

## NERACOOS Board of Directors May 9, 2012 Minutes

*Approved by the Board August 22, 2012*

Participants: By Phone/Webinar: Steve Lohrenz (UMassD), Marianne Molchan (MOTN), Peter Smith (BIO), Cheryl Zimmerman (Farsounder), Betsy Nicholson (NOAA), Al Hanson (URI); At UCONN: Jim O'Donnell (UCONN), Ron Rozsa, Matt Lyman (DEP); At SSC: Malcolm Spaulding (URI), Ru Morrison (NERACOOS), Tom Shyka (NERACOOS), Cassie Durette (NERACOOS), Andy Thomas (UMaine), Jon Pennock (UNH), Dave Casoni (MLA), Christine Tilburg (ESIP), Linda Mercer (ME DMR), Mel Cote (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Susan Russell Robinson (USGS)

Malcolm Spaulding, President, called the meeting to order.

The February 8, 2012 minutes were approved as presented after a motion by Linda Mercer and second by Christine Tilburg.

There are delinquent Conflict of Interest statements for 2012 so Malcolm reminded the board that we are required to have these on file each year.

Ru Morrison presented the **Nominating Committee** on behalf of Pete Jumars who could not attend. Pete will be stepping down and his alternate Andy is going on sabbatical. UMaine is in process of finding a replacement. The other member of the Nominating Committee, Jack Ringelberg, has resigned. The board needs to assemble more members for the nominating committee. Expectations for nominating committee members are to help find replacements for alternating terms of members and resigning senior members to ensure the board remains diverse. Christine Tilburg volunteered to join the Nominating Committee given someone else signs on and staff help her. The board will take on responsibility of finding members to assist Christine. Marianne Molchan has been recommended to replace Jack but is currently Cheryl's alternate. A different alternate for Cheryl will be recommended in the near future. If the board has any recommendations, please send them to the Christine. Concerning board membership, GMRI has shown interest in being represented on the board. The nominating committee will discuss this further. Staff will send out a list of vacant seats on the board as Malcolm noted there are openings for other representations.

Treasurer Linda Mercer presented the **Finance Committee** update. The RA planning grant is spent out and the office expects to close out by the end of May. We received money back from UMASSD for FY10 and now have an excess of funds- Ru is discussing how to build infrastructure with them. NERACOOS staff are continuing to work with OSRs to resolve invoicing issues. The progress report for FY10 grant has been submitted to NOAA. The FY11 award descope process was completed for year two. Cash flow balance sheet and other documents distributed earlier provide more details. In terms of operating funds, we are in good shape. The Indirect Cost Rate proposal was submitted and all taxes have been submitted as required. The board requested status of purchasing policy at the last meeting, which since then, was added to the financial policy (to remain in draft) which also includes indirect rate policy and audit findings. The policy was previously distributed to the board for comments. At the last meeting, the board requested that the Finance Committee research membership options. This is part of a bigger effort in which Ru will discuss later. The committee is looking to recruit another member and Ru will be asking Matt Lyman.

Ru presented the one pager, "**Evolving Funding for NERACOOS**". It looks at options for how to keep current system in place if federal funding is not increased. Considerations include membership as an option.

The indirect cost rate policy has been shared with IOOS and other RAs. NERACOOS staff will develop and distribute documentation from the indirect cost rate reduction to see effectiveness in raising money through the policy.

Malcolm welcomed reactions and feedback of the board. It was suggested that the board play a role in developing philosophy and approach for this and consider conflicts of interest amongst board members. Priorities should be cleared and shared. The board informally approved to move forward considering new sources of funding. A multi-pronged approach should be considered as membership model may not bring in a lot of funding but has high value added. There is also a funding stream needed for advocacy. Linda Mercer and Malcolm Spaulding volunteered to form a working group which will report at the next meeting with recommendations for moving forward.

Susan Russell Robinson recommended a grants center in Boston that can help with this. Training course is \$250 per person and tells you what resources are available, how to approach, and an analysis of organizations and guidance for what foundations and organizations that may help.

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Other RAs have discussed nonfederal funding before and our efforts could be translated to them. Jon Pennock suggested engaging Josie Quintrell for help. Ru noted that Josie is interested in this effort but doesn't have the capacity to assist locally. We should approach national foundations but not compete with other RAs. We should also have the courtesy to disclose efforts and have coordination where possible.

