

Board Participants on Phone: Todd Callaghan, Steve Couture, Pam DiBona, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Dave Hebert, Andy Pershing, Dave Townsend, Philip Trowbridge, Dave Ullman, Carl Wilson, and Mike Whitney

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

Steve Couture commenced the meeting at 9:33 AM

Approval of the Minutes

There were two proposed edits for the March board meeting minutes. 'Gulf of Maine 2015' was changed to 'Gulf of Maine 2050', and Pam DiBona was added to the list of attendees. Steve Couture motioned to approve the minutes with these edits, seconded by Philip Trowbridge. The March 7, 2019 board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

NERACOOS Operations Update

The NERACOOS office provided the operations update. NERACOOS is working with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) to move funds through NOAA Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) and the IOOS Program Office to support the implementation of a current profiler at the entrance of the Cape Cod Canal on the Massachusetts Maritime Academy pier. This is in conjunction with the Cape Cod Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) and was requested by stakeholders in the area in addition to the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) wave buoy located in Cape Cod Bay. The partners are considering adding a wave buoy in Buzzards Bay which would help improve navigational safety in the area.

The Nutrient Observatory project ended in February. This project established a suite of nutrient sensors on the buoys in our region. A series of webinars reviewing the results, challenges, and success is archived on the NERACOOS website. The effort will continue with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the IOOS Program Office.

Work is underway on the Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) project. This effort will improve inundation forecasting by coupling ocean and river models. A kick-off meeting was held in March with Primary Investigators (PI's) and stakeholders at the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasting office in Norton, MA. A national meeting was also held, bringing together PI's from all current COMT projects to discuss developing a framework for coupling models.

NERACOOS co-hosted the Northeast Biological Observation workshop with the Marine Biodiversity and Observation Network (MBON), Animal Telemetry Network (ATN), and Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) on May 6th and 7th. The objective of the workshop was to identify stakeholder needs and observational priorities for animal telemetry and marine biodiversity in the Northeast.

The Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) played a large part in the Northeast Biological Workshop and assisted in establishing the framework for the meeting. ISMN is

moving forward with funds received from the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC). Jeffrey Runge, University of Maine and Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), will be the inaugural director of ISMN and the Oversight Committee is coming together. Julianna has created a new logo and style guide for ISMN.

NECAN is continuing its efforts. A webinar series with Sea Grant is being planned which will highlight four funded ocean and coastal acidification research projects. The Implementation Plan is being revised and updated by the steering committee, and the updates on the website and in the newsletter are on-going.

The Gulf of Maine 2050 international symposium now has a website. Weekly planning calls are being held in preparation for this conference. Andy Pershing is heading this effort. The objective of this conference is to bring together stakeholders and scientists in the Northeast and Canada to understand how the Gulf of Maine will change over the next thirty years and to promote regional resilience within the context of those changes. NERACOOS has been a part of the planning for this conference.

The Coastal Flooding Toolkit is coming together and will be launched in the near future.

The Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (OAIE) has recently received supplemental funding for some additional work and new features on the website. Julianna continues to manage the OAIE, as well as NERACOOS social media and branding, including the 2018 Annual Impact Report and newsletters. The 10-year anniversary for NERACOOS is approaching and Julianna has been working on a new logo, branding, and style guide. A roll-out plan for this is coming together and will be announced soon.

OceanObs19, a decadal ocean observing conference, is being held in Hawaii in September. Ru is will be on a panel at this conference.

NERACOOS has submitted a number of proposals recently. There is an upcoming NOAA IOOS Ocean Technology Transition (OTT) proposal which requires partners to work with a Regional Associations (RA), as well as an industry partner. NERACOOS will review the FY16 proposal process, assess and adjust for the upcoming FY21 proposal.

