

Board Members Attending: Larry Alade, Todd Callaghan, Pam DiBona, Shayla Fitzsimmons, Diane Foster, Janet Freedman, Jason Goldstein, Dave Hebert, Todd Morrison, Tom Taylor, Dave Townsend, John Trowbridge, Philip Trowbridge, Dave Ullman, Mike Whitney, and Chris Williams

Other Attendees: John Cannon, Rob Cardeiro, Carl Gouldman, Jake Kritzer, Julianna Mullen, Jackie Motyka, Tom Shyka, Emily Silva, Josie Quintrell, and Oriana Villar

Approval of the Minutes

Todd Morrison motioned to approve the minutes from November 19, 2020, seconded by Dave Townsend. The board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee update was provided by John Trowbridge. Chris Williams and Rhonda Moniz are new members of the Executive Committee as of November 2020. Phil Trowbridge started a new position at NH DES, leaving CT DEEP. He is still a director and officer but no longer representing CT and NROC on the board. NROC has nominated Kevin O'Brien to fill the CT seat on the board to represent NROC. The Executive Committee has met with Jake and reviewed the present status of NERCAOOS and goals for the organization.

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee update was provided by Chris Williams. The FY 2021 budget was shared with the board of directors prior to and reviewed during the board meeting. Chris reviewed these documents with the board of directors. This document reflects just FY21 and not previous years' spending for each of the awards listed. It may be helpful to include more information on the budget sheet showing where certain projects are in their funding cycle. Finance documents are shared with the board prior to the meeting to solicit feedback and questions to review during the board meeting so that each document does not have to be reviewed during the meeting.

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee update was provided by Jason Goldstein and Emily Silva. Janet Freedman has retired from RI CRMC but will continue to fill the RI NROC seat on the board until RI CRMC and NROC nominate a new director and the board approves this nominee. As stated above, Phil Trowbridge is no longer filling the CT NROC seat on the board. NROC has nominated Kevin O'Brien of CT DEEP to fill this seat. Kevin's bio and CV were shared with the board of directors prior to this meeting. Todd Morrison motioned to approve the slate of nominations for a new director, seconded by Pam DiBona. The slate was unanimously approved.

During previous board meetings and Nominating Committee calls, expanding and diversifying the board has been discussed. Some ideas that had come up was creating a student advisory committee for the board and including representatives from indigenous groups in the region. Jake has recently participated in an EPA Region 1 call with the Region 1 tribes and a Penobscot representative expressed interested in having someone from the Penobscot tribe participate on the board. Pam has been working with students through various efforts and can connect with this established network for student participation. Todd Morrison has also been in contact with some UNH students who may be interested. Larry suggested curating a list of institutions, including HBCU's, through which to begin a potential mentorship program with those interested in participating in a student advisory committee. Jason will create a list of the ideas and contacts mentioned in this discussion

and reach out to interested directors to participate in a Nominating Committee call before the June Board Meeting.

Board Session

John Trowbridge facilitated the Board Session discussion. The Northeast Academic Consortium (NEAC) was created simultaneously with the NERACOOS Board of Directors, to assist in nominating directors from the academic sector and originally consisted of members from Bedford UMaine UNH UMassD URI UCONN and WHOI. There are 7 NEAC seats on the board. In recent years this group has been dormant, and John would like to revitalize and reactivate this group. John has reached out to all the deans of this orgs, Dave T, Diane Foster at UNH, Steve Lohrenz at UMassD, Paula Bontempi URI, and will be speaking with Edward Ward at UCONN, and then Bedford Institute. Would like to hold a meeting this spring about the activities and structure of the organization and set up goals, including reaching out to other academic institutions in the northeast.

IOOS Program Office Update

Oriana Villar provided the IOOS PO update. ICOOS Reauthorization passed at the end of 2020. IOOS PO priorities are to deliver IOOS services everyday to meet customer needs in multiple mission areas – including biology; improve harmful algal bloom observing, modeling, and information services in partnership with National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS); continue to support weather, water, and climate services via data, modeling, and services (hurricane gliders, tsunami applications, beach conditions, etc.); and align inform and contribute to coastal resilience and climate services as plans take shape.

FY21 appropriations passed in December, working with NOS to determine final amounts and allocate to projects. Merit review process has finished in February, continuing to go through internal budget process and move things forward, should have more updates for the June board meetings. IOOS is considering the UN Decade of Ocean Science and how best to participate and leverage work.

