

NERACOOS Board of Directors: August 22, 2018 Minutes

New Bedford, MA

Approved on December 5, 2018

Board Participants in Attendance: Todd Callaghan, Janet Freedman, Anthony Kirincich, Matt Liebman, Steve Lohrenz, Matt Lyman, Dave Townsend, Dave Ullman and Mike Whitney **Calling in:** Andy Pershing, Steve Withrow, and Dave Hebert

Other Attendees: Katie Liming, Ru Morrison, Jackie Motyka, Tom Shyka, and Emily Silva

Calling in: Dave Easter, Hillary Goodwin, and Rob Cardeiro.

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:09 AM

Approval of the Minutes

There were no proposed edits for the May 30, 2018 Board Minutes. Todd Callaghan motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Anthony Kirincich. The May 30, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

IOOS Association

Katie Liming provided the update for the IOOS Association. Efforts for the Closing the Gaps campaign continue, focusing on increased funding for High Frequency Radar and Gliders. There was a \$4.3M increase in funding this past fiscal year. The IOOS Association is now working on FY20 strategy and requests. On August 15th, the IOOS Association held an Executive Committee meeting in Chicago to discuss the FY20 budget request and the Closing the Gaps Campaign. Building congressional remains a priority, this summer there was a Senate briefing on how IOOS supports the Blue Economy. RDML Tim Gallaudet moderated the panel for this briefing, Zack Klyver of Bar Harbor Whale Watch was one of the presenters. All eleven Regional Associations (RAs) are now certified; the IOOS Association is working on a messaging campaign about this. An official announcement will be made in Juneau, Alaska at the IOOS Advisory Committee meeting. An RA User Survey has been circulated by each region and answers will be compiled and evaluated to assist in determining the economic value of IOOS.

IOOS Program Office

Dave Easter provided the update for the IOOS Program Office. Dave also attended the IOOS Association Executive Committee meeting in Chicago. RDML Tim Gallaudet remains Acting Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), there is no update on a permanent candidate. Russell Callendar has left the National Ocean Service and Nicole Le Boeuf has stepped in as the acting Assistant Administrator. The blue economy remains a priority for NOAA. They did an ocean enterprise study two years ago to identify companies involved in ocean observing, products, and equipment development. An estimate of \$7B of the economy is from the ocean, this is going to be reviewed and revised to see how things have changed in the last two years and will be working with an economist to create an economist position within NOAA. The IOOS Advisory Committee will meet in Juneau, AK in the last week of September. This is the last meeting for the current, outgoing committee members, there are nine new members, including Ru, starting this fall. This meeting will focus on the best way for the committee to prioritize particular issues for the regions and provide recommendations for improvement. The official announcement regarding the certification of all eleven regions will be made this week, along with a press release and social media campaign.

Executive Committee

Steve Lohrenz provided the update for the executive committee. There is no new update from the executive committee at this time, however, during the last board meeting on May 30, 2018 an issue was brought up

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regarding incorrect hindcast data available on Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecasting System (NECOFS). Changsheng Chen, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, has located the issue and is working on a solution.

Finance Committee

Rob Cardeiro and Matt Lyman provided the update for the finance committee. There has not been a finance committee call since the last board meeting. The budget is close to being finalized but was not ready for this meeting. Within the budget worksheet it appears as though there is a deficit in indirect, but the overall budget will show a surplus. Three proposals were received from various accounting firms following a Request for Proposals sent out by NERACOOS. The finance committee will have a call to review those proposals to work with a new accounting firm and to go over the finalized budget before sending out a report to the full board. Rob has submitted IRS Form 990, as well as submitted the Annual Report for the state of New Hampshire for NERACOOS.

Development Committee

Steve Lohrenz, Todd Callaghan, and Ru Morrison provided the update for the development committee. The committee has not had the chance to meet on a regular basis. It is thought that the directive for the committee needs to be made clearer before regrouping and moving forward. State and federal managers could be beneficial to the committee in making the right connections when certain projects are happening.