Finance Committee Update

Janet Freedman provided the update for the Finance Committee. The budget and finance report was shared prior to this meeting and shared on screen. Things are back on track following the partial government shutdown. Membership is on budget. ISMN has been moved to non-federal revenue and should be billed out by the end of the fiscal year. Some unspent funds for both Nutrient Observatory and Regional Resiliency were de-obligated back to NERACOOS and both projects are being closed out. COMT and OA Thresholds are on track. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) numbers are off due to unspent funds but everything else is on track. Salaries are over budget due to a new hire but overall things are still on track. Rob Carneiro shared the balance sheet and minutes from the last finance committee call and is available for any questions.

Executive Committee Update

Steve Couture provided the update for the Executive Committee. During recent calls with the Executive Committee and NERACOOS office, a decision was made to restructure the SPI Team in order to remain efficient and evolve with the needs of the organization. The SPI Team will be restructured into a smaller advisory council made up of unconflicted members or the board. The advisory council will assist NERACOOS in the FY21 IOOS proposal process and reviewing PI performance. An Operators Group, consisting of NERACOOS PI's, and a Stakeholder Council will also be formed. The NERACOOS office will finalize the descriptions and objectives of these groups and then share these documents with the board.

Nominating Committee Update

Jackie Motyka provided the update for the Nominating Committee. On some recent calls, the Nominating Committee, Executive Committee, and NERACOOS office have discussed the best way to move forward regarding officer terms and nominations, reviewed the by-laws on this topic, and will have more information for the board at the August board meeting.

IOOS Association Update

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association. Each RA appoints two people to sit on the board of directors for the IOOS Association, Ru Morrison and Steve Lohrenz represent NERACOOS, and Ru is also a part of the Executive Committee. Congressional outreach continued this spring, the Filling the Gaps campaign continues to make progress. The IOOS regional line has seen a steady increase in funding amounts over the years. The IOOS Reauthorization Act, first introduced in 2009, has passed in the Senate and moved on to the House. Other related bills moving forward include the Bolstering Long-term Understanding and Exploration of the Great Lakes, Oceans, Bays, and Estuaries (BLUE GLOBE) Act, the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) Act, and the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Act.

The IOOS Association continues to build support through Senate Ocean Caucus briefings and biannual meetings in the spring and fall. Currently, there is a messaging focus on biology, specifically fisheries, biodiversity, harmful algal blooms (HABs), sound, new technology, stakeholder needs, and data integration. Upcoming priorities include the next round of five-year proposals, IOOS Program Office 20-year anniversary, OceanObs19 Conference, IOOS Federal Advisory Committee meetings, the future of the Closing the Gaps Campaign, a new Economic Valuation Project which will identify the value of ocean observations; as well as the continuation of fostering partnerships and support, as well as congressional outreach.

IOOS Program Office Update

Carl Gouldman provided the update for the IOOS Program Office. The OceanObs19 conference is coming up in September and is being held in Hawaii. The [Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision](#) was released in November 2018 and includes the administration's priorities for ocean observing. The United Nations Decade of

Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is coming together over the course of the next few months.

The IOOS Program Office has seen steady increases to the budget over the last few years, including this fiscal year, in large part due to beneficial advocacy and coordination across the regions. The NOAA Weather Act passed under this administration, citing IOOS specifically. The Program Office has been focusing on supporting decisions that benefit the economy, and the best ways to document and deliver ocean data. The NOAA Water Initiative is ongoing and is an effort to encourage partnerships to create and deliver data to meet stakeholder needs. The Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology (CENOTE) Act of 2018 has passed and the IOOS Program Office is represented on that board and involved in working groups. Baseline funding numbers to RA's have been adjusted to help support filling gaps in radar and glider networks and streamline access to ocean observation information. Interest in the intersection between IOOS and biology and HAB research is increasing and the Program Office has been considering ways to grow funding in these areas. New OTT funding opportunities will be announced in the fall, COMT projects are progressing and Alliance for Coastal Technology (ACT) workshops are being used to understand IOOS regional needs.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is an in-person meeting in Rhode Island on August 22, 2019.

More information to follow.

Steve Couture motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andy Pershing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM.