

NERACOOS Board of Directors: Thursday March 7, 2019 Minutes

Teleconference

Board Participants in Attendance: Todd Callaghan, Steve Couture, Pam DiBona, Paula Fratantoni, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Dave Hebert, Steve Lohrenz, Regina Lyons, Justin Manley, Andy Pershing, Joe Salisbury, John Trowbridge, Philip Trowbridge, Carl Wilson, Steve Withrow, Dave Ullman
Other Attendees: Rob Cardeiro, Ru Morrison, Jackie Motyka, Tom Shyka, and Emily Silva

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:34 AM

Approval of the Minutes

There were no proposed edits to the December 5, 2018 board meeting minutes. Steve Lohrenz motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Steve Couture. The December 5, 2018 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

NERACOOS Operations Update

The NERACOOS office provided the Operations Update. Julianna Mullen is a new full-time employee at NERACOOS. Julianna was previously contracted to manage the Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (OAIE) website, and in addition to that, will now be managing and revitalizing the NERACOOS branding, communications, and social media efforts.

The Cape Cod PORTS will be expanding. A wave buoy was initially deployed in Cape Cod Bay in 2016, funded through Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP), and in collaboration with NERACOOS and NOAA Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). There is now interest in putting in an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) current meter at the entrance to Cape Cod Canal. The original agreement with Mass DEP is being amended to include this current meter. Following a study done by the US Coast Guard, Mass DEP may be deploying a second buoy in Buzzard's Bay. NERACOOS is currently receiving feedback from local stakeholders on the best location and desired observations for the area.

The Integrated Nutrient Observatory project, which was funded by NOAA Ocean Technology Transition (OTT), ended in February. These sensors are now being transitioned to operational with funding from NERACOOS and EPA. There is currently a webinar series which highlights the data, outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned from this project.

NERACOOS has a new NOAA Coastal Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) project which starting in October 2018 with UMASS Dartmouth and University of New Hampshire. This project will operationalize an integrated Water Balance Model (WBM) and Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecast System (NECOFS) as part of NOAA's Total Water Level initiative. There is an in-person stakeholder meeting March 8, 2019 at the National Weather Service office in Norton, MA.

NERACOOS is co-hosting an upcoming workshop with Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON), Animal Telemetry Network (ATN), and Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) in May at the University of New Hampshire. This workshop will bring people together to discuss regional needs for telemetry and biological observations. The Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) will also take part in planning this workshop. ISMN has received funding from NROC and will begin moving forward with the ISMN Implementation Plan and creation of an oversight committee.

Thursday March 7, 2019

NERACOOS Board of Directors: Thursday March 7, 2019 Minutes

Teleconference

NECAN hosted an Industry webinar series from June to December 2018, all six webinars are available on the NECAN website. The Industry Working Group released a survey at the end of 2018 and is now working on a survey report which will be distributed among State and Federal funding agencies and emergency managers to help inform policies, funding, and observations. The NECAN Steering Committee held an in-person meeting in September 2018, at which the decision was made to revise the Implementation Plan, a new version will be available later this year. Following a series of webinars and workshops in 2018, a one-day monitoring event is being planned for this August, called Shell Day. This event will engage citizen science monitoring groups to capture a snapshot of carbonate chemistry conditions from the Gulf of Maine to Long Island Sound.

Ru Morrison, Jackie Motyka, and Andy Pershing are on the organizing committee, and NERACOOS is a sponsor for the Gulf of Maine 2050 international symposium being held in Portland, Maine in November. This will be a conference and workshop to bring together the scientific community, characterize changes in the Gulf of Maine, calibrate expectations, and have an informed discussion on actions and goals for the region. Registration information will be released soon. Ru will be attending a planning workshop in Canada this March.

The Mariner's Dashboard is still in testing stages but will have an official launch date in the near future. The OAIE, launched one year ago, is still growing and has many active members. Julianna has completed the strategic planning document and will also be working with NECAN to increase engagement and activity.

The NERACOOS strategic activities, previously distributed to the board, reflect the goals and actions for NERACOOS staff. These are reviewed each year during the staff retreat. The NERACOOS Annual Impact Report will be released in a few weeks. Tom Shyka and Emily Silva attended the Maine Fishermen's Forum and were able to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders. Tom attended the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association weekend, and NERACOOS will also be attending Ocean Obs19 this fall in Hawaii.

NERACOOS has submitted several proposals recently; National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) - MBON, National Science Foundation Navigating the New Arctic (NSF NNA), NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), NSF Mathematical Sciences Research Institutes (MSRI), and NERACOOS is included in four different proposals being submitted by others to NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Large Marine Ecosystems (OAP LME). The planning process for the next IOOS five-year proposal is underway. NERACOOS is considering the schedule and timing of this proposal as well as the role of the SPI team and the best way in which to move forward.

IOOS Program Office and IOOS Association Update

Ru provided the update for both the IOOS Program Office and the IOOS Association. The Closing the Gaps Campaign has been successful, and the national budget has seen an increase in funds over the last few years which includes a \$2M increase in this fiscal year for the regional line with a focus on gliders and high frequency radar (HFR). Last year NERACOOS received funds for glider operations in the northeast and is partnering with UMaine and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on this. The

NERACOOS Board of Directors: Thursday March 7, 2019 Minutes

Teleconference

NERACOOS office is waiting to hear the amount of year 4 funds on the FY16 Main Award. The IOOS Program Office usually provides that number in late spring or early summer.

The IOOS Spring meeting is coming up in a few weeks in Washington DC. Ru and Jackie will be attending on behalf of NERACOOS and will also be scheduling congressional meetings while they are in Washington. The IOOS Advisory Committee, which was scheduled for the same week, had to be postponed due to a lapse in the charter during the partial government shutdown. Josie has been working on the ICOOS Reauthorization Act as well as some strategic outreach and engagement. Jackie let the board know that NERACOOS can share the literature for delegation outreach received from the IOOS Association for a coordinated support approach. NERACOOS will also have one-pagers for each state in the Northeast region.

Executive Committee Update

Steve Lohrenz provided the update for the Executive Committee. As stated above, NERACOOS is considering the role of the SPI team and the best way in which to move forward with this group. There was an Executive Committee call recently with Anthony Kirincich, Chair of the SPI Team, to discuss the structure of the team and how best to utilize it.

Nominating Committee

Steve Withrow provided the update for the Nominating Committee. There are seven board members terms ending in December 2019. Steve Lohrenz, Steve Couture, Steve Withrow, and Justin Manley's final terms are up in December. Dave Hebert, Jason Goldstein, and Pam DiBona's first terms are up in December and are all eligible for re-election.

Board officers must be chosen from the Board of Directors, as two board officers will be stepping down in December. Please let the Nominating Committee or the NERACOOS office know if you are interested in nominating yourself for the office of president or vice-president. Steve Withrow will reach out to someone within MOTN to add to the nomination slate, Justin Manley will also nominate someone to replace him, Steve Couture will add someone to the slate from within NH DES. Pam DiBona has agreed to serve a second term on the board, as well as Dave Hebert, and Jason Goldstein. Emily will work with the Nominating Committee to receive the NROC and NEAC nominations letters during the appropriate timeframe. Please let the Nominating Committee or the NERACOOS office know of any other nominations that should be included.

Finance Committee Update

Janet Freedman provided the update for the Finance Committee. Rob sent the FY19 budget to the board previously. Membership numbers are on track. There was a difference between budgeted and actual numbers for revenue due to the government shutdown, but this is back to normal now. A cost of living adjustment (COLA) has been proposed and is still being finalized. The balance sheet showed is as of January 2019, Rob can share a more up to date version with the board.

Audit Report

Tom and Cheryl, representatives of Hession and Pare, CPA, provided the audit report update. The report along with supporting documents were shared with the board. There were no findings during the audit.

Thursday March 7, 2019

NERACOOS Board of Directors: Thursday March 7, 2019 Minutes
Teleconference

There were a few suggestions, which are included in the management letter, intended for the board of directors and NERACOOS. Tom and Cheryl reviewed everything that was required during the audit and all communications following the conclusion of the audit. NERACOOS will look into and review the possibility of employing electronic signatures for certain documents and situations if necessary and helpful.

Next Board Meeting

May 21, 2019 conference call.

Steve Lohrenz motioned to adjourn the board meeting, seconded by Joe Salisbury.
Meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.