

## **NERACOOS Board of Directors: August 19, 2015 Minutes**

*Approved: December 9, 2015*

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**Board Participants:** Mel Coté, Steve Withrow, Fei Chai, Andy Pershing, Steve Lohrenz, Paula Fratantoni, Alfred Hanson, Bob Stankelis, James O'Donnell, Matt Lyman, Matt Liebman; **Other Participants:** Jerry Keefe, Ru Morrison, Jackie Ball, Cassie Stymiest, Tom Shyka

### Proposal Updates

Ru provided the board with an update on the FY16 IOOS proposal, which is due on August 31, 2015. At the last board meeting the final slate of projects was approved. Due to the new super-circular the Executive Committee has been working with the Northeast Academic Consortium (NEAC) to discuss a voluntary 26% indirect rate. NERACOOS is also participating in a proposal with the Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT), which will expand on the nutrient observatory work.

### Meeting Minutes

Steve Couture motioned to approve the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Matt Lyman. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### Finance Committee

Rob Cardeiro has joined the NERACOOS office part time (50%) as the Finance Director. Previously employed as the Vice President at the Seacoast Science Center, Rob has provided financial consulting to NERACOOS over the past two years. The Finance Report was presented by Matt Lyman and discussed by the board. The second year of Marine Sensor Innovation funds have been released and sub-award amendments will be issued soon. There's currently a negative balance because invoices have come in, but the funds haven't been drawn yet. Spend down rates of awards has been a continued issue that is being monitored. Jim O'Donnell motioned to approve the finance report, seconded by Steve Couture, the finance report was unanimously approved. The new super circular prohibits NERACOOS from soliciting a lower indirect cost rate from sub-awardees. Although organizations can still voluntarily use a lower rate. Jim O'Donnell as the NEAC Chair is working with each academic institution to voluntarily use a lower rate. Following the upcoming proposal Jim will pursue an MOU to formalize this relationship. All Sandy Supplementation spending within the National Ocean Service (NOS) is being investigated by the Office of Inspector General to ensure funds are spent appropriately. NERACOOS has almost completed the Sandy Supplemental award and is working in collaboration with NOS and the Program Office on this matter. NERACOOS will keep the board apprised of the situation. Ru will work to develop and distribute a unified budget to the board prior to the end of the fiscal year, on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Executive Committee

Previously the board has questioned the membership of the Strategic Planning and Implementation (SPI) team. Anthony Kirincich, SPI chair, believes that membership at this time

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is not an issue. It's advantageous for NERACOOS to have a diverse SPI team when funding becomes available. Anthony would like to look more closely at how the SPI team can align with the strategic planning efforts of the office at the December board meeting.

### Nominating Committee

Jim O'Donnell reviewed the board members with expiring terms in December. Steve Withrow will spearhead an effort to bring more private industry, through MOTN (Marine Oceanographic Technology Network) onto the board. Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) is meeting next week and will discuss NERACOOS board seats. All board seats are term limited according to the by-laws. Previous board members are allowed to continue participation through the SPI team. Jackie will distribute a board roster. With Jim O'Donnell's term expiring in December there's an opening on the nominating committee, interested parties should contact the staff.

### IOOS Program Office

PACIOOS has officially been certified by IOOS. We are in the process of certification and will revisit the timeline after they FY16 proposal. If IOOS re-authorizations isn't approved certification will still be valid. Ru will follow up with Josie on re-authorization and send around an update to the board.

### IOOS Association

The fall IOOS Association meeting is in September in St. Petersburg. Ru remains chair of the Association is up for re-election.

### Operations Update

The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) published a synthesis of the state of the science in a special addition of Oceanography. Stakeholder engagement continues with Canada and Connecticut workshop planned in the coming months. Working groups of NECAN are working on a Science and Implementation plan for the region. There may be potential legislation in New Hampshire, based on Maine's effort. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) remains a vested partner, providing funding for several components. There will be a press event on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Southern Maine Community College to highlight the Ocean Acidification work in Casco Bay. The Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) has released their draft Science and Implementation plan for public comment. Work continues on the Sandy Supplemental, the Nutrient Observatory and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation award. Two new projects will be funded through the IOOS Ocean Technology Transfer, one at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the other at the University of New Hampshire. The NOAA B-WET drifter proposal with the Gulf of Maine Institute was funded. In July a NOAA regional resiliency proposal was submitted for \$1M in collaboration with NROC. The community resiliency proposal this spring wasn't funded. The office is work with the NOAA CO-OPs to

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develop a new PORTS® system for the Cape Cod Canal and to deploy a new buoy in Cape Cod Bay. The requirement was identified through engagement at the Port Safety Forums. It is anticipated that Massachusetts' DEP will invest \$450k to operate a buoy for five years. Bob Hamilton with Woods Hole Group has been instrumental in this effort. The office continued their stakeholder engagement by participating in the U.S. Canadian Maritime Commerce Initiative and at the Maine EPSCOR SEANET meeting. Cassie is acting chair of the New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative (NEOSEC). NERACOOS had two interns this summer that provided support to NECAN and ISMN efforts. Internships were funded through New Hampshire EPSCOR in collaboration with Great Bay Community College.

The accuracy and display of the wave measurements was discussed. NERACOOS website and NDBC only report the significant wave height and the dominant period. Other information which may be useful is not displayed. Tom will follow up and review at the December Meeting.

The next board meeting will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Annual Meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Portsmouth, NH. A Photo contest will be announced later this summer.

Steve Couture motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Withrow, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50.