

NERACOOS Board of Directors August 23, 2010 Minutes

Approved on November 29, 2010

Participants: Peter Smith (Canada); Cheryl Zimmerman, Jack Ringelberg, Kevin O'Brien, Jim O'Donnell, John Conway, Ron Rozsa, Jon Hare (UCONN); Ru Morrison, Tom Shyka, Doug Vandemark, John Trowbridge, Dave Casoni, Christine Tilburg, Pete Jumars, Susan Frankel, Wendy Graham, Mel Cote, Betsy Nicholson, Cassie Durette, Hauke Kite-Powell, Linda Mercer, Malcolm Spaulding, David Keeley, John Weber (SSC, Rye NH); Dave Easter, Josie Quintrell (Phone)

Approval of Minutes-

Malcolm motioned to approve minutes from May 3 meeting- Linda moved, John Trowbridge second. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports-

- **Finance Report-** The board reviewed the budget summary; Planning grant will end May 2011; New funds in hand by then; Submitting proposal for indirect rate; Audit after September 30; RCOOS grant starts October 1. The board reviewed the Spending Plan to allocate extra funds from RA planning grant and had no objections to proceed.
- **Conflict of Interest-** New members are encouraged to sign COI forms for 2010. *Cassie will review membership and follow up [ACTION].*
- **Nominating Committee-** The board will need to address a few items in the fall including vote on directors and alternates, election of officers, and determination of terms. *The board was asked to submit nominations for officers [ACTION]- no deadline was established.*
Alternates- Nominations should be submitted to Secretary 45 days before meeting, secretary notifies nominating committee 15 days before meeting for vote. We have letter from John Weber from NROC. *Cassie will email the board in 45 days to vote for John Weber as alternate for Bruce Carlisle [ACTION]. John Trowbridge will contact NEAC for official letter for Jon Pennock to be board member representing UNH and Doug Vandemark as alternate [ACTION]. Cassie and Ru will check for other outstanding letters [ACTION].* Officers- Current officers expire this fall. Officers will have 2-3 years and other directors will be assigned with 1, 2, or 3 year terms. Nominating committee is developing process for this.

Operations Update, Ru Morrison-

- NERACOOS office has been established for one year with two employees.
- Grants update: NERACOOS accepted its first award- FY10 RCOOS, \$1.45M; Now preparing for subawards. NERACOOS is contributing to the NOAA Environmental Literacy grant for informal education that was awarded to NEOSEC. NFRA EOC put in a proposal to this as well but it was not funded. The MMS Proposal (to further regional CMSP efforts) was not awarded to NERACOOS. NERACOOS has been invited to join with COSEE OS (NEOSEC PARTNER) and MMSA for NOAA Environmental Literacy formal education grant.
- NEOSEC- Partnership has proven successful- Sponsoring Ocean Literacy Summit in November and hosting NEOSEC website.
- Planning Efforts- NERACOOS has increased its planning efforts this year with the New England Canadian Maritime Planning Initiative.
- Supporting CMSP- NERACOOS continues to work with NROC and other partners to support CMSP efforts, specifically data and integration, and working closely with MOP.
- IOOS Product Workshop in Michigan- Held in February. RA representatives (5 NERACOOS) came together and shared products. Part of that and the water quality meeting in January-

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have continued conversations with partners in SECOORA, IOOS, USGS, WQMN to discuss multi-regional beach and shellfish water quality project.

- Strengthen and expand regional collaborations- Al Pleudderman (lead, OOI Pioneer Array) and John Trowbridge- have been discussing opportunities for collaboration (including outreach activities). OOI cannot provide letters of support but might add Al as a PI in upcoming proposal to show plans.
- Ocean Energy Update- Ru is in communication with DeepCWind and Capewind projects. Malcolm has talked with Deep Water Wind and RI efforts. All are trying to make sure monitoring efforts are coordinated within NERACOOS.
- Deepwater Horizon Response- Malcolm created a one page communication about likelihood for spill to reach GOM. One pager was posted online and distributed widely. Well received from NH DES and MA CZM. Ru spoke with Steve Lehman, Science Coordinator for Northeast, to make sure NERACOOS and region is response ready.
- MPA IOOS Task Team- Ru is a member and plans to attend meeting next week in CA.
- EBC- NERACOOS has joined Environmental Business Council of New England.
- HAB Work- Don Anderson and Ru meeting tomorrow to discuss NERACOOS HAB work.
- Dear Colleague- Ru thanked the board in their efforts to get support for the Dear Colleague letter.
- Regional IOOS Coordination Meeting- in the fall, Ru is on steering committee.
- Pre-award Spending discussion- NERACOOS has received the award but funds are currently not accessible. Regina and Dave clarified that we can authorize 30 day preaward spending for work. The board did not formally authorize this.

NOAA IOOS Program Office Update, Dave Easter-

- Certification process- IOOS is working with IWOOC to draft certification. The board should look out for Federal Register Notice. IOOS is hosting a Town hall meeting in September for input on certification. IOOS has online progress report- lists requirements and status updates of ICOOS Act tasks.
- IOOS Data Catalog- recently released, users are able to find information faster.
- Josie expressed concern for the town hall meeting- Dave will discuss other opportunities to get input from more than town hall.
- US Army Corps of Engineers meeting w/AOOS - Linda Lillicrop. Meeting to explore collaboration opportunities.
- Deepwater Horizon- Moving from response to recovery and continuing to make sure IOOS has role. Sam Walker is representing IOOS at headquarters. Coordinating subsurface monitoring effort.
- FY2011 Federal Funding Opportunity

NFRA Update, Josie Quintrell-

- IOOS is involved in the oil spill by deploying HF Radar, using regional models in trajectories, and IOOS staff participating at Incident Command Center.
- Jane Lubchencho is now mentioning IOOS instead of ocean observing. Great progress.
- Regional Document- great accomplishment for NFRA. Plan is to revise for upcoming advocacy session in Feb/March.
- Funding Update and on the hill- Josie urges continued contact with congressional delegation and members. FY2011 ask will be \$33M for regions, \$10M for national office, and \$10M for

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surface currents. President's budget was \$14.5M for regions and \$6.55M for national office. Senate appropriations hearing last month recommended \$27M for regional IOOS (includes \$3M for ACT, \$20M for regional competitive grants). We are expecting a continuing resolution due to elections in November.

- Ocean Trust Fund and ORCA, Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance fund- Redirecting 10% of OT fund to ORCA. This would allocate 70% to states, 20% to support IOOS long term monitoring, 10% to regional ocean governance such as NROC. House passed this in June. Senate bill includes different version- National Endowment for Oceans.
- There is a lot of oil spill legislation- and talks about need for data integration and observations.
- NFRA will host an advocacy meeting in DC to discuss strategy for FY2012.
- IOOS fall workshop- Interagency ocean observing committee and demonstration projects that highlight interagency issues.
- Hill visits February/March. Thank you to NERACOOS efforts for DC work.
- In process for proposal for bottom based network, hydrocarbons- Malcolm happy to share details offline.
- Jim O'Donnell asked what the value associated with observations in the spill effort were- Josie thinks it would be great to quantify and will try to get IOOS to do so.

Performance and Evaluation Update, Hauke Kite-Powell- Hauke presented a suggested approach and Plan for 2010-11. Measure of performance as economic return. Discussed the costs of analysis; Pick particular buoys and see how they contribute to NERACOOS structure; value of adding buoys to certain areas. Malcolm requested input from the board to discuss analysis of subtraction and addition of buoys. There is interest in historic and new application uses. Mel suggested looking at the other regions and into why they have not invested as much as we have to observational capacity. General consensus was to move forward with initiative by means of Ru and SPI Team.

