

NERACOOS Board of Directors December 4, 2012 Minutes

Approved by the Board: February 13, 2013

Malcolm called meeting to order at 3:06 pm and suggested everyone in the room introduce themselves.

Board Attendees: Fei Chai, Mel Cote, Blaine Grime, Al Hanson, Anthony Kirincich, Matthew Lyman, Linda Mercer, Marianne Molchan, Chris Nash, James O'Donnell, Jonathan Pennock, Christine Tilburg, Steve Withrow, Michael Szemerda, Peter Smith, Bob Stankelis, Malcolm Spaulding. Office Attendees: Cassie Stymiest, Tom Shyka, Ru Morrison

Peter Smith motioned to approve the minutes from **August 22, 2012** board meeting, seconded by John Pennock, and was unanimously approved.

Christine Tilburg presented the **Nominating Committee** report which started with elections. Malcolm then presented the nominating committee election slate that was previously distributed to the board. Proposed directors for new terms of 2012-2016: Fei Chai, James O'Donnell, Peter Smith, Bruce Carlisle, Linda Mercer, Michael Szemerda, and Dave Casoni. Proposed Alternates: Andrew Thomas (Fei Chai), and Matt Nixon (Linda Mercer). Christine motioned to approve the slate as presented, Peter Smith seconded, and was unanimously approved. Malcolm presented the election slate of proposed officers for new terms of 2012-2014: Malcolm Spaulding (President), Peter Smith (Vice President), Anthony Kirincich (Secretary), and Linda Mercer (Treasurer). Michael Szemerda motioned to approve slate, Blaine Grimes seconded, and was unanimously approved.

Linda Mercer presented the **Finance Committee** report and referenced the reports that were previously distributed to the board. The finance committee met on November 27 via conference call. Highlights include; RA planning grant with WHOI was closed out, FY10 grant in process of being closed out, three sub-awards still need to be closed out, and FY10 is out of balance by \$300, but will be figured out soon. Cassie and Jim are meeting to clean up report for FY11 to finalize audit notes and will send out to the board. Ru added that a new operations budget is being created. Funds will be spent according to the SPI team. The audit was preliminarily successful with no significant findings. All UMassD issues that were included on the August minutes have been resolved.

Ru then provided the **Operations Update**. Ru met with the accountant to review the audit, no problems thanks to Cassie and Jim. Overhead is at 11.5%, down from 15% last year. The biggest thing going on right now is Hurricane Sandy. The hurricane Sandy track was made available in real time on our website, thanks to GMRI, and we were fairly accurate with our predictions. In the future for these types of events Eric and others at GMRI are looking at putting data up in the cloud for times when we need it. Both UCONN and URI lost a HF radar, and one needs repair at UCONN. Will and the BIO team were great at getting wave forecasts through as the hurricane neared. Jim added that he recorded a wave at 4.5-5 meters (the biggest wave heights recorded in LIS in 10 years). All UCONN buoys survived fine, but the routers went down when the power switched over. The computers never went down so new IP numbers weren't requested. Since they didn't matchup data wasn't captured. New equipment was bought to resolve problems. NECOFS had to be shut down. A new viewer is available for UMassD and will apply model interoperability standards.

NERACOOS and other partners are in the process of developing an inundation system for the city of Hampton, NH, as recommended by NWS WFOs. A tide gauge is being installed Dec. 11, to be operated the same way as the one in Sitate. Tom is organizing a press event around this installation. The funding to do the grid is the most expensive, about \$10K. Saco, ME is next on the list.

Discussion points:

- Most of the flooding damage that occurred during Sandy was to the houses behind the marshes.
- Currently, NERACOOS is funding Chen's forecasts and modeling maintenance. If other areas have an interest they can contact Chen and his group for assistance.
- To get on to the estuary and street level, we will need local knowledge. Partnership with the local community is really important.
- Currently all nuclear power plants are being reauthorized for flooding, waves and hurricane risks. We need to see where Seabrook is in this process and become included. We need to consider how to reach out to other nuclear power plants going through the same process.
- Should look to engage with the reinsurance industry.
- Should look to expand the modeling system to LIS for a full region product.

- Look into collaboration with NCEP and lessons learned from MARACOOS' effort with them.

We are launching a new climatology product 12/5, has been led by GMRI with help from the products team. All calculations were based off of University data.

Our data management efforts continue with attending DMAC steering team meetings, IOOS DMAC workshop, hosted NECODP workshop and NERACOOS will host NECODP with Tom Shyka as Chair.

Our communications and outreach activities continue with newsletters, the creation of an east coast ocean energy group in collaboration with MARACOOS and SECOORA, recently co-hosted booth at MTS/IEEE Oceans 12 meeting with SECOORA and MARACOOS, and hosting focus groups with Maine Fishermen and New Hampshire port safety forum. NERACOOS co-sponsored the NEOSEC Ocean Literacy Summit, 180 people attended. Very positive response about the summit, it was said that NERACOOS really gets people and students engaged and excited about the ocean. Thank you to Cassie and everyone who participated in the summit.

