

**NERACOOS Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2009**

In Attendance: Ru Morrison (Exec.Dir.), Michael Szemerda, Janet Campbell, Peter Smith, Jack Ringelberg, Kevin O'Brien, Jon Hare, Cheryl Zimmerman, Malcolm Spaulding, Jim O'Donnell, Linda Mercer, Christine Tilburg, Pete Jumars, Chris Nash, Cassie Durette (Admin.Assist.), Al Hanson (Phone), Bruce Carlisle (Phone), Josie Quintrell (NFRA), John Annala (GMRI), Gabrielle Canonico and Rob Ragsdale (Phone, NOAA IOOS)

Welcome from the President, Introductions- Great progress: New staff, Groups formed, Finances set, Proposal submitted, Strategy for funding, NROC MOU, and in conversations with other GoM partners.

August 31 Board Meeting Minutes- Unanimously approved (J.Campbell motioned, P.Smith second)

NOAA IOOS Update- Gabrielle Canonico from the NOAA IOOS office gave an update (Powerpoint Presentation via conference call) on funding status, merit review process, and FY11 planning.

- FY2010, \$14.5M for regions. Discussed earmarks, CERA, OOI. Reviewed dates and FY11 Planning. They are coordinating with NOPP office, continuing idea of merging the RA planning and implementation grants; one in each region. Goal is 5-year agreements.
- Further discussion on: Sea level rise workshop, NOAA USGS interagency collaboration, Marine Spatial planning and Ecosystem management collaboration.
- NOAA IOOS National Priorities: Enhancing climate services, Coastal and marine spatial planning, Sustainable marine fisheries/Ecosystem health, Arctic science and stewardship.
- Further discussion about working with cooperative institutes- CINAR headquartered at WHOI and the board recommended inviting Don Anderson (Director) to the next board meeting **[ACTION]**.

NFRA Update- Josie Quintrell provided the board with an update on NFRA activities. There is a clear need for ocean observing. GoMOOS buoys are national success.

- There is support in DC for ocean observing, but minimal funding. New NOAA Administration supports IOOS. Task force emphasizes on regions and sustained operations. There is talk about Marine Spatial Planning. Want RAs to be a neutral science-based information source. NROC MOU is great news.
- NFRA is working on a regional marketing document for Congress.
- Received \$26.5M in 2008 and 2009 for total IOOS program. Asking for \$33M for regions only in FY11 (\$3M for each).
- Collectively as RAs, should focus on advocacy grass roots campaign. New England has important congressional members. Josie recommends a lead in each state to visit the district and talk about NERACOOS (to prep for DC visits). NFRA will have next formal meeting in February in DC.
- Josie thanked the Board for allowing Ru to serve on the NFRA Board, as well as for sharing Cassie.
- There was further discussion about earmarks and offshore wind development; DOE. It was suggested that our region highlight the work going on, and NFRA highlight us to help nationally.

Committee Reports

- **Conflict of Interest-** all set until next year
- **Finance** (Linda Mercer)- 6-page report and summary one-page was sent previous to the meeting. In process of taking second draw from WHOI. The Board thanked Linda for her work in getting advances from WHOI. Requested to revise spending plan **[ACTION]**. End of year will be September, have full audit next year. Ru will follow up with Regina/NOAA **[ACTION]** about Preaward audits.
- **Nominating**
 - As Bonnie Spinnazola resigned, we reported to Seagrant Directors; their duties need clarification.
 - Motion to amend Bylaws (M. Szemerda, second by J.Campbell) was unanimously approved, changing 2nd paragraph in Article IV, Section 3, Item (c) to: *"After the initial appointment of the Board of Directors, the Directors of the Sea Grant Programs of the states named above, members of the board, representatives of the business and nonprofit communities, and other users of ocean observations shall be invited to assist NERACOOS by suggesting names of*

representatives to fill the seven (7) seats on the Board of Directors that collectively represent a cross-section of marine-related industries, marine-related governmental organizations, marine-related non-profit organizations, and other users of ocean data and data products. Recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board at least 45 days in advance of the meeting at which the nomination or nominations will be considered. Election of nominees to the Board of Directors shall be by majority vote of all Directors." Bylaw procedure requires 2 votes. The next vote will be in emailed in 31 days [ACTION, Cassie].

- Discussed nominating process. The Nominating Committee will gather a list of names and make recommendations to the Board. There was concern for repeating issue with other nominating groups, but Sea Grant did not have an efficient collaboration of organizers.
- Discussed Northeast Academic Consortium's MOU. Janet will look at the MOU and letter from Susan Avery and then follow up with the NEAC [ACTION] to help identify this entity.
- Discussed filling vacant seats, no requests made. Board recommended a focus on renewable ocean energy. MS welcomes recommendations to the nominating committee.

SPI Team Update- FY2010 NOAA IOOS proposal was submitted October 29 (deadline October 30); a culmination of work of the SPI team and represents efforts in each of four NROC (and our) priority areas.

