The MEPAG Goals Document
Major Revision 2019

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Timeline

Expect draft to community before Holidays

Feedback due in late January

Final version released at LPSC (March 2020)

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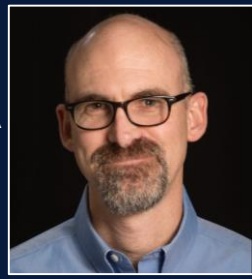

Initial Revision Plans

- Goal I (Life):
  - Removing the distinction between extinct and extant Mars life
  - Possibly making implementation strategy less detailed
  - Objective IA. Search for evidence of life in environments that have a high potential for habitability and expression/preservation of biosignatures
  - Objective IB. Assess the extent of abiotic organic chemical evolution
- Goal II (Climate):
  - Shortening & reorganizing prose
  - Making prioritization scheme consistent with the rest of the document
  - General update of science case, particularly in Objectives A & C
  - Retain emphasis on in situ meteorology

Initial Revision Plans

- Goal III (Geology):
  - Re-structure of Objective IIIA. (i.e., Geologic Record) to focus on specific, actionable Strategic Knowledge Gaps
  - Minor updates for Objectives IIIB. (Mars Interior) & IIIC .(Moons)
- Goal IV (Human Exploration):
  - Significant rework throughout
  - Atmospheric knowledge requirements changed by switch to supersonic retro-propulsion
  - Changes to Planetary Protection
  - ISRU plans modified by recent buried ice & hydrate mineral discoveries
  - Impact of MSL's radiation measurements