

NERACOOS Board of Directors August 22, 2012 Minutes

Approved by the Board: December 4, 2012

Ru Morrison, Tom Shyka, Cassie Durette, Malcolm Spaulding, Al Hanson, Anthony Kirincich, Steve Lohrenz, Jim O'Donnell, Jon Pennock, Fei Chai, Matt Lyman, Linda Mercer, Christine Tilburg, Cheryl Zimmerman, Blaine Grimes, Mel Cote, Josie Quintrell, Gabrielle Canonico, Dave Easter, Charly Alexander, Riley Young Morse

Malcolm welcomed everyone on the phone and webinar. No quorum was established so the agenda was shifted as appropriate throughout the meeting.

Cassie will email the board with status of the **Conflict of Interest** forms. These need to be completed for the audit.

Anthony led the **Nominating Committee Report**. Pete Jumars has stepped down from the board. His position at UMaine has been filled by Fei Chai who has been recommended to replace Pete's position on the board. Anthony will work with the NEAC for a nominations letter to be voted at the next meeting. Andy Thomas is interested in continuing as an alternate so that will be included in the letter. It was noted that Al Hanson is now the lead for NEAC and not Susan Avery. Anthony will connect with Al about the NEAC group. The NEP/NERRS group at the May 9 board meeting was interested in having representatives join the board. Anthony opened the floor for discussion on this. Matt Lyman offered to discuss representation with NERRs representatives. Mel will make recommendations to nominating committee for NEP. The nominating committee is to ensure that there is no duplication of academic representation on the board as some NERRs are based at universities. The board discussed **Canadian representation**. Peter Smith has retired and Ru is in conversation to see if Peter is in Emeritus status so he can remain on the board. The nominating committee requested input for direction to increase Canadian representatives. Justin Huston was representing but has resigned as his position moved. Christine is involved with the GOMC and will continue to explore recommendations for Canadian representatives in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. For the **December annual meeting elections**, there are some key dates the board should be aware of including nominations due by October 5 so they can be submitted to the secretary 45 days before vote which is October 19. Terms ending in 2012 are: Pete Jumars, Jim O'Donnell, Peter Smith, Bruce Carlisle, Linda Mercer, Dave Casoni, Michael Szemerda. They are all eligible to serve another term. The nominating committee will contact each of them to see if they are interested in re-election. All officer terms also expire this year. Action: Malcolm requested the minutes be checked as he thinks officers would serve until 2013. If officers are two year terms, we will need nominations for officers and board members by October 5. Note: During the meeting, Malcolm reviewed the minutes from November 2010 and confirmed that officer terms end this year. Term start date was discussed with the board. For members finishing out a term, they can be voted at any time. New members that are not fulfilling a term will be voted on at the annual meeting. The nominating committee will ensure that all nominations reflect this process and that when names are submitted, terms are clearly noted.

Josie Quintrell provided a **NFRA Update** with the status of national funding for IOOS and the reauthorization of the ICOOS Act in 2013. A lot of things are dependent on the November elections this year. Because of long term support from New England Senators such as Snowe, Collins, Reed, Whitehouse, and Kerry, we have had very strong bipartisan support. The President's request for IOOS in FY 13 was \$29m, with 23 for regional IOOS (\$14.5 for competitive regional pots, \$5m for surface current mapping (HFR) and \$1 m for the model testbed and ACT) and \$6.4m for the IOOS Office. The House bill provides on \$26m for IOOS while the Senate mark is \$31m. The House and Senate Leadership agreed to work on a 6-month Continuing Resolution (CR) when they return in September. NFRA is also working on reauthorization of ICOOS Act which was passed 5 years ago after a 10 year effort. November elections will determine political strategy for this but a working group has formed to review legislation and identify issues. The group has held scoping meetings on the Hill with staff members. Josie emphasized

how critically important it is to reach out to members of congress at local offices as this is the most helpful mechanism for support. Need to continually work on and build relationships. The final update for NFRA is a meeting with Dr. Lubchenco, the NOAA Administrator, on September 20 with a goal to have an annual process for meeting with NOAA administration. For first time, IOOS will have opportunity to brief Dr. Lubchenco.