- First level funding maintained current infrastructure, second level funding brought costs and funds to current levels, third level funding was a suite of additional elements (determined during an SPI Team meeting, Sept. 16). Ranked additional elements with 4 levels of priority, top were: enhanced buoy operations, enhanced capacity for NECOFS Modeling system, and DIF nutrient integration. Agreed on budget and then completed priority survey. JOD said process could have been improved. Malcolm congratulated JOD for success.
- Water Quality Monitoring Network (USGS) has requested our submission of a proposal, but no formal call.
- Discussed organization of teams. JOD suggested next time we use the same process, but make sure the lead is representing their group. JOD suggested completing a survey before generating numbers.
- Next proposal is due October 2010, we should make modifications now. We should try for 5-year visions with regional entities. It was suggested NERACOOS host a workshop with 20-25 people from each focus area. There is SPI money for this.
- Recommended a review cycle before next RCOOS Progress report submission. Individual PIs should submit their reports on time. RM will work with John Trowbridge to help work more efficiently with PIs [ACTION]. Two progress reports a year. JOD suggested someone be responsible for operations and they forward report to NOAA.
- Reports are not used for national synthesis. Malcolm motioned for JOD and RM to evaluate process and make recommendations [ACTION].

Operations Update

- **NROC MOU** is signed (referenced in proposal). Proposal had over 25 letters of support. Discussed MOU process; RM has begun dialogue with many interested entities. The current process is to bring suggestions to Malcolm and RM, then to the Board for approval. Suggested MOUs: Gulf of Maine Council, Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership, NEOSEC (New England Ocean Sciences Education Collaborative), and MOTN.
- **Marine Spatial Planning Workshop** MS and Tom Shyka attended for NERACOOS- Many presentations and discussions on moving forward. MS suggested NERACOOS play 3rd party role. Discussed benthic surveying, directional drilling, and funding.
- **Resource Distribution**- Rhode Island used stimulus money for its first offshore buoy. The CDIP buoy is operated by SCRIPPS, funded by Army Corps of Engineers, should be a permanent buoy. MS proposes the SPI Team make a series of criteria to direct selection process, and then make recommendations to board [ACTION]. Possible criteria: science/user based, cost share, spatial distribution, and institutional distribution.
- Tom Shyka is working to get UNE Buoy data.
- **Meetings update**
 - **GOM Symposium (Oct, New Brunswick)**- RM attended, NERACOOS was well branded.

- **Spill of National Significance (SONS) Science of Oil Spills training** was held at the SSC by NOAA Office of Response and Restoration. Steve Lehman wrote us a Letter of Support. Made arrangements for NECOFS meeting. RM spoke with Jim McPherson; looking into supplying buoy tender time to help (NMFS unable). SONS will be using historical data to make a tool.
- **2009 HAB Retrospective Meeting** will be here December 16, NERACOOS will help host. We have been part of their proposal to operationalize the HAB model RM will look into seeing if Canadian HABs managers were invited [ACTION].
- **Water Quality Workshop** for 3 east coast RAs in Jan., RM will share the flyer with Board [ACTION]
- **Town Hall Meeting** possible at Ocean Sciences about ocean biology data with Census of Marine Life
- **National Water Quality Council** abstract was submitted
- **MACOORA Annual Meeting November 17 and 18**, RM plans to attend.
- **Trip to DC** with NFRA Executive Committee is planned for early December, RM plans to attend.
- **Nonprofit status**-We are close to filing nonprofit status with IRS, working with Attorney Rob Levin.

GMRI and GOMOOS Merger- Update from John Annala, who hopes for an open process and great relationship with NERACOOS. A press release (distributed to Board previously), was issued Monday. GoMOOS no longer exists as an organization. John agrees that an MOU would be a useful next step. Branding seems to be an issue and John welcomes all communication. NERACOOS will work with GMRI once they have a plan, make announcements when they are ready. Jack suggested an "outreach road show" to help with name recognition.

Web Presence

- Next step is routine connection to community- email server list, monthly reports, attend various forums, figure out what to concentrate on from NFRA. We should make sure other organizations are aware of us at their advisory board meetings. LM and PJ will discuss us at their next meeting [ACTION]. RM will follow up with Neal for data update [ACTION]. GMRI and UMaine have MOU.
- Trying to format Boothbay harbor time series data. Mentioned data portal. Send new data set information to RM (to prioritize moving forward) [ACTION].
- Website has more buoys online since last meeting. NOAA IOOS appreciates the site. Janet suggests clarifying some of the model components; a user's guide available. Send suggestions to RM. It was clear that we don't want to be responsible for data archive; best thing is to provide convenient access to the information. Should have DIF team meet on next steps to go forward to determine next priorities [ACTION]. Had hoped for model data comparison but didn't work in time (RM). No link on GoMOOS website to NERACOOS- will have plan soon.

Next Meeting- February 8, 2009, teleconference (presence not required).

- MS congratulated Ru and Cassie for NERACOOS success.
- Meeting adjourned around 3:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Cassie Durette

Approved by: NERACOOS Board on February 8, 2010