

NERACOOS Board of Directors: March 4, 2016 Minutes

Approved Final: May 25, 2016

Board Participants: Dave Townsend, Paul Stacey, John Conway, Janet Freedman, Nicole Bartlett, Todd Callaghan, Matt Lyman, Steve Lohrenz, Andy Pershing, Paula Fratanton, Justin Manley, Steve Couture, Tom Taylor, Dave Hebert, Anthony Kirincich, Alfred Hanson, Mike Whitney **Other Participants:** Ru Morrison, Jackie Ball, Rob Cardeiro, Josie Quintrell

IOOS Association

Spring meetings, focused on a closing the gaps campaign, in Washington D.C. were well received. The closing the gaps campaign discusses gaps in monitoring, specifically high frequency radar (HFR) and other observational gaps throughout the nation. The President's budget includes increases in funding for coastal resiliency, extreme events, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) forecasting test bed and the Ocean Acidification Program (OAP). Russell Calendar is now the official head of the National Ocean Service and is a longtime supporter of IOOS. The honoree directors of the IOOS Association are working with the Ocean Leadership Commission to increase funding for IOOS. Dear Colleague Letters from both the House and Senate are being circulated. Josie encouraged the NERACOOS board to contact their local delegate to sign the letter, contact information will be forwarded along. NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team (NART) is hosting a legislative roundtable for Massachusetts this summer to highlight NOAA partnerships and efforts; Ru will follow up with Nicole Bartlett to include NERACOOS in efforts.

IOOS Program Office

For the IOOS FY16 award NERACOOS has maintained level funding, which was not seen within all regional associations (RA's). There is directed funding for HFR and additional funding from NART and NOAA's OAP. Ru is working with the program office to resolve a few funding questions. Upon resolution Ru will reach out to partners with their exact funding levels and distribute sub-award packets. The review process was a bit opaque, but the IOOS Association will be providing proposal comments.

Approval of the Minutes

Anthony Kirincich motioned to approve the December 9, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Todd Callaghan. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Conflict of Interest

The 2016 conflict of interest forms, which were previously distributed, need to be signed and returned to Jackie as soon as possible.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee met this week to discuss the board recruitment process. In the past this process has been done ad hoc, moving forward the executive committee has requested that skills and expertise be an additional consideration to ensure there are no gaps within the board. The Committee is working out the best method to move forward and will be surveying the board at the May meeting.

Finance Committee Report

Rob Cardeiro reviewed the new financial report, which primarily focuses on NERACOOS. Rob has also worked on some new reporting tools to have a better understanding of where NERACOOS stands with each award. The final audit results have been received, indicating a clean audit. These results should remove NERACOOS from being classified as a high risk recipient. NERACOOS will be submitting a no-cost extension to IOOS for the FY11 award. As part of this process the office will work with the sub-awardees on spending out the remainder of their funds. A delay in invoicing is the primary reason for large sub-award balances.

Executive Committee

NERACOOS currently doesn't own any equipment, but through the Ocean Technology Transfer (OTT) award and the new Cape Cod Bay buoy NERACOOS has been presented with the opportunity to purchase equipment. The executive committee and the operators working group have discussed the merits of this proposition, and at this point aren't inclined to pursue. The associated work required of the NERACOOS office is too onerous and would outweigh the benefits. This issue will remain open until May so that individuals may comment. At the last board meeting Jim O'Donnell raised concerns about the board term limit and potential gaps in board knowledge and expertise. The executive committee discussed the term limit and at this point feel that it's not necessary to change the by-laws. Board turnover and new membership is an integral piece to a nonprofit organization. That being said there may be extenuating times when an individual is critical to a given area and it may be necessary for them to remain on the board for a limited period. At this point the executive committee is not seeking any action from the board. The nominating committee has been tasked with reviewing the board recruitment process and identification of any gap in knowledge or skills. The next board meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday May 25th, location to be determined, and Monday August 15th, in Bar Harbor. Interested board members have been invited to join the annual meeting planning committee, which will assist the staff with meeting planning, including: identification of a keynote speaker, theme, location, etc. Steve Lohrenz has already volunteered to participate, and any other interested participants should contact Jackie.

Operations Update

The SPI Team has begun to follow its new format and several working groups are up and running. There will be an all hands on deck meeting in May to hear from all the working groups. Through IOOS's OTT award, NERACOOS is involved with three projects, including the: nutrient observatory led by NERACOOS, deployment of total alkalinity sensors led by Joe Salisbury at the University of New Hampshire, and deployment of the Imaging FlowCytobot led by Heidi Sosik at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. NECAN has completed their stakeholder engagement workshops and is currently working on a new website and an implementation plan. The science and implementation plan for the Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) will be completed this summer. A similar effort in Canada has been begun. NERACOOS communications and outreach efforts continue by attending meetings, the 2015 Annual Impact Report, the quarterly electronic newsletter, and through social media. It was suggested that NERACOOS attend a wider variety of stakeholder events such as boat shows, fishing derby's and seafood shows to interact with new stakeholders. Nicole Bartlett noted that there's an opportunity for NOAA collaboration on this piece and offered to help. A more detailed NERACOOS operations update is available in the meeting PowerPoint.

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

Meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.