

Board Members Attending: Pam DiBona, Diane Foster, Janet Freedman, Dave Hebert, Matt Liebman, Rhonda Moniz, Todd Morrison, Andy Pershing, Tom Pham, Tom Taylor, Dave Townsend, John Trowbridge, Philip Trowbridge, Dave Ullman, and Chris Williams

Other Attendees: Rob Cardeiro, Jake Kritzer, Julianna Mullen, Jackie Motyka, Emily Silva, and Oriana Villar

Approval of the Minutes

The June 2021 board meeting minutes had a few grammatical edit which were applied and distributed to the board prior to this meeting. Pam DiBona motioned to approve the updated minutes, seconded by Janet Freedman. The board meeting minutes from June 2, 2021, were unanimously approved.

Finance Committee

Rob Cardeiro provided the update for the Finance Committee. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget was shared with the board prior to this meeting. The Finance Committee met on August 5th to review and revise the budget and then share with the board for approval. Rob reviewed these documents for the board.

NERACOOS is in year one of the Integrated Ocean Observing (IOOS) FY21 Award and a one-year no-cost extension for the FY16 Main Award. Cape Cod PORTS is separated currently from the main award, but will be included in the main award next year. NERACOOS and NH Sea Grant will be sharing a position and there is a separate line for that agreement with them. Indirect rate increased from 11% over the last several years to 23%. Merit and cost of living increases for the staff are included in the budget. As stated above there will be a new position, shared with NH Sea Grant, at NERACOOS.

Chris Williams motioned to approve the budget, seconded by Matt Liebman. The FY22 budget was unanimously approved. For more details on these topics, or if you have other questions, please email Rob.

Nominating Committee Update

Emily Silva provided the Nomination Committee update. The final slate of nominations is due to Rhonda Moniz, Secretary, by October 22, 2021, and to the full board by November 23, 2021. There are five vacant seats at the moment, and seven directors' terms will be ending this December leaving a potential twelve seats to fill, though it is not a requirement to fill every seat. For additional questions on the current slate of nominations please email Emily Silva. The board was also reminded that Directors are permitted to have alternates, who would be nominated and voted on just as a director is.

IOOS Program Office Update

Oriana Villar provided the update for the IOOS Program Office (PO). Oriana reviewed the IOOS PO priorities, Richard Spinrad has been confirmed as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) under secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Nicole LeBoeuf has been confirmed as the Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service (NOS). Oriana briefly reviewed the presidential budget requests, appropriations levels, and enacted budgets for the past eleven years. Congress has not yet approved a federal budget, but there were increases to the program in both the President's Budget and in the House markup.

New administration priorities could present unique funding opportunities. The infrastructure bill includes support for “improved and enhanced coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes observing systems” over five years and procurement, acquisition, and construction support for “coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes observing systems” over three years. More information on these will be forthcoming.

Board Discussion

Jake Kritzer led the board discussion on the NERACOOS strategic planning process. NERACOOS staff will be reviewing the organizations vision, mission, goals, and values, as well as outlining the major activities and needs, with the plan to have a draft ready for discussion and feedback during the Annual Meeting in December. NERACOOS will be conducting an inventory of the buoy, high frequency radar (HFR), and glider networks to assess current coverage and to identify gaps in observation. Jake shared a proposed timeline for development and implementation of this strategic plan.

NERACOOS Buoy Network Deep Dive

Jackie Motyka provided the update for NERACOOS buoy network. The buoys included in this overview are funded through the main award, although all assets are owned by the institutions. Jackie provided a general summary of all the buoys, where they are deployed, how long they have been in the water, and data showing how various stakeholders use the information provided by the buoys.

Following the general overview of all the buoys, Jackie provided an in-depth review of Buoy A01 in Massachusetts Bay, to show the many different parameters that are measured and how data can be viewed. In addition to maintaining and operating assets, the NERACOOS data providers have IOOS data requirements to meet in order to maintain IOOS certification. Moving forward, each of the NERACOOS system operators will be included in the operational assessment and opportunities to diversify funding for recapitalization will be explored.

NERACOOS Website Deep Dive

Julianna Mullen provided the NERACOOS website update. Julianna has created a new informational side of the website, which will be connected to the data products managed by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. The new framework will be more visually appealing and user friendly. The objectives of this new site will be to:

- Introduce and define NERACOOS right away
- Modernize and de-clutter
- Put the most commonly accessed products and information up front
- Showcase operators and assets
- Make ocean observing more interesting

Julianna provided a tour of the draft website, will be creating a brief survey, and will share with the board to provide feedback.

Miscellaneous Updates

NERACOOS and New Hampshire Sea Grant will be jointly supporting a new Engagement and Research Associate position.

NERACOOS and the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) Atlantic are co-hosting a three-part [webinar series](#) following the USCG Cutter Healy as it travels through the

Northwest Atlantic. This series will highlight the Arctic, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Scotian Shelf and Gulf of Maine.

Action Items

- Share the IOOS PO slides – shared immediately following the board meeting.
- Survey of new website
- Please email the NERACOOS staff with any questions.

Next Board Meeting

Virtual board meeting on December 8, 2021, and virtual annual meeting on December 9, 2021.

Matt Liebman motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phil Trowbridge. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.