IOOS Association Update

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association. The IOOS Association went through a strategic planning process, working with Jeremy Philips and planning for the next 5 and 10 years. Six priorities were identified through this process:

1. Increase IOOS funding by 100%;
2. Increase ability of IOOS to be responsive and innovative;
3. Increase coordination across all IOOS agencies and regions;
4. Increase diversity and inclusivity of network and partnerships;
5. Increase visibility and reach of IOOS;
6. Insure the health and sustainability of the IOOS Association.

As stated above the ICOOS Reauthorization Act passed at the end of 2020. This reauthorizes the existing bill as it was, with few changes including allowing federal employees to serve on the boards of RAs, changing the terms Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE) to Regional Coastal Observing Systems (RCOS), adding gliders and HFR studies, and amending the FOARAM Act.

There is no presidential budget at this time but the IOOS Association is moving forward with the congressional request. Continuing the Fill the Gaps campaign to fill critical gaps with

HFR and gliders and now adding fixed moorings. Fill the Gaps does not support core functions of the RAs so the IOOS Association is requesting an additional \$500k per region to be used as undirected funds to support their efforts to get information and data out to stakeholders. NCCOS has been supporting research and technological developments for Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB). Most HAB monitoring is funded by short term research grants and the RAs are positioned well to build on that and potentially create a national network. Funding was provided to NCCOS for 5 pilot projects working towards this goal. These efforts would also benefit other ecological monitoring and forecasting as well.

Upcoming projects for the IOOS Association include FY22 appropriations requests and congressional outreach; futures committee; transition plan; infrastructure bill; next phase of Fill the Gaps; diversity and inclusion initiative; communications; 2nd CARAID award; and the fall meeting.

NERACOOS Program Update

NERACOOS staff provided the program update. In the future, NERACOOS staff may change the way they provide updates on projects to better suit the needs of the board and will include email updates in between board meetings to keep directors further updated on NERACOOS activities.

NERACOOS is in the last year of a five-year funding award from the IOOS PO, in the next month will meet to discuss where each project is on funding and deliverables and plan for moving forward. Jackie provided an update on new developments including the Great Bay Buoy fully funded with the help of many partners, coastal tide gauges, newly deployed UMaine buoy E07 off of the Maine coast, and a new sensor deployed off the URI GSO dock. Updates were provided for ongoing projects; the Cape Cod Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) and the new wave buoy being deployed in Buzzards Bay, and the Coastal and Ocean Model Testbed (COMT), OA Thresholds, and Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (ISMN MBON) projects.

Julianna Mullen has been continuing communications for NERACOOS including the Mariner's Dashboard rollout, ISMN website, Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (OAIE) strategic plan, congressional visit communications, and NERACOOS social media. Jake Kritzer and John Trowbridge were recently interviewed for the Ocean News and Technology podcast and this episode should be released shortly. Jackie and Jake have been attending the congressional visits, which are coordinated by the IOOS Association and attended by key stakeholders and a few have been joint visits with representatives from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (MARACOOS). These visits are critical for communicating the importance of the regional associations and the data they provide to stakeholders.

The ISMN is continuing to move effort forward and grow long-term support for this initiative. The ISMN has identified a series of key indicators on which to focus research, monitoring, and funding efforts. The Northeast Coastal Acidification (NECAN) is currently hosting a Student and Early Career Scientist webinar series. Please visit the NECAN website for more information and the full schedule. In 2018 and 2019 the NECAN Industry Working Group released a survey to industry members and has since collated and summarized the results of this survey into a report which is now available on the NECAN website along with a two-page summary. This report will be used to identify research and monitoring priorities as well as guide management decisions. The beta version of the Mariner's Dashboard is live on the

NERACOOS website and product testing was conducted this past winter. A formal launch of this product is forthcoming and will be announced through the NERACOOS network. NERACOOS has signed a contract with Left Turn Village, a public health and social justice organization, for a series of workshops over the next few months with the plan to create an organizational action plan for NERACOOS to implement the things that are learned. There are a number of proposal submitted by NERACOOS since the last board meeting including NOAA IOOS FY 21, COMT, HAB-ON, Maine Sea Grant, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and NOAA Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) and Saltonstall Kennedy (SK).

Please reach out to the NERACOOS staff or visit the NERACOOS website for more information on these projects.

Guest Presentation

John Cannon is the Senior Meteorologist and Marine Program Leader at the National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office in Gray, Maine and he provided a presentation on the use and importance of NERACOOS data products and services to the Weather Forecast Office. His full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday June 2, 2021.

Todd Morrison motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Todd Callaghan. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 PM ET.