Nominating Committee

Steve Withrow and Steve Lohrenz provided the update for the nominating committee. Steve Lohrenz has contacted all of the board directors whose terms are up for renewal in December 2018 and is still waiting on one answer. All four officer terms are ending in December as well. Matt Lyman is ineligible for another term as a director or officer at this time and a new treasurer will need to be nominated. Steve Lohrenz, Steve Couture, and Anthony Kirincich each have one more year to serve as a director before their terms end. Matt Lyman will offer a suggestion from within the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to serve on the board when he leaves. Matt Liebman volunteered to work with Steve Withrow to make a recommendation on how to move forward with the board officer terms.

NERACOOS Operation Update

Ru Morrison provided the update for NERACOOS following the strategic goals of the organization. A Staff Retreat is planned for the second week of September.

Understand and Meet Key Stakeholder Needs

A Nutrient Observatory project meeting was held in June to hear from PIs regarding the progress of the project and opportunities for sustainability. The SeaTrac competition missions have been completed. Mike Brosnahan focused on Harmful Algal Blooms around Harpswell, Maine and Prassede Vella deployed the vessel in Cape Cod Bay to continue research on eel grass. A drone workshop, funded by the Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) is scheduled for late September to discuss how drones are and could be used for ocean observation. In support of the Cape Cod Canal PORTS system NERACOOS has submitted a proposal to put in an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) sensor at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy pier. The Mariner's Dashboard and Coastal Flooding Toolkit are moving forward and should be ready for release at the Annual Meeting in December. The Ocean Acidification Information Exchange is doing well and gaining popularity within the ocean acidification community. NERACOOS has been working with Julianna Mullen to manage the website. NERACOOS is currently planning a data boot camp for putting biological data into ERDDAP

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with funds received from the IOOS Program Office. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 6th in Portsmouth, NH.

Build a Stronger Brand

There is a coordinated effort to release a messaging campaign regarding the certification of all eleven regions. The NERACOOS and NECAN newsletters are continuing. The Op-Ed piece coordinated by the IOOS Association is currently on hold due to some issues with the contractor but will continue. A review of the recent survey on the NERACOOS website was provided by Tom Shyka. This survey was developed in partnership with the IOOS Association. Five common questions were provided to each RA to include in their survey, in addition to any other questions they wished to add. There were thirteen questions included in the NERACOOS survey, which ran for three weeks in June. There were 205 completed responses, with a wide variety of users from recreation to research. Tom provided an overview of those responses. The board suggested there be a way for those who responded to be updated on any progress NERACOOS makes on any user recommendations.

Diversify and Expand Funding and Support

Recently there was a Senate Ocean Caucus briefing in Washington, D.C. on the Blue Economy. Zack Klyver from Bar Harbor Whale Watch spoke on the importance of ocean data to his business. NERACOOS has received \$300k of funding over five years for COMT to work with NECOFS and the NOAA National Water Model for data input and stakeholder engagement. Funding from the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) will be used to restart the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN). A NECAN capacity grant was received to continue NECAN work and focus on Industry needs. NERACOOS will receive \$425k more in funding this year, \$50k will be for High Frequency Radar (HFR) projects and the remaining funds will go towards buoy infrastructure and sustainability.

Cultivate Ocean Stewards

The NEOSOC Ocean Literacy Summit is scheduled for this November, NERACOOS is one of the sponsors of this event and Jackie and Emily will be attending. Jackie is continuing her work with the Global STEM Education Center.

Regional Planning Body

Ted Diers provided an update for the Regional Planning Body (RPB). Following the start of the new administration the focus of the national ocean policy is on communication and coordination and the RPBs were eliminated in an effort to streamline coordination. NROC will now be taking the place of the local RPB. The other focus of the national ocean policy is on ocean data, NROC will be creating a regional ocean coordination committee.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in Portsmouth, NH. Steve Lohrenz adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.