies
- Most FPAW SC members have been active FPAW participants, either as session leads, presenters or panelists
- Most FPAW SC members are viewed as aviation weather leaders





# OK, So What's Next?

- We see the FPAW SC being involved in the following:
  - Ensure that FPAW stays connected to its constituents
  - Help FPAW leadership plan and execute the twice-yearly FPAW meetings
  - Create and deliver FPAW position papers
  - Assist in the development of FPAW organizational guidelines
- Open discussion: What do you think should be next for the FPAW SC?



# Backup Slides



## FAC

Pro: Formal Connectivity to Federal Government

Con: Formal Connectivity to Federal Government (Strict FAC Communications, Reporting Requirements)

Unknown: Would FAA be interested in converting FPAW into a FAC?

## Advisory committees

The Federal Advisory Committee Act defines *advisory committee* as "any committee, board, commission, council, conference, panel, task force, or other similar group" that dispenses "advice or recommendations" to the President of the United States, and excludes bodies that also exercise operational functions.<sup>[2]</sup> They are provisional bodies and have the advantage of being able to circumvent bureaucracy and collect a range of opinions.

Committees composed of full-time officers or employees of the federal government do not count as *advisory committees* under FACA. Furthermore, the following organizations are also not governed by FACA: the [Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations](#), the [Commission on Government Procurement](#), the [National Academy of Sciences](#), the [Central Intelligence Agency](#), the [Federal Reserve](#), and the [National Academy of Public Administration](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

## Purpose

In drafting FACA, legislators wanted to ensure that advice by the various advisory committees is "objective and accessible to the public" by formalizing the process for "establishing, operating, overseeing, and terminating" the committees. The Committee Management Secretariat at the GSA is charged with monitoring compliance.

In particular the Act restricts the formation of such committees to only those which are deemed essential, limits their powers to provision of advice to officers and agencies in the [executive branch](#) of the Federal Government, and limits the length of term during which any such committee may operate. Further, FACA was an attempt by Congress to curtail the rampant "locker-room discussion" that had become prevalent in administrative decisions. These "locker-room discussion" are masked under titles like "task force", "subcommittee", and "working group" meetings, which are less than full FACA meetings and so they do not have to be open to the public. FACA declared that all administrative procedures and hearings were to be public knowledge.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Database

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires a database that may be accessed by all federal agencies to manage advisory committees government-wide. The database is used by Congress to perform oversight of related executive branch programs. It is also searchable and available to inform the public, the media, and others, to stay abreast of important developments resulting from advisory committee activities. Members of each of the various committees are listed with information such as term of service and corporate affiliation. Facts sheets, reports, expenses, charter, and other information is included in the database.



## Public notice

A committee must provide public notice in the [Federal Register](#) 15 days prior to the meeting. It must publish all information regarding the meeting, including committee name, the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, and a summary of the agenda. Additionally, if any part of the meeting is closed to the public, the notice must include the committee name; the time, place and purpose of the meeting; a summary of the agenda; and if any portion of the meeting is closed, the reason and exemption(s) in the Government in the Sunshine Act that apply. An advisory committee meeting can be closed to the public if the president or an agency head determines that any of the 10 exemptions to the Sunshine Act apply (see below). The committee must provide access to materials provided to it, including reports, transcripts, minutes, working papers, agendas or other documents unless any of the nine FOIA exemptions would apply. The committees must also keep minutes of their meetings.

## Amendments

In March, 2012 the Government Accountability Office issued a report on FACA groups in DOT and DOE. In this report, they state: "Advisory groups—those established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and other groups not subject to the act—can play an important role in the development of policy and government regulations. There are more than 1,000 FACA advisory groups and an unknown number of non-FACA advisory groups governmentwide. Non-FACA groups include intergovernmental groups. Section 21 of Pub. L. No. 111-139 requires GAO to conduct routine investigations to identify programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives with duplicative goals and activities. In that context, GAO reviewed (1) the extent to which the Department of Transportation's (DOT) and Department of Energy's (DOE) assessment process helps ensure advisory group efforts are not duplicative and what challenges, if any, exist in assessing potential duplication, and (2) to what extent DOT and DOE advisory groups are useful in assisting their respective agencies in carrying out their missions and how the groups' usefulness could be enhanced."<sup>[5]</sup> This review resulted in four recommendations geared toward preventing duplication of efforts among FACA groups.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Criticism

FACA has drawn criticism as an unconstitutional infringement upon "long-recognized presidential powers". Critics maintain that FACA "violates [separation of powers](#) by limiting the terms on which the President can acquire information from nongovernmental advisory committees".<sup>[6]</sup>