

Board Participants in Attendance: James Brinkley, Steve Couture, Pam DiBona, Jason Goldstein, Dave Hebert, Anthony Kirincich, Steve Lohrenz, Matt Lyman, Regina Lyons, Andy Pershing, Dave Townsend, and Dave Ullman

Other Attendees: Rob Cardeiro, Ru Morrison, Jackie Motyka, Josie Quintrell, Tom Shyka, Emily Silva, and Jessica Snowden

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:33 AM

Approval of the Minutes

There were no proposed edits for the February 22, 2018 Board Minutes. James Brinkley motioned to approve the minutes, 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.

Understand and Meet Key Stakeholder Needs

NERACOOS, in collaboration with Maine Sea Grant, hosted a series of webinars and workshops in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts for citizen science monitoring groups. The intention of the project, funded by NOAA Ocean Acidification Program (OAP), was to meet with these groups and discuss best practices for monitoring ocean and coastal acidification (OCA), foster collaboration between groups, and find out how NERACOOS could assist with data sharing. NERACOOS also co-hosted a workshop with NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) on harmful algal blooms as part of the Ocean Technology Transition (OTT) Imaging FloCytoBot (IFCB) led by Heidi Sosik of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Tom Shyka and Emily Silva attended the Maine Fishermen's Forum, a beneficial stakeholder event in which NERACOOS connects with fishermen, lobstermen, managers, and congressional staffers on the importance of NERACOOS buoys. In April, the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Sea Grant programs and NOAA OAP hosted a workshop in Connecticut on the planning and development of a conceptual model for OCA. Upcoming events include a Nutrient Observatory Technical Workshop in June for the primary investigators of the project to discuss data collection, along with the successes and challenges of operating sensors on buoys; and an Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) drone workshop in September at Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. There were two winners of the SeaTrac competition. Mike Brosnahan has successfully deployed an IFCB off the SeaTrac vessel around Harpswell, Maine. In the coming weeks, the SeaTrac vessel will be deployed in Massachusetts Bay to monitor eelgrass in collaboration with Prassede Vella of the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program. NERACOOS is also planning on hosting a data boot camp which will focus on integrating data into ERDDAP.

NERACOOS, with Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Woods Hole Group (WHG), and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) will be expanding the Cape Cod Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) to include an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) on the Mass Maritime Academy pier. NERACOOS is continuing work on the Mariner's Dashboard which will improve user access to information and will share the product with the board upon completion, as well as the Coastal Flooding Toolkit. NERACOOS is also working on a Glider Plan for the Northeast.

The Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (OAIE) is up and running successfully with many new members. Kelly Canesi, the coordinator for the site has moved on to Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) and NERACOOS has contracted with Julianna Mullen of WaterMullen Consulting to take over site management,

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and Emily Silva has taken on the role of NECAN Coordinator. Pam DiBona pointed out that the OAIE only says ‘ocean acidification’ rather than ‘ocean and coastal acidification’ and requests that ‘coastal’ be added in the appropriate places. Jackie will follow up with this.

Build a Stronger NERACOOS Brand

The NERACOOS 2017 Annual Impact Report was sent out in April and is also available on the NERACOOS website. Certification of NERACOOS is now official, paperwork was signed at the IOOS Spring Meeting by Ru Morrison and Carl Gouldman. Josie Quintrell is working with Dave Gelinis of Penobscot Bay and River Pilots on an Op-Ed piece for the Northeast. NERACOOS is continuing to work on other pieces, such as partner recognition, data citation, and social media outreach, as well as NERACOOS and NECAN newsletters.

Diversify and Expand Funding and Support

Ru and Jackie met with Congressional staff while in Washington, D.C. for the IOOS Spring Meeting in March. NERACOOS and its partners are working on a buoy re-design in an effort to replace aging infrastructure. NERACOOS’ Coastal Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) proposal was fully funded. NERACOOS submitted a proposal for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative opportunity with Jim Manning to monitor bottom water temperature, expanding efforts of the OTT project. NERACOOS will also receive \$15k for NECAN operations over the next three years, with an additional \$5k in the first year for a NECAN Industry working group workshop, as part of the Coastal Acidification Capacity funding from NOAA OAP. The NERACOOS office is expecting information on final FY18 budget numbers from the IOOS Program Office soon. There will be additional funds for glider operations and High-Frequency Radar (HFR) due to the successes of the Closing the Gaps Campaign. NERACOOS will share a descoped budget with the board once final numbers are received. As previously mentioned, NERACOOS is also expecting funds to expand the Cape Cod Canal PORT System. NERACOOS’ proposal in response to the Ocean Acidification Thresholds opportunity was reviewed and funded at 50%, \$166k per year for three years. Additionally, the Northeast Regional Planning Body (RPB) has committed \$30k in support of the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN).

Cultivate Ocean Stewards

Jackie and Emily are in the process of developing a NERACOOS Educator Award to be announced at the Annual Meeting in December. Andy Pershing suggested they speak with Meredyth Sullivan at GMRI about their award program. Jackie and Emily will also be attending the New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC) summit in November. Jackie has been working on a collaboration with the Global STEM Education Center and will continue to identify future opportunities to work with them and promote ocean education. NERACOOS has a meeting planned next month to review strategic goals and progress and another staff retreat in September.

Grant Management

The Regional Resilience award is in the process of being closed out and the Nutrient Observatory award will be closing out in August. Dave Townsend pointed out that the NECOFS hindcast data is unavailable and the model is not working currently. Tom will follow up with Changsheng Chen.

IOOS Association

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association. The IOOS Association continues its efforts on the Closing the Gaps campaign which led to an increase in funding for the Regional Associations in the FY18 budget. Each region will receive funds to go towards expanding their HFR and Glider operations. The Closing

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the Gaps funding request will be continued into FY19 and the Senate budget for FY19 should be available in June. In the FY18 congressional report, there was some interest in comparing the costs of repairing or replacing equipment in the event of storm damage. Zdenka Willis has been hired by the IOOS Association to assist in working with each of the regions to pull together a cost analysis, which should be available in July. The ICOOS Reauthorization Act was passed in the Senate in December. The Dear Colleague letter has been circulating within the House and Josie will let the board know the result of this effort. As of this summer, the IOOS Program Office expects all eleven RA's to be certified. The IOOS Association is working on the development of a messaging and engagement strategy which will include talking points and engagement with federal agencies. Upcoming meetings and events include the June IOOS Association executive committee meeting in June, the Senate Ocean Caucus Briefing on the Blue Economy in July, and the fall IOOS Association Annual Meeting in September.

IOOS Program Office

Jessica Snowden provided the update for the IOOS Program Office. The IOOS Advisory Committee works closely with other federal advisory committees and meets twice per year, the next meeting is in August in Juneau, AK. The IOOS Program Office is working on strengthening the relationships between the regions and NOAA as well as fostering engagement. Canadian IOOS efforts are ongoing, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR) have been working towards this goal. There will be a town hall meeting in June to discuss creating cross-sector awareness and reaching a broader audience. OceanObs, a decadal conference, is coming up in 2019 and will be held in Hawaii. IOOS submitted an abstract on the history and development of the organization, Ru is one of the authors.

Executive Committee

Steve Lohrenz reported that there was no update for the executive committee at this time.

Development Committee

Andy Pershing provided the update for the development committee. Andy will have to step down as chair of the development committee due to other commitments but will remain involved in the committee. A teleconference will be scheduled for the development committee to discuss strategy moving forward.

Finance Committee

Steve Couture provided the update for the finance committee. The finance committee met prior to this meeting and went over details of the NERACOOS budget, a copy of which was shared with the board. There is nothing new to report at this time. The committee has followed up on the previous audit finding and a request for proposals from other audit firms has been released for comparison to the current firm being used.

Nominating Committee

Steve Lohrenz provided the update for the nominating committee. All board officer terms are ending in December; the board will need to discuss how best to move forward. Steve Lohrenz, Steve Couture, and Anthony Kirincich each have one more year to serve as a director on the board, Matt Lyman is ineligible for another board term. Steve Couture recommends two board members whose terms are not ending, work with Steve Withrow to discuss options for the officer terms so there is no conflict of interest. Emily will send an email as a reminder of this. Steve Lohrenz will reach out to all of the directors whose terms are ending and ask if they would like to continue with another term as they are all eligible.

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Next Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, 2018. Location TBD.

Steve Lohrenz adjourned the meeting at 10:56 AM