Massachusetts Ocean Partnership, Nicholas Napoli (MOP Science Program Manager)- MOP and NERACOOS are working with other regional partners to provide access to data through Ocean Data Network and Google. The near term approach of the Northeast Regional Ocean Data Portal is funded (prototype regional data viewer). NROC/CMSP meeting in November will determine priority data sets.

Website Update and GoMOOS/GMRI Merger, Tom Shyka- GoMOOS website is being maintained as is- no updates. Discussions with John Annala, Tom, Malcolm, and Ru about direction of website- will migrate products and transition the website out of existence. GMRI wants to share GoMOOS audience to NERACOOS and GMRI. Both organizations are working through details. Analysis of GoMOOS website-created matrix of products and users. Website tracking- amount of users and level of use. Working with Ru to identify priority products of NERACOOS and understand GMRI needs. Then discuss messaging. Timeline is 4-6 months to migrate products. Subset on GMRI website of RTD will be branded as NERACOOS supplied data.

DIF Activities Update, Tom Shyka- NERACOOS hosted the NeCODP annual meeting/workshop with NERACOOS DMAC team, was complement of Regional Planning Initiative and met to identify capabilities and work that needs to be done in the region. Keynote from Josh Lieberman (GEOS) first day and second day facilitated priorities by Ted Diers (NH DES). Outlines, reports, and draft

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work plan are available on website. Eric Bridger worked with NOAA to develop Version 1 of the IOOS Data Catalog. The team is working to bring Coastal Marine Lab Field Station data into NERACOOS website.

New England-Canadian Maritime Regional Planning Initiative, David Keeley and Ron Rozsa-

The initiative covers the geography of Bay of Fundy to LIS and is 12 partners. At the well attended meetings, organization representatives discussed projects for participation in and created a list of priority projects. Draft reports are available online. The next step is to host a Partners Meeting on October 27 with 3 representatives from each of the 12 organizations: NROC, NERACOOS, Sea Grant, ROSI, GOMC, NEOSEC, NEFMC, NECODP, NEFP, CINAR, MOP, and TNC. Objectives are: 1. Discuss partner input on project priorities and develop implementation strategies. 2. Identify and discuss ways to strengthen inter-organizational collaboration. NERACOOS has prepared their priorities (Strategic Priorities 2011-2016) from draft reports at an SPI Team meeting on August 2. The goal of October 27 is to take away list of 6 or so projects and identify how the organizations can contribute. Betsy suggested identifying near term funding opportunities,

SPI Team Update, Jim O'Donnell- There are two near term goals of team: finish version 2 of strategic plan and create proposal for October 1. The Strategic Priorities list has theme areas and topics within. Proposal process- SPI Team will distribute comments from board during their weekly teleconferences. Strategy for this proposal is asking for \$4M and to expect \$1M. Ru explained the process so far. Weekly teleconferences with SPI Team, this week to finalize strategic priorities list, will then ask for one pager for projects to include, Ru is collecting currently funded PI budgets to maintain existing infrastructure and realistic scenario for 5 years. Malcolm encourages the SPI Team to explore alternate opportunities for funding. David Keeley encourages the group to look at both systems in Canada and US. ***The SPI Team will create a one page document of major elements in the proposal after SPI Team meeting on September 7. Due September 10 and share with the board [ACTION].***

Other Topics

- Notice of public hearings on environmental assessment regional initiative- comment deadline is September 15. Public hearing on September 8 is in New Bedford. Malcolm volunteered to attend and make public comment for NERACOOS support.
- NERACOOS support letter for OOI- ***Ru will work with John Trowbridge to write a letter in support of NSF OOI, signed by Malcolm [ACTION].***
- Linda recommended the board think about a product for the website like an annual summary of data for management level users. Ru has mentioned this in the past. This will be a task for the Outreach and Communications position (in process of hiring).
- ***Next meeting will be November 29.***
- Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cassie Durette on October 15, 2010.