Gabrielle Canonico provided an **IOOS Office Update** over the phone. In terms of funding, the senate mark for IOOS is favorable- \$6.5M for national and \$31M for regional line. Language in senate committee report allows \$26M for regional partnerships and includes \$5M for sensor innovation. House mark has not been released. Marine sensor innovation program for innovative technologies is being scoped and includes sensors to measure ocean acidification, hypoxia, ecosystems and human health, and animal borne sensors. Ru will distribute details about this program to the board. NERACOOS provided input to the plan with joint NFRA input. There was concern expressed for reduced funding. Gabrielle will discuss scenarios on this and respond to the board and Ru. IOOS anticipates that funds would be competed through NOPP. Regarding certification, the final criteria that establishes eligibility has been published and the first draft of technical guidelines is complete. The process for the Independent Cost estimate is moving along. The IOOS Summit is being led by a steering committee with IOOS staff who are creating guidelines for white papers. There are four co-chairs and Ru will present more details later. Jim O'Donnell expressed concern for surface current mapping program funding.

Ru presented the **NFRA update** on behalf of Josie Quintrell who could not attend. Josie wanted to thank the northeast for their support and outreach efforts with delegation. Josie wanted to congratulate the board on the press event in November and with networking at the Maine Fishermen's Forum. Buoys are gaining more support with recognition of value with IOOS and delegation. It is important to maintain relations with delegation staff year round. Dear colleague efforts were instrumental for current funding levels. RAs should plan for summer outreach, developing informal meetings with key staff. Josie would like to set up meetings with candidates like Angus King (GMRI to help) who may be Snowe's replacement. RAs should continue thanking delegation for their support. Jim O'Donnell noted that Lieberman is stepping down and has been a key supporter of IOOS. Another opportunity for NERACOOS is the IOOS Summit ([www.ioos.us/summit/](http://www.ioos.us/summit/)). White papers can be developed by teams or individuals (due end of June). The summit will produce a report that will be timely for the next administration and will assess where we have come and look at vision for the future. The SPI Team should discuss submissions for the northeast. The board should be able to review papers before submission. Regarding the Regional Synthesis of the build out plans- 11 regions went through the build out plan process to address the independent cost estimate and the IOOC is deciding how to move forward. Draft national synthesis has been drafted and is being revised. IOOS Act reauthorization is up in 2013 and a working group has been formed to address this- will need sponsors. The SPI Team should discuss further what we should get out of the IOOS summit and how to use the forum to advance infrastructure in the northeast.

Cassie provided an **Education Update**. NERACOOS continues to be a science and technology partner for Families by the Seaside grant, is working on developing an exhibit at the Seacoast Science Center about right whales and ocean observing, and is sponsoring the Ocean Literacy Summit November 2 and would like the board to review the agenda and help out where they can.

Ru provided an update on **Operations**. Buoys have been turned around at UMaine and UCONN. EPA is providing funding for a new LIS buoy. GoM buoys all have acoustic telemetry for fish and bat sensors (Stantec). Modeling efforts continue with NECOFS and WW3. Bob Beardsley is working to augment the Scituate effort with Hampton, NH and is connected to climate adaptation work group. Paul Stacey noted there was a successful EPA climate ready estuaries workshop where one success was noted as inundation mapping over SAMP work. The Great Bay buoy computer has been repaired and will be deployed soon and Al has been working to include Narragansett Bay Fixed Site Monitoring Network online. NERACOOS has been working with the wave glider and fetch node mission as a collaboration with IOOS, Liquid Robotics, Sonardyne, UMaine, and NDBC, launched on May 3. Programmatic updates include certification criteria released, 2012 funds are in hand, NROC and NERACOOS working groups merged, exploring joint working groups with MARACOOS (ocean energy and fisheries), and Ru is co-chair for IOOS summit. Meetings attended: NFRA Board/IOOS RA meeting; Ocean Sciences 2012 (presented poster and co-chaired a session); ICES WGNARS; NROC CMSP workshop; GOMC WG meeting; COSINE; SPI Team meeting; NOAA NART meeting; Gave seminar at Bigelow; RBOP National synthesis meeting.

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Ru will make sure everyone gets copies of these presentations.

Tom provided a **Communications** Update. Strategic communications plan has been developed. The plan outlines goals, challenges and opportunities. Strategies include developing key messages, consistent look and feel for materials, toolkit, expand use of new media, and collaborate with partners to leverage activities. NERACOOS is working with P& E Team to better understand how well different audiences know and value NERACOOS. The Maine Fishermen's Forum in March was an opportunity for outreach to stakeholders including congressional delegation and staff, seminar on forecasting, and focus group with fishermen. GoMOOS.org has retired and tools and services have migrated. NERACOOS focused on communicating with stakeholders and users during the transition and provided feedback mechanism for users. Tom presented the web analytics for NERACOOS.org for days leading up to GoMOOS transfer. The quarterly newsletter continues to highlight products and work. Tom welcomes board feedback. NERACOOS has been involved in press with March warm spell and coverage with wave glider. Facebook has been successful. Analytics show coming in with wave glider story. Tom and Cassie joined a call with GOMC to discuss communications efforts and mechanisms for collaboration. It was agreed that NEOSEC may be the best mechanism. GOMC sponsored communications training in which Cassie and Tom attended. NERACOOS is also working with Seaplan on their recreational boater survey. New funding for LIS observing will provide an opportunity for news highlights. We plan to hold a focus group at ME/NH Port safety forum. URI and NERACOOS will present at Newport America's Cup. Paul Stacey asked about name recognition through radio- Tom noted this is happening but not the way we want. Data goes to NDBC and they broadcast through global telecommunications system. The name of data source does not get translated. Weather radio recognizes NERACOOS. Mel noted that one of the climate ready estuaries initiative is the King tide effort that educates people what sea level rise would mean. Mel asked if we could help raise awareness of this effort. Cassie noted that NEOSEC would be a group to share this program with. Paul is interested in web hits during warmer waters in March. Tom noted that statistics get to buoy level but not to parameter.

**NEP/NERRS Forum-** Notes separated.

Betsy Nicholson provided an **NROC** Update. Partner meeting is May 31. NROC is pleased that two committees are joining with NERACOOS and would like to see estuary partners in the room help with CH. NROC has RFP out for new website and has hired Danny Carter as NROC coordinator. NROC continues working with NERACOOS on data portal and an 18 month work plan has been developed. Many attended the regional ocean planning workshop in March, proceedings are available on website. NROC has a new contract for industry engagement work and another for habitat work. New England is only region that has been solicited for membership for regional planning body, still waiting for some nominations. Exercise is to build on current efforts. Ocean planning- hired Katie Lund (MA CZM and GOMC) who will be regional planning body secretariat, and hired Nick Napoli as ocean planning project management. Resilience committee- will be having LIDAR sea level rise workshop in July for two days- methods to using LIDAR first day, second day for application and hands on training. Invite only.

**Regional Collaboration Update.** Ru presented the NROC one pager that was sent to the board previously. GOMC recommendations are not ready for distribution. Joint regional committees are moving forward with help from NERACOOS provided support of David Keeley who to write terms of reference for CH and OCEH groups. Betsy looks forward to additional workshops for the regional planning efforts. David is in process of updating one year report- will send out once ready. Partners will then discuss how to move forward. Ru will draft a one pager for NERACOOS before NROC May and GOMC June meetings.

SPI Team Chair Al Hanson provided the **SPI Team update.** Al extended a great thanks to Jim O'Donnell for his service as Chair. SPI Meeting was held on April 3 at URI, next steps are being reviewed and implemented, first with membership and looking at recruiting members from federal agencies, NERRS/NEPs, and private industry. The team will reestablish goals during May/June. SPI team organization moving forward will include meetings twice a year (next Sept/Oct) and monthly calls to work on action items. Eric Bridger agreed to continue leading DMAC efforts and will report at the next meeting. Malcolm suggested the team look at plans for long term refurbishment policy/procedures. SPI Team priority is to coordinate existing information systems in the region. Jim and Neal will work to get together and better coordinate their efforts.

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Tom provided a **Products Team** update. Work has focused on the development of climate data products, with focus on buoy information. The team has researched examples, surveyed stakeholders, and working on a standard way to calculate climatologies in the region. The team is driving towards an end to end demonstration with water temperature data for NERACOOS supported buoys. Product team is also working on how to improve access to historical data and scoping a project for this. Christine noted that is having trouble getting to the real time data portal with the button on the home page, heard others were having problems too. Staff will look into this.

Next meeting is August 22 with webinar and conference call.

Annual meeting is December 5.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm (motion by Linda Mercer, Second by Christine Tilburg).