

NERACOOS Board of Directors: December 9, 2015 Minutes

Approved Final: March 4, 2016

Board Participants: Anthony Kirincich, Matt Lyman, Steve Lohrenz, Jim O'Donnell, Dave Hebert, Steve Couture, Andy Pershing, Michael Szemerda, Justin Manley, Al Hanson, Tom Taylor, Jon Grant, Todd Callaghan, Paul Stacey, Carl Wilson, Mike Whitney, Mel Coté, Janet Freedman; **Other Participants:** Tom Shyka, Ru Morrison, Cassie Stymiest, Jackie Ball, Rob Cardeiro, Hannah Blondin, Josie Quintrell, Carl Gouldman, Betsy Nicholson

Steve Lohrenz called the business meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Andy Pershing motioned to approve the August 19, 2015 board meeting minute's contingent that they are amended to reflect the following change, "regionally" be changed to "regional" on page two, third line. The minutes were seconded by Matt Lyman. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee

Jim O'Donnell presented the Nominating Committee slate, which was previously distributed to the board. Jim motioned to approve the slate, seconded by Michael Szemerda, and was unanimously approved. Steve Lohrenz thanked all the NERACOOS board members that are stepping off the board, including: Bob Stankelis, Fei Chai, Jim O'Donnell, Michael Szemerda, Bruce Carlisle, and Robert Araujo. Steve Couture volunteered to participate in the nominating committee.

Finance Committee

Rob Cardeiro presented the Finance Committee update, referencing the financial report that was previously distributed to the Board. At the end of this year there's a small surplus of \$35,000. Although not confirmed the office is expecting a no cost extension from IOOS on the main award. When reviewing the subaward's it was noted that each have a large balance. This sum is due to a billing lag within each of the institutions, and seasonal billing spikes. Traditionally the spring is when many of the buoys are turned around and equipment is replaced. It was suggested that future reports reflect percentages of time and funds spent for each institution, as well as a one page summary report for each project. The audit is not yet completed, but it appears we will have a clean audit. Three years ago NERACOOS had an audit finding which resulted in NERACOOS being classified as a high risk awardee, a clean audit would likely remove this classification. Steve Couture motioned to approve the finance report, seconded by Matt Lyman, and was unanimously approved. Rob then reviewed the preliminary budget for FY16 with an expected surplus of \$49,000. The indirect rate is determined by the Department of Commerce, but there's been a lag in recent years. We will likely be receiving the new cost rate for FY14 shortly. The Board suggested that it would be beneficial to include an acronym key in future budgets. Tom Taylor motioned to approve the FY16 budget, seconded by Steve Couture, the budget was unanimously approved.

IOOS Program Office

Carl Gouldman gave the IOOS Program Office Update. The Program Office is working through the FY16 proposals, decisions will be announced in early 2016. PACIOOS has successfully achieved certification, and GLOS has submitted their application. In 2016 the Program Office will also be releasing the results of their industry study on the blue economy. IOOS is also working to improve their messaging and branding. A new logo has been released, and a new website will follow in 2016.

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IOOS Association

Josie Quintrell presented an update on the IOOS Association. The oceans subcommittee has been reorganized within the House of Representative and is now located in the Water, Power and Oceans subcommittee. There are not many Representatives within this committee that are connected to the ocean so it'll be important to bolster support. This IOOS Association is hoping for straight re-authorization within the House. The Senate has submitted revisions, with increases in ocean acidification funding. Appropriations are still under negotiation, but it looks like level funding. The IOOS Association will be initiating a new appropriations request method to increase support. There will be an initial focus on water levels, prevision navigation and harmful algae bloom forecasting. It was also noted that Certification and QUARTOD have built confidence in IOOS.

NERACOOS Operations

Ru administered an update on NERACOOS Operations. With Steve Lohrenz's support the office withdrew from the BWET proposal with the Gulf of Maine Institute after the funding to NERACOOS was substantially cut with no justification. Ru has informed the NOAA Program Manager on the award that NERACOOS has withdrawn. Ru and Josie are working with the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management on an initiative to encourage long term ocean monitoring in the Atlantic. A planning letter was submitted, DeepWater Wind has shown interest, but was unable to sign the letter. A MOU is under review with CO-OPS for a new Cape Cod PORTS® buoy. The FY16 proposal was submitted to IOOS at the end of August. Jackie will distribute the final proposal to the Board.

Executive Committee

Steve Lohrenz provided an update on the Executive Committee. Previously Jim O'Donnell had raised concerns that Board members are only able to serve two consecutive terms. This bylaw is to ensure there's adequate turnover on the Board, but it's unintentionally preventing invested partners from participating in the Board. It was suggested that the Nominating Committee consider knowledge gaps when making board recruitment decisions. The Executive Committee can look at the next steps and revisit this issue. Anthony then provided the group with an update on the SPI team. With the completion of the IOOS proposal in August the SPI team has been reassessing their role with the intent to focus more on implementation. Anthony reviewed the proposed role of the SPI team and the formation of working groups, as previously distributed to the Board. Working group will form based on an identified need, and disassemble once completed. Each working group will submit updates to the SPI Chair every month for wider distribution. Updates will be held quarterly via webinar, hosted one week before each board meeting so that information may be reporting back. Board members will also be welcome to join these webinars. Additionally an opportunity has arisen for NERACOOS to own some monitoring equipment. The Executive Committee will be discussing the details of what this means as an organization. Meeting dates for 2016 will be selected via Doodle early in the New Year.

Steve Lohrenz motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andy Pershing, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15.