

**Board Participants in Attendance:** Todd Callaghan, Steve Couture, Paula Fratantoni, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Anthony Kirincich. Steve Lohrenz, Matt Lyman, Joe Salisbury, Dave Ullman, Mike Whitney, and Steve Withrow **Board Participants on Phone:** Dave Hebert, Regina Lyons, Justin Manley and Andy Pershing **Other Attendees:** Ru Morrison, Rob Cardeiro, Tom Shyka, Jackie Ball, Emily Silva, Philip Conkling, Jessica Snowden, and Josie Quintrell.

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:04 AM

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Matt Lyman motioned to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2017 Board Meeting, seconded by Anthony Kirincich. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Development Committee Update – Tiger Team**

Philip Conkling provided the update for the Development Committee. Philip has conducted interviews with selected individuals and provided the results in an interim report, which had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. There were overwhelming positive reviews for NERACOOS as a whole and its staff. There was general agreement that NERACOOS would benefit from diversifying funding sources. One way to accomplish this is through the membership program, although this is not a solution in and of itself. A discussion ensued with a few suggestions being made for funding sources outside membership and federal and state grants including: mitigation funds, private institutions and foundations, working with other Regional Associations (RA's), shipping companies and fishing associations, a fee for service, and asset naming rights. The IOOS Program Office is setting up a new initiative with a consultant, Ralph Rayner, to investigate into the validity of a pay for service business model for the RA's.

Action Item: 1) Identify board members who would work well on a Development Committee to focus on additional revenue sources, pay for fee service, and to address issues raised during Philip's interviews and this board meeting. 2) Stand up the committee, with terms of reference and a work plan, to present to the Board at the December Meeting. Steve Couture volunteered to participate in the committee.

### **IOOS Program Office Update**

Jessica Snowden provided the update for the IOOS Program Office. A new NOAA Administrator has yet to be named. The priorities for IOOS and NOS are jobs, economy, and property. A new coastal ocean modeling testbed will be announced this Fall. The Ocean Technology Transition (OTT) competition is completed, three proposals will be funded and they will be announced soon. Carl Gouldman is the new IOOS Director, his priority is to focus on the results of the 2016 Ocean Enterprise study and the economic contribution that this brings to the United States. Jessica provided a link to the results of the study.

Seven regions are currently certified and NERACOOS, NANOOS, CENCOOS, and GCOOS have submitted applications. NERACOOS is very close to being certified. Coverage and capabilities of the coastal inundation dashboard are being expanded. A national mooring strategy has been completed and published. This was a collaboration between IOOS and the National Weather Service, Ru was an author on this. Progress is being made on an ecosystem mooring plan. The IOOS Data Catalogue was revamped and released, with an improved user interface, at the end of 2016. The Program Office continues to expand

IOOS capabilities for encompassing biological variables. The Marine Mammal Health Map is in a beta version, the Animal Telemetry Network continues to progress, workshops are being scheduled, and the Marine Biological Observation Network is growing internationally. Canada is standing up a Canadian IOOS, which will look similar to the US IOOS structure with regional observing associations. The Program Office has also been working on a new Strategic Plan this year. A document has been drafted and sent out to RA's and the IOOS Association for review and comment. The goal is to have a completed document by the end of this year.

### **IOOS Association Update**

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association. Josie encouraged continued congressional outreach. Closing the Gaps campaign efforts continue. The FY17 campaign was successful in Congress, but FY16 numbers were enacted through a continuing resolution. The FY18 campaign includes High Frequency Radar (HRF) and gliders, based on particular congressional interest. Congress is coming back into session in September. The Senate reintroduced the ICOOS Reauthorization Act, and efforts are moving forward within the House.

The IOOS Association has been working on Op-Ed pieces, which will be written by a stakeholder in each region by April 2018 to build awareness of IOOS, and each RA. The IOOS Association has also been working with Philip Conkling Associates to assess non-federal options to diversify funding sources for sustained observations. The Fall IOOS meeting is in September, the major topics of discussion will be gliders, radar, and moorings, as well as modeling and prediction. Many member terms on the U.S. IOOS Federal Advisory Committee will be ending soon, deadline for applicants is September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Executive Committee**

An amendment to the NERACOOS By-Laws was introduced at the May 22, 2017 Board Meeting to incorporate a revised Conflict of Interest Policy. Steve Withrow motioned to approve the amendment to the NERACOOS By-Laws, seconded by Matt Lyman. The amendment was unanimously approved.

### **NERACOOS Operations Update**

Ru Morrison provided the update for NERACOOS Operations. NERACOOS has resubmitted the certification application after reviewing and answering a request for information. NERACOOS is in the process of closing out the FY11 Award for the University of Maine, University of Connecticut and University of New Hampshire. NERACOOS is putting together necessary de-scope documents for FY17 funds. NERACOOS received \$3.1M for year two of the main IOOS award, which includes five years of funding for the new Cape Cod Bay wave buoy, and \$30k for product development from the IOOS OTT program. NERACOOS will be focusing on developing a new product for marine navigation. Also part of the main award were funds to support the development of a new information exchange website as part of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program. NERACOOS will be hiring a coordinator to assist in developing this website as well as helping out with NECAN, the job announcement will be made shortly. Funds were also received to support Total Water Level forecasting, which includes coupling the UNH freshwater input models to the Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System (NECOFS).

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant is in the processes of being closed out. Regional Resiliency is in its second year, track one efforts are behind schedule, but the project remains on track to be completed in 2018. Nutrient Observatory received a one year no-cost extension. Efforts for the Imaging FlowCytoBot OTT project continue, the group is currently working on an automated Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) text delivery system. NERACOOS is working with NOAA NCCOS to host a HAB stakeholder workshop. SPI working group efforts have continued, though the SPI Team has not convened in several months. NECAN work is progressing and the new NERACOOS staff position will be assisting in continuing NECAN coordination efforts. ISMN has a meeting planned for this fall after the annual RARGOM meeting. NERACOOS board members and staff hosted a successful stakeholder engagement event yesterday in Cape Cod Bay to visit the new Cape Cod Bay wave buoy, which was attended by the Steamship Authority, US Coast Guard, US Geological Survey, Northeast Harbor Pilots, Woods Hole Group, MA Department of Environmental Protection and the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies. On August 24, NERACOOS staff will be heading up to Bar Harbor, for a Congressional outreach/press event with Representative Bruce Poliquin to visit Buoy I. The following day, NERACOOS staff will visit the University of Maine buoy barn to meet with Neal Pettigrew. NERACOOS has also met with the staff from SeaTrac Systems, Inc. to discuss collaboration. SeaTrac has developed a solar powered autonomous vessel and has agreed to donate use of this vessel for research opportunities. NERACOOS will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide researchers the opportunity to compete for this donated vessel time. The NERACOOS Board of Directors recommend that NERACOOS close the RFP by November and announce the winner at the December Annual Meeting.

### **Finance Committee**

Matt Lyman provided the update for the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee had a call on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the FY17 budget was reviewed. Rob Cardeiro reviewed the FY18 budget for the Board. Steve Couture motioned to approve the FY18 budget, seconded by Steve Withrow. The FY18 budget was unanimously approved.

### **Nominating Committee**

Anthony Kirincich provided the update for the Nominating Committee. Dave Ullman is eligible for the start of his first term as a Director in December. He is currently finishing out the final term for Al Hanson. Matt Lyman's term will be up in December; however, he still has one year left to serve as Treasurer. Joe Salisbury is eligible for another term as a Director. All have accepted to continue on the Board. A vote will take place at the December Board Meeting.

Steve Lohrenz adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM