

Board Participants in Attendance: James Brinkley, Todd Callaghan, Steve Couture, Pam DiBona, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Dave Hebert, Steve Lohrenz, Matt Lyman, Regina Lyons, Justin Manley, Andy Pershing, Tom Taylor, Dave Ullman, and Steve Withrow

Other Attendees: Kelly Canesi, Rob Cardeiro, Dave Easter, Ru Morrison, Jackie Motyka, Josie Quintrell, Tom Shyka, and Emily Silva

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:32 AM

Approval of the Minutes

Steve Lohrenz and Pam DiBona suggested minor spelling edits for the December 6, 2017 Board Minutes. James Brinkley motioned to approve the minutes with those edits, seconded by Steve Couture. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

NERACOOS Operation Update

Ru Morrison provided the update for NERACOOS, which was based on the NERACOOS strategic goals and progress therein.

Understand and Meet Key Stakeholder Needs

NERACOOS, working with NOAA Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) and Woods Hole Group (WHG) is hoping to expand the Cape Cod PORT System, with the addition of an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy dock to improve current observations and forecasts.

NERACOOS is working with University of Connecticut (UCONN), University of New Hampshire (UNH) and University of Maine (UMaine) on a proposal to repair and replace the buoy system. Steve Couture may know of a potential funding opportunity from the state of New Hampshire for the buoys and will reach out to Joe Salisbury and Ru to discuss this in more detail.

The Strategic Planning and Instrumentation (SPI) team will be re-engaging, holding calls every other month. The next call is Tuesday, February 27th. The SPI Team will also be considering a glider plan for the Northeast. Steve Lohrenz suggested that NERACOOS and MARACOOS consider collaborating, as MARACOOS already works with gliders. Dave Hebert would like to be a part of this discussion as well.

Jackie has been reviewing some website metrics for NERACOOS information. There were over two million unique page views for NERACOOS and NDBC in 2017. NERACOOS buoys were visited most frequently in July on the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) website and November for the NERACOOS website, indicating possibly that there are two distinct user groups.

There was a soft launch for the viewer of the coastal flooding toolkit. NERACOOS is in the process of improving the access and usability of NERACOOS information with the development of a Mariner's Dashboard.

Tom Shyka has been attending meetings and forums on behalf of NERACOOS including Port Safety Forum meetings in Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association weekend, and will be attending the Maine Fishermen's Forum next week with Emily Silva. Tom will also be presenting at and attending the Long Island Sound Science Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to speak about the Nutrient Observatory project to gauge the necessity of another workshop.

NERACOOS Board of Directors: February 22, 2018 Minutes

Teleconference

Approved on May 30, 2018

There will be Ocean and Coastal Acidification (OCA) citizen science workshops coming up the spring. Prassede Vella of Massachusetts Bays Program and Michael Brosnahan of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) will be moving forward with their project proposals for the SeaTrac competition. NERACOOS is hosting a Drone workshop in June in collaboration with the Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT), a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) workshop at the end of March, co-hosted with NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), and a joint Northeastern Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) workshop was held on December 1, 2017 on the observational needs for monitoring OCA and nutrients.

Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (OAIE)

Kelly Canesi provided the update for the OAIE. The OAIE was officially launched at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Portland, OR on February 12th. The collaborative website will be used as a platform for people across many disciplines to share information on ocean acidification, foster engagement and create a sense of community. As of this meeting there were about 160 users. The OAIE team contacted users already active within the OCA community to do outreach to a broader network in the coming weeks. Users can post stories and updates, upload documents, papers, and links to other resources, and create calendar events among other things. Kelly will be providing a more in-depth presentation on the OAIE during the next SPI call which is scheduled for February 27th.

Build a Stronger NERACOOS Brand

The NERACOOS Annual Report is in progress and will be completed for the IOOS Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. and will be mailed out to the NERACOOS mailing list shortly after. Ru and Jackie are meeting with staff from the offices of seven Representatives and six Senators when in DC. The MOU for certification will be signed at the IOOS Spring Meeting by Carl Gouldman and Ru, making the certification official for NERACOOS. The Op-Ed campaign initiated by Josie is moving forward and Dave Gelinis of Penobscot Bay and River Pilots is providing the first for our region. Kelly Canesi has been working on a social media campaign for NERACOOS as well as rejuvenating the newsletter. Ru traveled to Canada to visit with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Dalhousie University to talk about the Canadian IOOS initiative.

Cultivate Ocean Stewards

Jackie and Emily are working on putting together a NERACOOS Educator Award which will be given to an educator effectively using NERACOOS data in their lesson plan. NERACOOS is one of the sponsors for the New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC) Summit taking place in November. Jackie is also working on formalizing the NERACOOS Internship Program.

IOOS Association

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association. Josie attended a meeting in January to meet with new leadership in NOAA, Kevin Wheeler is the new Deputy Chief of Staff and RDML Tim Gallaudet is the new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Zdenka Willis has been hired as a consultant for the IOOS Association to assess the value of IOOS. The 2018 Fiscal Year (FY) is more than half over and still operating on a continuing resolution. Congress has extended the deadline to March 23rd. The President's budget for FY19 was just released, showing a \$11M cut for IOOS, although report language shows a need for forecasts and weather observations. The NOAA budget was also decreased by 21% and several programs were zeroed out. Josie is going to Washington, DC in March for the IOOS Spring Meeting, Russell Calendar, the Assistant

NERACOOS Board of Directors: February 22, 2018 Minutes

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Administrator for NOAA's Nation Ocean Service (NOS), will also be attending. During this time, it is also critical to reach out to the House and Senate to show support for NERACOOS and IOOS. The IOOS Reauthorization Act passed in the Senate in December. A Dear Colleague letter has been released in the House. The IOOS Association is working with Senator Whitehouse's staff on the Blue Economy to highlight the critical work the RAs do.

IOOS Program Office

Dave Easter provided the update for the IOOS Program Office. RDML Tim Gallaudet has been very engaged and has had a lot of contact with Carl and will be attending the IOOS Spring Meeting. Dave has had an opportunity to speak with Jessica Snowden who has been working with DFO supporting their efforts in establishing a Canadian IOOS (CIOOS). They are working to manage expectations on what can be delivered with the available budget and there is a meeting in March to discuss funding requirements. DFO and partners plan to establish a proof of concept regional association focusing on basic governance and data management infrastructure. The number of regions within the CIOOS is still being decided and funding should begin in mid-2018. In early February the IOOS Strategic Plan was released with a revised vision, mission statement, and guiding protocols. The Strategic Plan outlines five key goals and objectives. There are a few initiatives in which IOOS is currently engaged including a beneficial partnership with the National Weather Service (NWS) for the NOAA Water Initiative. Another partnership with NWS is working on integrating IOOS data into regional weather forecasts, however this is still in the discussion stages regarding how IOOS can contribute but building connections with NWS is critical.

Executive Committee

Steve Lohrenz provided the update for the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has requested updates from the Executive Director between scheduled board meetings. Ru and the NERACOOS office will provide email updates to the board once per month.

Finance Committee

Matt Lyman provided the update for the Finance Committee. There was a call prior to this meeting and to review the Year to Date financial statements. Rob has updated the statement through January 2018 and he will be invoicing federal awards at the end of March. The non-federal line on the budget for Membership will not hit \$50k, but will most likely be \$25-30k. On the balance sheet there is a significant difference between assets and liabilities, but this is normal as bills come in from awardees, but are not drawn down immediately. The Regional Resilience and Nutrient Observatory projects are on track to be closed out on time by the end of April. The main FY18 IOOS award is moving forward, although without final numbers yet.

The audit finding was received and the finance committee reviewed the findings or deficiencies and the response from the NERACOOS office. NERACOOS is no longer a low-risk organization after a filing deadline was missed. The finance committee decided it would be beneficial to receive regular updates on NERACOOS activity and progress from Ru between board meetings and will be tracking the items listed in the audit findings as 'deficiencies' to prevent any oversight in the future. Rob has also requested a more effective email notification so no deadlines are missed.

Nominating Committee

Jackie Motyka provided the update for the Nominating Committee. Emily Silva previously distributed the Slate of Nominations for 2018. There are 13 terms ending in December. The nine directors whose terms are ending are all eligible for another term. The Nominating Committee will reach out to them to see if they are

NERACOOS Board of Directors: February 22, 2018 Minutes

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interested in continuing on the board. All officer terms are ending in December as well. The Nominating Committee will meet to discuss how to proceed.

Development Committee

Andy Pershing provided the update for the development committee. The committee had a meeting a few weeks ago with Ru, Rob, and Philip Conkling. There was a discussion on the responsibilities of this committee moving forward in 2018 and how it will work with the finance committee and NERACOOS staff. The Terms of Reference were reviewed, some minor changes were suggested, and assessed the financial needs of the organization and how those could be prioritized and strategized. A critical need identified on the call was the development of a strategy to support individual buoys. Buoy A in Massachusetts Bay in particular was discussed, moving forward the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) will be unable to maintain their current level of funding for this buoy. There will be more calls scheduled for the development committee before the next board meeting to discuss the role of the committee and keep things moving forward.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 30, 2018 from 9:30 – 11:30 am.

Steve Lohrenz adjourned the meeting at 10:54 AM