The Strategic Planning and Implementation (SPI) team had a meeting in September at the Seacoast Science Center to review equipment needs, alternative funding options, and to work with the working groups. Al expanded on the topic of equipment. To replace current equipment is about \$3M. Total to repair and replace is \$1,230K, but can't afford with current NOAA funding. This is why we're looking at alternative funding. If the funding doesn't increase we're going to have to start taking things out of the water. The SPI team has made a list of equipment priorities and importance. Don't have enough money to replace or rebuild if we keep the same business model. Malcolm is not sure the transformation will happen quickly enough. Al presented three request for proposal opportunities. NERACOOS could be the award lead or a partnered entity. 1. Nutrient monitoring, due Jan. 15. 2. NSF Coastal SEES due January 17. 3. Tapping into America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Need to look more into the legal side of this type of effort. Not one NERACOOS could do, but something we can do in the northeast.

Ru provided a review of the **IOOS Summit**. The summit was a four day meeting in Virginia that was attended by around 200 people about progress in ocean observing over the last ten years and steps for the next ten years. The general feeling was that people want to be involved and continue to build the effort. It was clearly understood that there will be only level funding with no additional federal funds to the program. To build and sustain the system, we need to move towards a private public model. The need for political and industrial champions is great. The Independent Cost Estimate was discussed and numbers were significant. NERACOOS portion based on Regional Build Out Plan was average for the regions.. ICE has been submitted to Congress as required by the ICOOS Act 2009 One thing that we really need to do is become a nationally integrated system. Local energy and regional coordination is what works. The only variable that's currently universal is HFR. To really grow the program there has to be more consistent advocacy, and we need to put IOOS first. Need to make operational groups within each region and bring together. Peter noted that for things such as forecasting there's no reason it shouldn't be shared. Without local information models won't work. Need to look at the scale and the challenges of having it get to the high up. The only way is to go back to the national system, with local back feed information. There's a lot of input that goes into the larger scale.

Ru then led into a discussion regarding funding. The board was asked to fill out a survey prior to the meeting to answer some key questions such as why NERACOOS is important to you and your organization. Ru initiated the funding discussion with reviewing the overall results. A discussion then was initiated regarding the challenges NERACOOS faces. It was agreed that the value of the data NERACOOS provides is incalculable and difficult to measure. The data goes everywhere and is used by multiple types of agencies. Overall we need to improve our image and have a consistent mission. Ru then opened up the floor for a discussion on opportunities. It was once again agreed that NERACOOS needs to have a consistent mission that can be translated to a successful marketing plan. With a consistent mission we can create regional understanding and opportunity. Compiling a team together that will reach out to regional organizations. With this connection we can be known as group that gets stuff done. Need to look into offshore development, reinsurers and commercializing the data so that it can be advertised as usable. Need to also get in contact with delegation and congress. If we make them aware of NERACOOS and what the data could provide we have a far great reach and spread. Political delegation and congress are the ones that make the decisions. First steps are to identify the organizations we want to work with and develop a dialog. Another idea is to make the users pay for the data. If it's a straight forward process it would be simple to implement. Jon suggested a dual track in funding, similar to what they do at universities, NOAA funding, and parallel funding. How do we get it started? There has to be a reason to make it come through NERACOOS. Billing universities isn't a reliable solution because universities are investing in NERACOOS by having their buoys in the

water and liable to damages. It was suggested that we look at the equipment and oceanographic companies. Many oceanographic companies are out there waiting for an opportunity to create something new. Steve noted that he would be happy to help. It was also brought to the board that there is no membership fee to participate on the board. It has been suggested that we look at a tiered approach of membership that doesn't deny anyone from participating on the board. Malcolm agreed and motioned to approve the creation of a draft membership plan, Linda seconded, unanimously approved to review plan at next meeting.

Malcolm thanked everyone for coming. Jim O'Donnell motioned to adjourn, Peter Smith seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.

Nominating Committee Election Slate

Directors, 2012-2016

- Fei Chai, University of Maine, Nominated by NEAC
- Andrew Thomas, University of Maine, Alternate for Fei Chai
- James O'Donnell, University of Connecticut, Nominated by NEAC
- Peter Smith, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Nominated by NEAC
- Bruce Carlisle, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, Nominated by NROC
- Linda Mercer, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Nominated by NROC
- Matt Nixon, Maine Coastal Program, Alternate for Linda Mercer
- Michael Szemerda, Cooke Aquaculture Inc., Nominated for a stakeholder position (group originally selected by Sea Grant)
- Dave Casoni, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, Nominated for a stakeholder position (group originally selected by Sea Grant)

Officers, 2012-2014

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| ○ Nominations for President: Malcolm Spaulding | ○ Nominations for Treasurer: Linda Mercer |
| ○ Nominations for Vice President: Peter Smith | ○ Nominations for Secretary: Anthony Kirincich |