

NERACOOS Board of Directors: March 6, 2017 Minutes

Approved May 22, 2017

Board Participants in Attendance: Steve Lohrenz, Steve Couture, Dave Hebert, Dave Townsend, Justin Manley, Dave Ullman, Pamela DiBona, Janet Freedman, Matt Lyman, Paula Fratantoni, Todd Callaghan, Anthony Kirincich, Mike Whitney, Steve Withrow, Regina Lyons, Joe Salisbury, and Jason Goldstein

Other Attendees: Ru Morrison, Rob Cardeiro, Emily Silva, Jackie Ball, Tom Shyka, and Josie Quintrell

Steve Lohrenz commenced the meeting at 9:33am

Welcome and Introductions

Steve Lohrenz began the meeting by welcoming everyone with a special welcome to the new board members; Pamela DiBona, Jason Goldstein, Regina Lyons, and Dave Ullman.

Approval of the Minutes

Todd Callaghan motioned to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2016 Board Meeting, seconded by Dave Townsend. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

IOOS Association

Josie Quintrell provided the update for the IOOS Association. Josie gave a brief history of the IOOS Association and her connection with GoMOOS and NERACOOS. The Closing the Gaps campaign was designed to incrementally close the observing gaps for IOOS over time by asking for smaller, more specific amounts of money for the programs and projects. The FY17 campaign ask in support of High Frequency Radar (HFR) was well received with both House and Senate adding an additional \$2M, but it's unknown if this increase will be seen in FY17. Campaign efforts for FY18 include the initial \$3.1M for HFR, as well as an additional \$3.3M for gliders. It is critical for those on The Hill to know that people depend on this data.

The ICOOS Reauthorization Act is expected to be introduced to the Senate soon by Senators Wicker and Cantwell. IOOS is very fortunate to have bipartisan support. This is a good time for NERACOOS to be diligent about reaching out to members within the New England delegation on the appropriations committee, letting them know about IOOS and other coastal programs. The NOAA budget being cut by 17% is a real indication for serious action even though there has been no specific language yet regarding IOOS. Josie and Ru will be attending meetings with Senators, Appropriations Committee, Gulf of Mexico Group regarding these budget cuts. It is important that NERACOOS starts preparing now for these budget changes. It is critical to demonstrate that this data is utilized and necessary. Josie is optimistic about the work that IOOS and NERACOOS do.

The IOOS Spring meeting is March 14 – 16. Steve Withrow mentioned an economic study being done by the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on the Marine Technology Industry in New England, which is funded by the Massachusetts Seaport Council. The study will research the

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impact of marine technology on industry. This study may be useful in showing the need for ocean data. Justin Manley voiced concerns about the outcome of the study so Steve Lohrenz offered to reach out to Michael Goodman, who is working on the project, to get some insight.

Pamela DiBona will be a part of a group of National Estuaries Partnerships (NEP) Directors visiting The Hill in May and offered her input and help in adding NERACOOS to the discussions at that meeting. Josie and Pamela will touch base after the board meeting.

IOOS Program Office

Ru Morrison provided the update for the IOOS Program Office in lieu of Eric Johnson. IOOS is working on a new strategic plan, Carl is the new director and he is excited about moving IOOS forward. Ru saw Zdenka Willis in DC recently, she was recognized for her contributions to IOOS.

Steve Lohrenz is attending a BOEM workshop in DC on offshore energy and expressed the importance of reaching out and connecting with the right people. It is important to demonstrate where ocean data comes from, their value in a broader sense, and how it benefits key constituencies.

Operations Update

Ru Morrison provided the update for NERACOOS Operations. The annual report is finished and has been sent to the printers. We will have the final copies delivered before the IOOS Spring meeting in Washington D.C. Paperwork for certification has been submitted. Of the eleven regions, ten have submitted paperwork and three or four have been certified. This will be an important step in the right direction and will bolster the significance of the work that NERACOOS is doing. There are a few proposals due in the next few weeks for Coastal Resiliency and IOOS Ocean Technology Transition (OTT). Emily and Tom attended the Maine Fishermen's Forum in Rockland, Maine. It was well attended and is a very useful meeting for NERACOOS as we can connect with members of Maine's commercial fishing industry.

We have two five year awards from IOOS, FY11 and FY16. FY11 is currently in the process of closing out and will be done by May of this year. We are transitioning now to the FY16 award. We are still waiting for funds to support the purchase and operation of the new Cape Cod Canal PORTS® buoy. NERACOOS is the first IOOS Region to enter into an MOU with NOAA CO-OPS to establish a PORTS®. MASS DEP are also part of the MOU and are providing the funding. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) award, which funded data integration and the development of a regional inundation viewer with wave-run up in selected areas, is ending at the end of March.

Buoy M, which is a part of our Nutrient Observatory project, broke free of its mooring in February and was recovered by UMaine along with all of the attached instruments. It is still out of the water and plans to get it back in the water are in progress. The IOOS OTT Tracking Ocean Alkalinity

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Using Carbon Measurement Technologies (TAACT) is doing well and had a fantastic data set, several improvements have been made to the stock design of the instruments which will enable longer deployments. For another IOOS OTT project, the mobile platform for the ImagingFlowCytoBot is in the testing stages.

Nominating Committee

Anthony provided the update for the nominating committee. In the last month there was an “action without a meeting” to vote Dave Ullman on to the board in order to replace Al Hanson who is retiring. Anthony thanked Al for his time on the board and welcomed Dave.

Finance Committee

Rob Cardeiro provided the update for the Finance Committee. A revised finance report, that included a budget summary, financial activities detail (P&L), balance sheet, and finance summaries for each of the projects, was discussed at the committee meeting on February 23, 2017. Rob noted one area of concern in the finance report: NERACOOS is close to the budget for “other expenses” due to the audit at the end of the year. Rob offered to share a detailed profit and loss statement with any interested board members. The committee also reviewed the draft Fiscal policies and procedures manual. The auditors will review this manual and provide feedback, which will be ready for the next board meeting for review.

Todd Callaghan motioned to approve the finance report, seconded by Anthony Kirincich. The finance report was unanimously approved.

Executive Committee

Steve Lohrenz took this time to thank the board members for their time on this committee. The committee had several discussions via email regarding the recent nomination of Dave Ullman and the NERACOOS Employee Handbook. Rob has been working on the employee handbook for the better part of a year and thanked everyone for their input, it has now been sent to the NERACOOS attorney for feedback and a finalized copy will be available for the May board meeting.

Tiger Team Update (Development Committee)

The progress for the Tiger Team has been good overall. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been sent out to various contractors and the Executive Committee, Tiger Team, and NERACOOS staff have chosen one particular organization, Philip Conkling & Associates (PCA), to work with. This contractor will assist NERACOOS in increasing its non-federal funding through the membership program. PCA will work towards expanding the membership program and pull together a plan for NERACOOS moving forward. Updates will be given at subsequent board meetings regarding the process and effectiveness of the plan.

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Justin Manley motioned to approve that NERACOOS use of PCA and spend no more than \$15k, seconded by Steve Couture, unanimously approved.

Review of Action Items and Next Board Meeting

Action items from this meeting:

- Steve Lohrenz will reach out to Michael Goodman at UMassD regarding the economics study.
- Josie and Pam will connect regarding the May Hill visits.
- Pam offered to help the Tiger Team with non-federal funding ideas.
- Board members should think about how they could contribute to the Tiger Team's efforts in increasing non-federal funding.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 11:03am