

**Board Members Attending:** Nicole Bartlett, Todd Callaghan, Pam DiBona, Shayla Fitzsimmons, Diane Foster, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Jon Grant, Dave Hebert, Regina Lyons, Rhonda Moniz, Todd Morrison, Andy Pershing, Tom Pham, Joe Salisbury, Tom Taylor, John Trowbridge, Philip Trowbridge, Dave Ullman, Mike Whitney, and Chris Williams  
**Other Attendees:** Rob Cardeiro, Carl Gouldman, Jake Kritzer, Julianna Mullen, Jackie Motyka, Tom Shyka, Emily Silva, Josie Quintrell, and Oriana Villar

### Approval of the Minutes

One edit, to include 'websites' to the items in the forthcoming NERACOOS attribution packet, was made by Emily Silva in the August 20, 2020 board meeting minutes. Todd Morrison motioned to approve the minutes from the August board meeting, seconded by Todd Callaghan. The board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee update was provided by John Trowbridge. The Executive Committee has been meeting with Jake Kritzer quarterly to review goals for the NERACOOS board and Executive Director.

### Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee update was provided by Janet Freedman. The FY 2020 finance report and FY 2021 budget were shared with the board of directors prior to this meeting. Janet and Rob reviewed each document with the board of directors. Rob will add information for each project to indicate which year of funding they are currently in. Directors should email Rob Cardeiro with any further questions on the finance documents provided. Jackie provided background information on a few of the NERACOOS projects as requested by Todd Callaghan. Directors should email Jackie Motyka for any additional information. Pam DiBona motioned to accept the FY2021 budget, seconded by Todd Morrison. The FY 2021 budget was unanimously approved.

### Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee update was provided by Jason Goldstein and Emily Silva. Jason shared the full slate of nominations including directors and officers. The Nominating Committee had several discussions regarding nominees, a possible student advisory committee, general goals, and DEI on the board. There is interest in having more discussions on including a student committee for the board in some capacity. The Slate of Nominations includes the following nominees: Directors – Dave Ullman, Diane Foster, Shayla Fitzsimmons, Nicole Bartlett, and Larry Alade. Officers – Chris Williams, Treasurer, and Rhonda Moniz, Secretary. Todd Callaghan motioned to approve the slate of nominations for directors, seconded by Janet Freedman. Dave Ullman abstained from this vote. The slate of directors was unanimously approved. Tom Taylor motioned to approve the slate of nominations for officers, seconded by Todd Morrison. Chris Williams abstained from this vote. The slate of officers was unanimously approved.

### Board Session

The Board Session update was provided by Jake Kritzer. Jake updated the board on the U.S. IOOS proposal renewal process and the progress of the NERACOOS proposal. The board and staff have provided input on NERACOOS priorities and reviewed mini proposals. An Advisory Committee of unconflicted current and former board members was created to provide guidance as well. The staff has notified PIs who will be included in the proposal and held a

meeting to go over requirements, clarifications, and questions regarding the proposal and submission. The proposal is due on December 31, 2020, NERACOOS staff plan to submit on Friday, December 18, 2020, although the due date for the proposal is December 31. Between now and December 18<sup>th</sup>, the staff will be working internally on the main body and appendices of the proposal, and with the PIs on their subaward packets.

### **IOOS Program Office Update**

Oriana Villar provided the IOOS PO update. There are three new hires that have joined the IOOS PO team recently: Brian Zelenke is the Surface Currents Program Manager and will be the program and technical lead for the HFR network; Matt Biddle is the Data Management Analyst and is focusing on the MBON portal, biological data, and products and will serve as Data Management and Communication (DMAC) project support and National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) point of contact; and Dr. Tracy Fanara is the Coastal Modeling Portfolio Manager. The IOOS PO has implemented a term change in the acronym 'DMAC' moving from Data Management and Communications to Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure to better reflect the work being done by the IOOS DMAC team.

Over the next year, the COMT program will be a priority for the IOOS PO and a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be released in the coming weeks to solicit ideas that address longstanding and emerging coastal modeling and forecast product development challenges. The Gulf of Maine MBON project, led by Jeff Runge, is underway and supports the implementation of the ISMN. This project is providing leadership across the national MBON efforts focused on biodiversity of system function and will be holding an international workshop on modeling this fall.

The Benefits of Ocean Observations Catalog (BOOC) will be a digital online geographically referenced repository for ocean observation use-cases which can be used for economic valuations. This will be created over the next year and stemmed from discussions that took place during OceanObs19. IOOS PO is finishing up the second round of the ocean enterprise study and results will be coming out in January. This was the second ocean enterprise study and focused on providers and intermediaries. BOOC will eventually be a way to look at the end user benefits.

A Diversity & Inclusion STEM Working Group was established and will prioritize recruiting a diverse, highly capable workforce and building an environment that promotes inclusion. Next steps for this work group include drafting a charter to define roles and responsibilities and develop a list of initiatives. All Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) meetings will be virtual for FY21 in February and April/May. The FAC plans to unveil its recommendations to NOAA and the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC).

### **IOOS Association Update**

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association, including a brief history of the IOOS Association. A few months ago, Congress requested project proposals and funding estimates to include in a stimulus bill to build resilience into the observing system and replace aging infrastructure, which is still in progress. An economic stimulus bill is also in the works, Josie had requested that RAs submit proposals for short-term, quickly initiated, projects addressing maritime transportation, weather, sea level rise, ecological health, fisheries, and coastal hazards. These bills did not move forward but the resiliency plan that was created and the various project ideas submitted are beneficial for responding to future funding opportunities.

There are several ocean related events taking place over the next few years, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science, executive orders on mapping and aquaculture, and NOAA strategies: Unmanned Systems Strategy, Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Cloud Strategy, and 'Omics Strategy. These events will provide many opportunities in which the RAs can participate. NCCOS has created a framework for a sustained HAB Observing Network and funding is available for five pilot projects. This represents a great collaborative effort with the RAs.

The IOOS Association continues to work on the Fill the Gaps Campaign. Since the Campaign has started in 2017, regional support has increased by \$8.5M. The Senate passed an increased IOOS budget in September and the House just released its budget. Both include increases but must be reconciled in committee. At this time, it is unsure whether the budget will be passed for FY21 or if there will be a continuing resolution. ICOOS Reauthorization Act is not approved yet, the IOOS Association is working hard to get this act voted on as soon as possible and may need outreach to local delegations.

Caraid Award nominations are due to the IOOS Association December 11, 2020 for the 2021 award.

Josie listed a number of projects that are upcoming for the IOOS Association, which include strategic planning, a transition document for the incoming Biden administration, and the FY22 appropriations request. For the full list, directors should email Josie Quintrell.

#### **Next Board Meeting**

The 2021 Board Meeting dates will be emailed out to the board in January 2021.

Pam DiBona motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom Taylor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM ET.