

NERACOOS Board of Directors: August 15, 2016 Minutes

Approved December 6, 2016

Board Participants: Steve Lohrenz, Michael Whitney, Paul Stacey, Mel Coté, Matt Lyman, Janet Freedman, Anthony Kirincich, Joe Salisbury, Justin Manley, Justin Manley, David Townsend, Dave Hebert, Andy Pershing and Tom Taylor; **Other Attendees:** Eric Johnson, Gabrielle Canonico, Ru Morrison, Jackie Ball, Tom Shyka, Rob Cardeiro, and Sydney Bernier.

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Justin Manley motioned to approve the May 25, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Anthony Kirincich, and the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

IOOS Association

This year's Closing the Gaps campaign, which focused on observational gaps in high frequency radar (HFR) gaps, saw a \$2 million increase in both the House and Senate. The focus of next year's campaign is likely to gliders as well, since congressional report language indicated interest. NERACOOS has submitted their glider gaps. If NERACOOS is awarded additional funds from next year's campaign the organization will need to be careful on how these funds are spent and communicated within the region. Ru also noted that a national mooring strategy was being developed to compliment those already existing including waves and gliders. Ru will distribute the draft mooring strategy and IOOS Association to the board.

IOOS Program Office

Eric Johnson will be the new point of contact for NERACOOS in the IOOS office. Zdenka Willis, the Director of IOOS Program is retiring in January 2017. It is expected that there will be an overlap with the new director once hired. George Jungbluth is also leaving the Program Office and has taken a position with the National Weather Service.

Regional Build Out Plan

NERACOOS composed a Regional Build Out Plan (RBOP) in 2011 based on an IOOS Association effort to create a National Build Out Plan. Certification requires entities to review their RBOP every five years. NERACOOS is proposing that the RBOP be reviewed and slightly revised over the next year if necessary for certification, including: costs of present and future costs, advancements in technology, and asset prioritization. Ru will discuss funding prioritization with the IOOS Association.

Operations Update

The funding for the new IOOS award is in place and executed subawards are in process. NERACOOS has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in support of the new buoy in Cape Cod Bay, which is funded by a Massachusetts oil spill trust fund. NERACOOS is working with NOAA CO-OPS and MassDEP on a joint press release. It was requested that at the next annual meeting NERACOOS host a technical session on the

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ImagingFlowCytobot and other projects the organization is involved in. NERACOOS submitted a NSF ITEST proposal in collaboration with the Concord Consortium. A proposal will be submitted in September to the Gulf Research Program in support of the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network. The new NECAN website has gone live at www.necan.org. NERACOOS continues to make progress with certification, hoping to submit this fall, prior to Zdenka's transition. A more detailed NERACOOS operations update is available in the meeting PowerPoint.

SPI Team

There are four SPI working groups that meet routinely around the following subjects: data management and communication (DMAC), operation, HFR and modeling. The DMAC working group has been focusing their efforts on certification and national DMAC efforts. The HFR group plans to discuss new QA/QC procedures and to better meet the needs of the U.S. Coast Guard. The offshore wind energy groups have also shown interest in HFR, there may be a way to utilize this interest. There may be a SPI fall meeting to discuss data products.

Nominating Committee

In the fall the nominating committee will be presenting the board with a new nominating slate. Specifically, the committee has been tasked with ensuring there's an appropriate diversity of skills and knowledge on the NERACOOS board. Based on the recent survey it would be advisable to potentially recruit individuals using the information NERACOOS provides. The following user groups were considered for recruitment, including: working mariners (skippers, tugboat operators, and harbor pilots), MassDEP, Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, New England Aquarium, energy sector (oil, wind, etc.), and fisherman (commercial and aquaculture). The board will forward any other user groups of interest to the nominating committee. It was also noted that other diversity parameters should be considered, including: race, sex and age.

Finance Committee

The finance committee recommends that NERACOOS not own any observing equipment. That being said, NERACOOS needs to strategize how best to replace aging equipment. It was noted that typically large pieces of equipment are depreciated, and the universities may have accounted for this already. This is also an issue with other regional associations (RA's), Ru will follow up. The finance report, which was previously distributed to the board, includes forecasted spending. The budget for the next fiscal year is being constructed and will be brought to the executive committee for review. There is a small surplus of funding from this fiscal year, which will be used as contingency funds for the organization in future years. It was recommended that NERACOOS consider transitioning to a more traditional cash and balance sheet. In the past this template has not been used, but it's something Rob is working on.

Executive Committee:

The executive committee discussed potential strategies to raise funding to replace the aging observing equipment. A subcommittee of the board will meet to discuss this issue and how best to communicate this issue in a productive manner, committee members include: Justin Manley

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(chair), Joe Salisbury, Paul Stacey, Andy Pershing, and Neal Pettigrew. Potential sources of funding include: proposals, RA bulk buoy purchasing, charitable donations and foundations. NERACOOS staff or non-conflicted board members will then secure new funds. The board noted that it may be worth hiring a firm to evaluate the opportunity. This issue should also be brought to the federal advisory committee in an effort to increase the federal line.

The next board meeting is on December 6, 2016 in Portsmouth, NH.

Steve Lohrenz adjourned the meeting at 13:30.