

NERACOOS Board of Directors: December 5, 2018 Minutes
Portsmouth, NH

Board Participants in Attendance: Todd Callaghan, Steve Couture, Pam DiBona, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Jon Grant, Anthony Kirincich, Steve Lohrenz, Matt Lyman, Andy Pershing, Neal Pettigrew, Tom Taylor, Philip Trowbridge, John Trowbridge, Dave Ullman, Mike Whitney, Steve Withrow

Board Participants on the Phone: Dave Hebert

Other Attendees: Sabra Comet, Hilary Goodwin, Carl Gouldman, Ru Morrison, Jackie Motyka, Julianna Mullen, Josie Quintrell, Tom Shyka, Emily Silva

Calling in: Rob Cardeiro

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 11:05 AM.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no proposed edits for the August 22, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes. Todd Callaghan motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Matt Lyman. The August 22, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

NERACOOS Operational Update

Ru Morrison provided the update for NERACOOS.

Understand and Meet Key Stakeholder Needs

NERACOOS and ACT hosted a drone workshop in September in Wells, Maine which was well attended and successful. A webinar series summarizing the Integrated Nutrient Observatory project is being scheduled for January 2019. The Cape Canal PORT System will be expanded to include an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy pier and possibly another wave buoy in Buzzards Bay. The Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN), a collaboration between NERACOOS and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), has received funding from the Moore Foundation and released a call for participation in a new Oversight Committee. NECAN has hosted a series of webinars and workshops in the spring of 2018 for citizen science water quality monitoring, a series of industry webinars over the last six months, and an in-person steering committee meeting in September, at which the implementation plan was revisited and revised. State policy is referring to NECAN for the most relevant information on ocean and coastal acidification. NERACOOS staff continues to attend stakeholder meetings.

NERACOOS is participating in the planning for the Gulf of Maine 2050 conference which will be held in Portland, Maine in November 2019. This is a follow up to the symposium that was held in St. Andrews in 2009, recognizing rapid changes in the Gulf of Maine, assessing new information, and looking towards the year 2050. There will be a planning workshop in St. Andrews in April 2019. This conference will bring together the scientific community as well as industry, government, and management to start conversations and collaborations on the changes occurring in the Gulf of Maine. NERACOOS is one of the sponsors of this conference.

Ocean Acidification Information Exchange

The update for the OA Info Exchange was given by Julianna Mullen. Julianna has been the site manager for the OA Info Exchange since April 2018. There are now 722 members of the site, which was launched in February 2018. In an effort to increase engagement, Julianna created a survey for members of the

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website, she has also been interviewing individual members and using those interviews to post 'Member Spotlights' for others to read and to encourage engagement on the site. Julianna will analyze the results of the survey and make them available for anyone interested. Julianna and the steering committee for the OA Info Exchange are working on an action plan for the next 18 months.

Building a Stronger Brand

NERACOOS had another staff retreat in September in Kennebunkport, Maine. Annual goals and tasks for the office and each staff member were reviewed. There was an IOOS Fall Meeting held in Maryland in September. Directors from each regional association attended and discussed messaging and activities, ways in which the RA's could work together and create products and services to meet stakeholder needs. NERACOOS is collaborating on several white papers for the OceanObs'19 conference. Tom Shyka regular attends Port Safety Forums and attended the Blue Innovation Symposium. Communication continues through NERACOOS and NECAN newsletters and NERACOOS is working on increasing its social media presence.

Diversify and Expand Funding and Support

NERACOOS successfully kicked off two new awards, one funded by NOAA IOOS Coastal Ocean Modeling Testbed and the other by NOAA Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) and NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). Efforts continue on the coastal flooding tool kit, there will be a demonstration of this and the Mariner's Dashboard at the Annual Meeting. NERACOOS is currently working on a Marine Biodiversity Observing Network (MBON) proposal and Letters of Intent (LOI), in response to NOAA OA Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), NOAA OAP OA Data Synthesis projects, and NOAA NCCOS Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB).

Closing the Gaps

NERACOOS continues to work closely with the IOOS Association on the Closing the Gaps campaign. Due to this effort, NERACOOS has received funding to support glider operations at the University of Maine and at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, as well as help sustain the nutrient observatory.

Cultivate Ocean Stewards

Emily and Jackie attended the Northeast Ocean Science Education Conference (NEOSEC) Summit in November at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Finance Committee

Matt Lyman provided the update for the Finance Committee. There has not been a call recently. The Federal Audit Clearing House Form SF-SAV will be submitted by NERACOOS once completed. A new accounting firm was chosen and is performing the audit this year. The FY19 budget is not available just yet though Rob has been working on it and will share it with the full board. NERACOOS surpassed the FY18 goal set for non-federal funding due to Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) funding in support of ISMN.

