

NERACOOS Board of Directors Minutes

May 3, 2010

Participants: (SSC) Malcolm Spaulding, John Trowbridge, Christine Tilburg, Bruce Carlisle, Chris Nash, Dave Casoni, John Farrington, Linda Mercer, Mel Cote, Doug Vandemark, Ru Morrison, Cassie Durette, Josie Quintrell, Gabrielle Canonico, John Cannon, Tom Shyka, Jay Coffey, Bob Huegenin, Rich Delaney, Barbara Ward; (UConn) Jim O'Donnell, Jack Ringelberg, Al Hanson, John Conway, Jon Hare, Kevin O'Brien, Todd Fake, Ron Rozsa; (Canada) Peter Smith; (Phone) Cheryl Zimmerman

Approved February 8 Minutes- Motion by Peter Smith, second by Christine Tilburg.

Committee reports

- **Finance-** Linda Mercer distributed summary previously and explained timing of grants. The committee is thinking about a re-budget to accommodate some additional funds. \$350-400K to spend (started year late), maybe SPI Team could develop plan.
- **Conflict of Interest-** Completed for 2010
- **Nominating Committee-**
 - The board approved a second vote to add Mel Cote as *Ex officio*- Motion by Malcolm, second by Linda.
 - John Trowbridge recommended changing the bylaws to accommodate NEAC. Board can communicate with NEAC through their appointees on the board.
 - Institutions interested in joining the NEAC should contact Malcolm and Ru.
 - The board approved for John Trowbridge to become official board member, and Larry Madin will be the Alternate. Motion by Jack Ringelberg, Second by John Farrington.
 - In the fall, board members will receive random numbers for board member term rotations- 1, 2, or 3 year assignments. Motion by Jack Ringelberg, second by Linda.
 - Nominating committee will visit strategy for Officer terms later.
 - Committee is welcoming recommendations for future officers. **ACTION:** Cassie will email the Board to ask for nominations through email and recommendations are to be submitted by the summer meeting.
 - The board approved Dave Casoni as new board member. Motion by Jack Ringelberg, second by Jim O'Donnell. Dave Casoni is the Secretary and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association. He has been on various boards, including GoMOOS. He feels NERACOOS provides a valuable resource to commercial organizations.

NOAA IOOS Program Office- Gabrielle Canonico presented the board with an update on the IOOS Program Office activities.

- The IOOS PO is working to implement the ICOOS Act (passed last March) and is waiting for National Ocean Policy to be released. The Ocean Policy Task Force calls for implementation plan for ocean observing system. The FY 11 funding opportunity could be released by June, will focus on three themes.
- Regional Engagement- Dave Easter from CSC working on outcome metrics. There will be an annual workshop in October in DC. IOOS is also working on scoping certification standards. Jack Harlan is coordinating national activities (HFRADAR), DMAC is working towards a fisheries management biological project, coastal inundation projects, and an online registry catalog viewer.
- The board discussed earmarks and programmatic plus-ups.

National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA)- Josie Quintrell provided the board with an update on NFRA activities.

- Josie addressed the Gulf Coast Oil Spill and applauded the advancements of ocean observing since the last spill in 1989. We can now monitor by satellites and have access to real time oceanographic information (10 years ago was not publicly available) and we are now making a difference in the containment of this oil spill.
- NFRA accomplishments include publishing the regional document in February which provides details for congressional appropriations request of \$53M (\$33M for regional IOOS). This document has been an effective tool on the hill.
- NFRA also revised their Executive Committee where Ru is now the Vice Chair.
- DC Trips have increased RA presence in Washington.
- NFRA continues monthly calls, distributes quarterly newsletters and updates, renewed website (now located within NERACOOS, hosted by GMRI). NFRA is coordinating a Product Developers Workshop.
- Funding- Senator Snowe has been a great supporter of IOOS and mentioned IOOS at the Ocean Acidification hearing on Earth Day. Dear colleague letters have been distributed and continue to be important. House letter

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had 26 signatures, Senate had 22 (and was multiple NOAA programs). FY 12 congressional budget process will be challenging. NFRA is looking into other options for improving our effectiveness (maybe hire professional lobbyist).

- February in DC- Regions (including Malcolm and Pete) met with state delegations.
- NFRA is working on performance metrics.

Applied Analysis Inc.- Jay Coffey, joined by Bob Huegenin, presented the board with a review of their company activities.

