Chairperson Judith Weis was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so Clint Andrews offered to step in as Chair for the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

Dr. Gary Buchanan gave a status update on current issues to the SAB. DEP employees will be phasing back into the office starting in August, with a full return in September. The reappointments to the standing committees and full board have been approved by the Commissioner. David Velinsky has been moved from the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committee to the full board. Nicole Davi has been appointed to the Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee. Joann Held of the Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee asked to not be reappointed. Gerald Kennedy was not reappointed to the Public Health Standing Committee. There is an ad hoc committee of 8 members that has been approved by the Commissioner to work on a charge question regarding microplastics. The Ecological Processes, Public Health, and Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committees are always looking for new members, so the members were encouraged to reach out to their colleagues.

Dr. Tony Broccoli gave a brief update of the Climate & Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee. The Committee has recently been charged with a question regarding biofuels. The current committee does not have much expertise in this area, so Dr. Broccoli has reached out to three external members (Pankaj Lal from Montclair State University, Eric
Lam from Rutgers University, and Serpil Guran from Rutgers University) to see if they 
would like to join. Clint Andrews expressed interest in joining the workgroup for the 
biofuels charge question. Dr. Broccoli proposed the idea of forming a new standing 
committee regarding energy issues, depending on the Department’s anticipation of 
upcoming energy related charges questions.

Mr. Chuck Harman was unable to attend so Heidi O’Neill gave the brief update of the 
Ecological Processes Standing Committee. The SAB report regarding vernal habitats has 
been presented to the requesting program and the Commissioner will be briefed on the 
report on July 19, 2021. There is an upcoming charge question regarding carbon storage 
capacity of forest soils, but that has not been started yet.

Dr. Michael Gochfeld was unable to attend so Heidi O’Neill gave a brief update on the Public 
Health Standing Committee. A background document on estrogens and pharmaceuticals is 
being developed by the requesting program to be presented to the Standing Committee and 
is still being reviewed by upper management.

Dr. Lisa Axe was unable to attend to Heidi O’Neill gave a brief update on the Water Quality 
and Quantity Standing Committee. The draft of the Horizontal Directional Drilling charge 
question is complete and has been reviewed by DSR and is now being reviewed by the 
requesting program.

Mr. Chuck Harman was unable to attend so Mr. Dan Cooke presented the report on 
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapping. A discussion followed with only minor editorial 
suggestions, e.g., add blue carbon as a benefit, and clarify rhizomes in the text. The SAB 
agreed that once these changes were made the report was acceptable and consensus was 
given.

This was followed by an open discussion.

The SAB report that was approved by the Commissioner in 2020 regarding salt marshes 
was used to submit a manuscript that has been accepted by an academic journal.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.