Executive Committee

Steve Lohrenz provided the update for the Executive Committee. Currently the only update is regarding the new accounting firm, covered above.

Nominating Committee

Steve Withrow provided the update for the Nominating Committee. Steve Lohrenz, Michael Whitney, Steve Couture, Janet Freedman, Dave Townsend, John Trowbridge, Todd Callaghan, Carl Wilson, Philip Trowbridge, Tom Taylor, and Andy Pershing are on the nomination slate previously distributed to the board. However, in the PowerPoint presentation for this meeting, the nomination slate showed nominated Board Officers and Board Directors separately. As officers can only be elected from current directors Tom Taylor motioned to add the names of officers being nominated to the director's slide for approval first before being approved as officers per the by-laws, seconded by Steve Withrow, and was unanimously approved by the board. Pam DiBona motioned to approve the updated slate of nominations for directors, seconded by Steve Withrow, and the motion was approved. Todd Callaghan motioned to approve the slate of nominations for officers, Steve Lohrenz, Steve Couture, Janet Freedman, and Michael Whitney, seconded by Philip Trowbridge, the board approved the slate of nominations Anthony Kirincich, Matt Lyman, Jack Conway, and Sooky Sawyer are all stepping down from the board at this time. Steve Lohrenz and Ru Morrison thanked them for their service and welcomed John Trowbridge and Philip Trowbridge to the board. Steve Withrow volunteered to be the new chair of the nominating committee.

Update from Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program

Pamela DiBona provided an update from Mass Bays National Estuary Partnership (NEP). Mass Bays NEP has received funding for a new project from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protections and Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of this project is to incorporate citizen science water quality monitoring data into the EPA water quality exchange platform. There are many data sources covering all water quality parameters and marine biodiversity in Massachusetts and it has become difficult to access and analyze This effort will bring that data together in one place and will provide templates for submitting and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) when complete.

Eastern Canadian Observation Initiatives

Jon Grant provided an update for Eastern Canadian observing initiatives. Ru Morrison and Carl Gouldman made a visit to Halifax in February 2018 to learn more on the development of a Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS). There are currently two large initiatives making progress in eastern Canada. One is the Ocean Frontier Institute centered at Dalhousie University and partnered with other universities and groups in France, Germany, and Norway as well. It focuses on ocean research, carbon cycles, marine safety, defense, aquaculture, etc. Jon has been working on technology which is being applied to fish farming that has potential for benefitting ocean observing networks. The other Canadian initiative is regarding funding that the Atlantic Canada Fish Farmer's Association (ACFFA) has received from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund. The ACFFA has received funding for new moorings in the Bay of Fundy. There's an opportunity to integrate data from these moorings, as well as other assets in the region, into the NERACOOS data management framework. The executive director of ACFFA, Sue Farquharson, will be presenting at the NERACOOS Annual Meeting tomorrow.

IOOS Association

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association, as well as a brief overview of the history of the IOOS Association and its mission and goals. The IOOS Association is continuing efforts with the Closing the Gaps campaign, which has been successful in recent years at increasing funding to the regions.

There is a continuing resolution in effect for FY19 funds, currently working on the FY20 budget ask, which will again focus on High Frequency Radar (HFR) and gliders. The ICOOS Reauthorization Act has passed in the Senate, but not yet in the House. There have been several ocean caucus briefings, which have been very successful. The IOOS Association is also currently working on; a meeting with the Moore Foundation; the results from the recent web surveys; and a questionnaire to evaluate the economic value of ocean data that is useful to the regional associations. Regional Coastal Zone Management offices are also planning similar outreach and these economic metrics would be beneficial. IOOS Association is now considering what the next messaging campaign will be after Closing the Gaps, may focus on infrastructure, harmful algae blooms, or ocean and coastal acidification. The IOOS Association Fall Meeting was held in September, there were great conversations about the role of IOOS in biology. The next IOOS Association meeting in March, which will include strategic congressional meetings and visits.

IOOS Program Office Update

Carl Gouldman provided the update for the IOOS Program Office. There is a new IOOS Strategic Plan, which focuses on meeting the regional and global needs, coordinating efforts with the IOOS Association and each regional association, and maintaining NOAA support for IOOS. The IOOS Advisory Committee will also continue its efforts in providing support and advice for the IOOS Program Office. Carl provided the board with a brief history of the IOOS Program Office, including an overview of the budget history, and a review of new projects being funded, as well as the NOAA Water Initiative to improve national water models.

Next Meeting

Steve Lohrenz adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.

The next board meeting is a conference call on Thursday March 7, 2019.