- AAI presented the board with an overview of products that can be generated using satellite imagery. They discussed how their satellite imagery helps in the following areas: wide area surveys, land water interface, emergency response, non-point source pollution, submerged aquatic vegetation, remote areas, and depth.
- Barbara Ward, NE Coastwatch

Operations Update

- February 17-18 NFRA board meeting and hill visits (Malcolm, Peter, Cassie). Ru has since met with NH delegation. MACOORA representatives have since met with MA delegation. We are going to send thank you letters to those that signed on to the house and senate letters.
- February 18 NROC Meeting (Ru)- Ru helped chair a session about partnership involvement with data integration work for CMSP efforts.
- Put proposal together with NROC and other partners to MMS BAA and submitted. Continued discussions since submission to develop capacity for Northeast.
- Submitted joint comments to MSP Task Force
- NECOFS- NERACOOS has obtained funds to keep this going.
- GMRI funds for product development
- BIO- to continue wavewatch3 modeling activities
- Nonprofit status- NERACOOS is now official an 501c3 organization
- FY 10 funding- \$1.45M (includes \$50K for HF Radar); NERACOOS will higher communications specialist.
- Ru has been involved in MPA task team with IOOS.
- SONS exercise- Ru attended with John Cannon.
- MOU Status
 - NEOSEC- NEOSEC will provide outreach help including website correspondences, electronic newsletters, May 21 meeting. On May 21, NEOSEC members will talk about how they are using ocean observing and integrating ocean literacy to ocean observing.
 - Still finalizing MOU with NeCODP
 - Text agreed with SBNMS
- **ACTION:** Will post MOUs online
- Maine Fishermen's Forum- ME delegation visited the NERACOOS booth. Next year we hope to co-sponsor booth with National Weather Service.
- Ocean Sciences- Ru co-convended town hall meeting on ocean observing.
- CT Conference on Natural Resources (Ron, Jim)
- IOOS regional dmac meeting- Tom and Eric. Tom will update us later
- NWQMN- Ru spoke of nutrient criteria work in Great Bay
- May 17-19 Product Workshop- will be a forum for regions to share product information.
- Neal Pettigrew is recovering from a brain hemorrhage, the board is hoping for a speedy recovery.

GMRI/GoMOOS Merger and DIF Update- Update from Tom Shyka

- The GoMOOS/GMRI merger transition is almost complete. GMRI is working to transition GoMOOS website out of existence. Technical aspects (products and services) and communication aspects (make it seamless to users and stakeholders) will be split. GMRI hopes to have this implemented by next NERACOOS board meeting.
- Tom wants coordinated communication release- John cannon offered for NWS to help with family services press release.
- DIF and DMAC efforts are towards implementation of standards and services including modeling services and standards.

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- New buoys online- Ocean SAMP buoy from RI is now served through us, UNH buoys (CO2 data), Smart Bay in Canada. More observing assets will be coming online. UNE has buoy in Saco Bay- have been working to get that served through NERACOOS.
- Developed standards based software to allow data from models to implement cost effective way a model observation viewer. Can click on buoy location and it will compare forecasts with real time observations.
- Coastal flooding and erosion tool- Portland. Water level and wave height interaction nomogram. John Cannon used this during floods last year. John has developed empirical relationship/model.
- Ron- MA Coastal Zone Management program has developed a website for users to input feedback on storm damage. Coastal hazards workgroup could note this as of importance for the strategic plan in the next five years.
- Christine mentioned the importance for metadata behind tools to be available.
- Regional HF Radar Viewer- product developed by SCCOOS. Made code available to all RAs and therefore NERACOOS was able to implement it on our site.
- CMSP efforts in Northeast- working with members in region to identify some core regional data sets to support CMSP.
- GMRI is hosting NERACOOS and NFRA websites.
- Tom attended the IOOS Regional DMAC meeting- Focus was to bring together RA DIF leads to talk about work being done in last year and lay out next year's work plan.
- NeCODP partnership could play lead role in NERACOOS DIF efforts. NeCODP meeting is planned for June 9 and 10.

SPI Update

- Version 1 is available online and requests for review have been sent to the SPI Team, board, and 40 regional leaders.
- Version 2 hopes to be more visionary, would like to develop document like NFRA's Regional Document to highlight our work.
- Regional Planning workshops- regional organizations are coming together to coordinate their approach. Meetings will be held May 26, June 2, June 11, June 15. Plan is to utilize outcomes to develop V2 strategic plan.
- Plan is for Version 2 to be ready for next board meeting.
- Malcolm would like the strategic plan process to include a methodology on how to move forward in addressing funding sources other than IOOS.
- ***ACTION:*** Malcolm tasks the board members to review the Version 1 document and submit comments to the team. It is available online at www.neracoos.org/documents . Two weeks for review. Input due May 17 to info@neracoos.org .
- John Cannon is submitting feedback on the Marine Strategic Plan for NOAA to include NERACOOS.
- The board discussed climate as a critical issue. ***ACTION:*** John Cannon will make sure the board is connected with the new climate person in the Northeast (to be hired in next few months).
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 24th.
- ***ACTION:*** Please send Ru's job performance comments to Malcolm by June 1. Malcolm will give a formal review for Ru's one year (June).

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Minutes submitted by: Cassie Durette