Gabrielle Canonico led the **NOAA IOOS Office Update**. First, Charly Alexander provided an overview on national strategies. A National Glider Plan is being developed after a workshop was held a few weeks ago where they created an outline. One high priority was standardization of glider data. National animal tagging efforts continue- POST is now part of the OTN. A second telemetry workshop was held and the plan in FY13 is to start looking more specifically at how to share data through a portal. A new hire will lead the asset inventory project. Work continues on the Modeling Testbed with a competitive announcement being published this fall, dependent on resources. Charly will check what the RFP period will be after the announcement. Gabrielle then asked for questions on the memo that was previously distributed for IOOS PO FY13 that identifies strategic goals for 2013 for the IOOS office. The IOOS office is interested in reactions or questions so we will resend the document and request comments through email. Dave Easter then provided an update and led a discussion on certification guidelines. The IOOS office appreciated our time for looking and submitting comments. The goal to complete the effort is January. After draft guidelines submitted, there will be a robust review with DOC and NOAA and then posted to the federal register once approved. Then there will be a public review period. Dave noted there is no requirement to submit application and materials within any time frame. Dave noted that the overall objective with the office is to develop guidelines that are credible and realistic. Based on some submitted comments, we still have work to do but are getting there. Based on regional comments there are a couple issues: 1. Should formalize the interpretations of the level of details for requirements; 2. Discuss connections between SOP and other plans that are required; 3. How to deal with partially supported observing assets; 4. How will liability protection applied and interpreted, and who will be covered? Overall this is an ambitious timeline to complete certification guidelines by January, but the IOOS office would like to continue discussions with NFRA and RAs in the next few months. The board expressed some concern for certification of assets that are not fully funded and therefore not within the RA's responsibility. One suggestion is that on a yearly basis, identify the assets that we are responsible for, then supplement for other data streams and assets but are not responsible for.

A quorum was established around 10:25am. The **minutes from May 9, 2012** were approved with no discussion or objections- moved by Christine Tilburg and second by Matt Lyman.

Christine Tilburg completed the **nominating committee report** by leading elections. The GMRI position will not specifically fulfill a "Seagrant" or "Other" seat on the board, per Malcolm's recommendation. The nominating committee will work to keep a diverse geographical representation when filling vacant seats. The following motion was made by Christine Tilburg and second by Cheryl Zimmerman: to approve the following nominations: 1. Marianne to complete Jack Ringelberg's term (through 2013); 2. Steve Withrow replacing Marianne as Cheryl's alternate (through 2013); and 3. Blaine Grimes to join the board as a new seat, term starting at this vote for three years (through 2013). Malcolm noted that there are no longer "Seagrant seats", they are just seats on the board. The motion was then approved.

Linda Mercer provided a **Finance Committee Update**. A committee call was held on August 8. Linda pointed out the new format for awards and how reporting will soon be streamlined since the RA Planning Grant closed in May. Subawards for the FY10 award are being closed out and Ru continues to work with UMassD on repurposing some funds that were returned. Subaward amendments have been sent out for the second year of awards for the FY11 grant. Looking ahead, the end of the fiscal year is September 30, have audit coming up and will be closing out the FY10 award. A follow up item from the last board meeting was to look at the effect of the indirect rate policy. Calculation shows about \$215K freed up to be spent on other aspects of the program.

Ru provided an **Evolving Funding Update**. Since the May 9 meeting, a group has formed but not met: Malcolm, Linda, Blaine Grimes. The office discussed looking at board composition and at having the executive committee participate in these discussions. The office recommended assessing our membership, reviewing expectations and responsibilities of board members, and creating an orientation process for new members. Since nominations are due October 4 for elections at the December meeting, time is of the essence. The board agreed that a working group for this is best, with the executive and nominating committee members. Anyone interested in helping with this strategic planning was asked to tell Ru and Malcolm.

Ru then provided a quick **Executive Director Update**- buoys are in the water, Gulf of Maine array has 95% data return, HFR has three locations, great bay buoy was deployed but problems with telemetry data, Narragansett bay nutrient work progress with data coming online soon. The wave glider demonstration project has finished (recovered July 27) and will be deployed with MARACOOS next. Modeling efforts continues and Ru is sorting out issues with FY10 funds at UMassD to buy servers. A working group continues to work on augmenting the Scituate inundation modeling with Hampton/Seabrook. Bat and fish sensors are on our buoys, more information in the newsletter. John Kocik represented NERACOOS at the national animal telemetry meeting that Charly mentioned. Ru continues working with northeast ocean data portal working group. Meetings attended will be sent to the board after the meeting. The most important upcoming meetings are the IOOS Summit and NEOSEC Ocean Literacy Summit. Ru continues helping with the IOOS Summit November 13-16 as he is a Co-Chair. Nominations for regional representatives from board and SPI team were submitted to the steering team. Nominations for regional representatives were collected from SPI and board members and submitted to the steering committee. Congratulations to Al Hanson, Tom Shyka, Bob Beardsley, and alternates Bob Thompson, Jim O'Donnell, and Ben Haskell. There were many NERACOOS affiliated Community White Papers submitted. Only 30 of 100 submissions were accepted for invitation to the summit. There will be a friendly peer review process for the other papers to incorporate into chapters. Ru is interested in hearing comments or concerns from the board on the process so far.

The **annual meeting is December 5** at the Seacoast Science Center with board meeting on December 4 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Portsmouth, NH. Jim noted that AGU is held this same week.

Tom provided a **communications update**. The summer newsletter went out in July and had a 37% open rate, positive feedback, and new subscribers. Our mailing list has 500. The fall newsletter will be released in October. Staff worked with Peter Taylor to develop one pagers for NERACOOS which will be posted online soon as part of a communications tool kit. Tom encourages board members to download and print them or ask staff for prints to bring to meetings when representing NERACOOS. Work continues with user engagement including hosting a focus group at the September Port Safety Forum, participating in the Seaplan boater survey, and conducting the user survey again in 2013. Tom is developing consistent set of messages and messaging guide for NERACOOS. Website updates include the implementation of RSS (Real simple syndication) of real time data which allows other providers and users to pull in our data. The GoMOOS transition has provided for web feedback and we continue to respond to these comments. We held a meeting in July with GMRI to outline key next steps for the website and discussed leveraging work from other RAs. Facebook has 270 likes. The wave glider mission generated the most activity to date. Communication collaborations are a key strategy for our small staff. A great example of this is the press release for the second year of funds for the FY11 award. Tom worked with funded institutions who posted their own version of the PR and was picked up in all regions, and picked up interest in radio interviews. We are also working with GOMC and NEOSEC to discuss regional communications to share expertise and best practices. We are discussing joint ocean energy and fisheries working groups with MARACOOS and SECOORA, and also working on east coast RAs booth at oceans 12 MTS/IEEE meeting. Tom thanked URI and Al for his help with a NERACOOS booth at the Newport America's Cup. Tom and Cassie participated in webinar for web analytics and will create a program for tracking website, facebook, and newsletter use. Web analytics report showed visits from June 1-Aug 17, 2012 over the same period

for 2011. Increase was directly related to the GoMOOS transition. Malcolm asked if NERACOOS was involved with the MARACOOS effort for developing data products with and for fishermen. Ru will continue to work with MARACOOS and ask them about this effort.

Cassie provided an **Education Update**. Cassie continues participating in NFRA EOC conference calls where they recently discussed leveraging tutorial development work. NERACOOS provided materials for an AOOOS sponsored booth at the National Marine Educators Conference in June in Alaska. Collaboration with NEOSEC continues through meeting participation, partnering on grants, and sponsoring the Ocean Literacy Summit. The Families by the Seaside project is in its last year. Cassie presented with FBTS partners at the Project WET conference in May for the project. An exhibit at the Seacoast Science Center is being developed which will highlight right whale research in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. This exhibit will be complete for the Annual Meeting. After presenting at a conference for the Isles of Shoals Historical Research Association, Cassie plans to update an activity for informal science centers to orientate them for real time data access on the NERACOOS website. The NEOSEC Ocean Literacy Summit this year is being sponsored and coordinated by NERACOOS. It will be November 1 and 2 at URI, Dr. Robert Ballard will be the keynote, and many workshops include NERACOOS scientists and education activities.

NROC is planning a meeting on October 25 to discuss regional planning board development.

The **SPI Team** held a workshop on April 3, continues to host monthly conference calls, and will host a meeting on September 25-26 with one day for SPI Team and the second for regional DMAC planning. The SPI Team has made progress on recruiting a new membership and working groups are now being re-populated for the September meeting. OCEH and CH working groups have merged and continue progress.

Ru took a minute to acknowledge the passing of Michele Dionne who was a strong supporter of neracoos and SPI Team member from the beginning. A memorial service will be held September 23 and the office will send more information out.

Riley provided a **products team update**. In terms of membership, Bob Beardsley represents WHOI, not UMassD. Other members include Tom Shyka, Eric Bridger, Linda Mangum, Todd Fake, Bob Beardsley, Eoin Howlett, and Mary Howard-Strobel. The purpose of the products team is to focus effort on bigger product development with partners. Goal for this year is to develop climatologies for key parameters at all NERACOOS buoys. Will have static background with dynamic overlay and use a standard methodology. So far the team has surveyed users to determine interest and preferences, working to finalize standardization of methodology, has developed display prototypes, and plans to deploy a draft at SPI team meeting in September. Riley then shared a couple examples and the display prototype. Malcolm expressed concern for buoys that have three years of measurements versus ten and how will the user know this will increase uncertainty when comparing. Riley will make note of this and discuss with Products team. Riley noted how the climatologies are not for model or archived data but observations only. Riley will make sure there is an internal review before publishing. The protocols can be transported and the conceptual idea and standardization process transferred among regions.

MOU partner Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary's 20th anniversary is this year, they've updated their website noting NERACOOS instead of GoMOOS, and is working with LNG funds for ocean acidification monitoring in the sanctuary.

Ru asked to submit comments for the previously distributed Coastal Hazards Working Group Terms of Reference.

Beginning of planning stages to update and look at the **regional planning initiative**. Meeting in 2013, work with partners to make this happen.

Malcolm thanked the NERACOOS staff and closed the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53am.