

NERACOOS Board of Directors December 4, 2013 Minutes

Approved by the Board: May 29, 2014

Malcolm Spaulding convened the business meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

Board Participants: Matthew Lyman, Steve Lohrenz, Peter Smith, Bruce Carlisle, Christine Tilburg, Linda Mercer, Matthew Nixon, Steve Withrow, Jim O'Donnell, Malcolm Spaulding, Andy Thomas, Mel Coté, Betsy Nicholson, Anthony Kirincich, Blaine Grimes, Bob Stankelis

Other Participants: Ru Morrison, Cassie Stymiest, Tom Shyka, Jackie Ball, Josie Quintrell, Zdenka Willis, Jeremy Phillips

Christine Tilburg motioned to approve the August 21, 2013 board meeting minutes, seconded by Peter Smith, and unanimously approved.

Christine Tilburg presented the previously distributed nominating election slate on behalf of the **Nominating Committee**. There has been an amendment to the nomination slate; Paula Fratantoni will replace Betsy Nicholson as Alternate for NOAA. Proposed directors for terms of 2013-2016 were Steve Withrow, Anthony Kirincich, Steve Couture (with Alternate Ted Diers), Justin Manley, and Steve Lohrenz (with Alternate Avijit Gangopadhya). Nicole Bartlett (with Alternate Paula Fratantoni) was nominated as the nonvoting NOAA representative. Malcolm Spaulding was nominated to serve an additional one year term (to 2014) to fulfill his presidency. Malcolm motioned to approve the slate as presented, Jim O'Donnell seconded, and was unanimously approved. Christine reminded the board that she will be leaving the NERACOOS Board in December 2014. In light of this transition a replacement on the nominating committee should be found this year. It would be helpful if that person shadowed her for one year to know what's involved. Jim O'Donnell volunteered to join the nominating committee. Cassie thanked the following board members who are stepping down after today for their service to the NERACOOS board: Jon Hare, Marianne Molchan, Cheryl Zimmerman, and Chris Nash.

Linda gave the **Finance Committee** report, referencing the financial report that was previously distributed to the board. This report is not complete because it does not contain non-federal funds. Jim Chase at the Seacoast Science Center has resigned, Rob Cardeiro is the new financial representative. Rob is in the NERACOOS office half a day, once a week. Initial results of the audit indicated there were no findings this year. All issues found last year have been resolved. With Chris Nash stepping off the board we need another person for the Finance Committee, Steve Lohrenz volunteered.

Ru administered an **Operations Update**. The NERACOOS office moved October 1st to Pease International Tradeport. Recently NE-CAN, the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network, webinar series has begun. The webinar series will lead to a State of the Science meeting in April. NE-CAN dovetails with the NERACOOS NROC (Northeast Regional Ocean Council) Northeast Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Project which was kicked off earlier this year. Mel Coté is one of the co-chairs of this project. There have been two meetings to date; next meeting is scheduled for January 16th. On December 2nd NERACOOS was part of four proposals that were submitted for the MBON (Marine Biodiversity Observing Network) opportunity. NERACOOS was also involved in 7-8 letters of intent with the Marine Sensor Innovation opportunity; next week we will hear who will be selected to write a full proposal. The Sandy Supplemental Funds are hopefully imminent, within the next few weeks.

Zdenka Willis provided an **IOOS Program Office** Update. In FY13 even with rescissions and sequesters regional funding increased by \$3 million. Some of these additional funds will be used to start the Marine Sensor Innovation Project. Some of these funds have already been used to fund Don Anderson's HAB (harmful algal bloom) work within NERACOOS; and ocean acidification work on the west coast. Right now the Program Office is planning FY13 CR levels at another 5%. This will translate to about a \$1million difference in the regions. In terms of Certification there were some real concerns about the definition of

"employee". The IOOS Program Office is working on redefining, will be wrapped up next week to send to Dr. Sullivan's office. This will hopefully be published beginning of next year. Dr. Holly Bamford assumed leadership of the National Ocean Service in January. She will be focusing on the addition of a coastal intelligence network and place-based conservation. Holly understands the importance of working with partnerships, especially on the hill. The IOOS Program Office is working with Holly and others to create a coastal environment informational paper. Zdenka was asked if there was any effort on the national level to have NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the U.S. Army Core of Engineers programs work better together. Zdenka replied that this has been noted and will continue to try and make this relationship more successful. The more we communicate with individuals from the Army Corps and make them aware of the work we do the more successful we'll be. Malcolm added that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) recently updated their flood insurance maps without coordination with the IOOS community. To create these maps outdated information and techniques were used. Malcolm has begun resolving this issue and is on the agenda for the next National Council meeting in April 2014, he will work in coordination with Josie to resolve this issue.

Josie delivered an **IOOS Association** update. The NE-CAN webinars have been a great success and are receiving a lot of good PR. Overall the IOOS Association has been focusing on three things; legislation, funding, and keeping IOOS on the minds of people in D.C. Since IOOS is non-denominational there is a lot of bipartisan support. The IOOS authorizing legislation expired back in September, since then the House of Representatives has re-introduced the bill. The Republican house has very strict budget constraints, but IOOS has a lot of support in the Senate. Overall there has been good support from New England delegation, need some more support in New Hampshire. There has been a lot of good press on the hill this year, especially from west coast shellfish growers. The IOOS Association is following the FY13 ask. It is moving forward into the budget committee which both Senator King and Senator Whitehouse sit on the committee. The annual fall meeting was last month in San Diego. At the meeting Ru was elected chair of the IOOS Association. The major event for the IOOS Association are the March hill meetings. These hill visits are very important, but delegation contact needs to occur all year long.

Ru opened the floor for **Partner Updates**. Mel updated the group that he is the new federal co-chair of NROC. The next regional planning meeting is January 22-23 in Boston. The meeting objective is to approve the three year work plan. The Gulf of Maine Council is celebrating their 20 year partnership at the Coastal Zone Canada 2014 meeting scheduled for June 15-19, 2014. The Sentinel Monitoring Project was involved in two MBON proposals that were submitted to IOOS last week. If approved resources will be used to implement the sentinel monitoring plan.

Cassie will distribute a Doodle poll to schedule 2014 board meetings. Malcolm Spaulding motioned to adjourn, Jim O'Donnell seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Nominating Committee Election Slate

- **Steve Couture:** *Steve C. is nominated to fill the seat left vacant by Chris Nash. Will be first official term through 2016.*
- **Ted Diers:** *Nominated to be Steve Couture's alternate.*
- **Malcolm Spaulding:** *Nominated to serve an additional one year term to fulfill President's term. Term will end 2014.*
- **Steve Lohrenz:** *Nominated to remain in current position for a final term through 2016.*
- **Avijit Gangopadhva:** *Nominated to continue as Steve Lohrenz' alternate.*
- **Anthony Kirincich:** *Nominated to serve a first official term through 2016.*
- **Aleck Wang:** *Nominated to continue as Anthony's alternate.*
- **Steve Withrow:** *Nominated to fill seat left vacant by Cheryl Zimmerman. Will be first official term through 2016.*
- **Justin Manley:** *Nominated to join the board in vacant seat. Will be first official term through 2016.*

- **Nicole Bartlett:** Nominated to replace Jon Hare as NOAA representative. Is nonvoting seat so no term designated.
Paula Fratantoni: Nominated to serve as alternate for NOAA.