

NERACOOS Board of Directors November 28, 2011 Minutes

Approved by the Board February 8, 2012

Board members present: Malcolm Spaulding, John Trowbridge, Linda Mercer, Jon Pennock, Steve Lohrenz, Pete Jumars, Chris Nash, Jim O'Donnell, Michael Szemerda, Mel Cote (nonvoting); Board members on the phone: Peter Smith, Bruce Carlisle, Kevin O'Brien; Staff present: Ru Morrison, Tom Shyka, Cassie Durette; Others present: Ron Rozsa, Neal Pettigrew, Zdenka Willis

Malcolm called meeting to order at 3:08pm. **Secretary not present.**

Linda Mercer motioned to approve of the **minutes from August 16, 2011** board meeting, second by Pete Jumars, and unanimously approved.

Pete Jumars presented the **nominating committee** election slate that was previously distributed to the board. Proposed board members: Jon Pennock, Al Hanson, Christine Tilburg, and Matt Lyman. NROC will engage with the Canadian delegation at the Gulf of Maine Council meeting in early December to get a suggestion for the Canadian province member as NROC is required by the NERACOOS bylaws to select a Canadian Director. *A replacement for board member John Conway to represent Connecticut industry still needs to be identified.* Proposed alternates: Doug Vandemark (for Jon Pennock), Ted Diers (for Chris Nash), and Marianne Molchan (for Cheryl Zimmerman). John Trowbridge motioned to approve the nominating committee slate as presented, second by Michael Szemerda, and unanimously approved.

Linda Mercer presented the **finance committee** reports that were previously distributed to the board. Malcolm noted that NERACOOS pays the first 15% of indirect. NERACOOS has almost completed their first A-133, applied and was approved for a no cost extension for the FY10 award, and has executed nearly all FY11 subaward agreements. FY11 start date was June 1, 2011 and is for five years (\$1.77M to NERACOOS for this year) - NERACOOS and subawards will need to descope annually. NERACOOS' primary source of funding is IOOS, but some non federal contributions have been made (and are reflected in cash flow statement). John Trowbridge motioned to approve the finance reports as presented, second by Steve Lohrenz, and unanimously approved.

Malcolm led the board in a discussion of **Cost Share**. There is no current federal requirement for cost sharing but through discussions at board meetings, the board decided to create a policy that would allow NERACOOS as an organization to cost share so that contributions would be tracked. It was approved unanimously that subawardees would be required to cost share 50% of their indirect costs. The policy was then integrated in the FY11 subaward agreements but there was a lot of feedback. Malcolm and Ru then decided to delay implementation of the policy. The Northeast Academic Consortium requested that the policy be brought back to the board for discussion.

Discussion points:

- NERACOOS might not get more relevant work or money from implementing this policy.
- Some have already been using lower indirect rates, but should be consistent to all subawards.
- Could implement a memo policy.
- There is value of bringing this work to the attention of the vice provost to reach regional potential and increased visibility of the program. If vice provosts agree to support the program, they can better advocate for resources. There is also value in showing the bigger picture- e.g. UCONN infrastructure is not solely funded through NERACOOS.
- NERACOOS funds for UCONN allow state's water quality agenda to meet their agenda through a variety of ways. EPA and LISS program values it enough now to partner in cost sharing.
- Not all institutions engage with their vice provost for these decisions.
- Zdenka commented on efforts at the national effort. There is no cost share requirement nationally because regions requested it that way. Though not required, it is encouraged.
- From an industry perspective, there are economies of scale.
- Implementing these policies may prohibit institutions from working together.

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Malcolm closed the discussion on cost share. *Edits to policy were not formally adopted, discussion will continue through email.* Directors that are representing universities will make recommendation to Ru and Malcolm for in state or off campus rates to be used for the cost share policy. Ru and Malcolm will assemble a spreadsheet and make edits to the policy. *This will be done before the descope process in January.* Jon Pennock recommended the language to say, “at a rate equivalent to” state/off campus rate that is chosen, and not, “apply state rate.”

Ru presented an update on the **Operations of NERACOOS since August**. NERACOOS has been busy with the audit, finalizing policies (auditors happy with progress), FY11 contracts, PSAs with Ron and BlueUrchin (Stormreporter tool complete), GMRI (Drupal and GoMOOS products to NERACOOS); Completed user survey with RMC Research (GoMOOS, LISICOS, MySound websites- 97% said they use Real Time Data everyday); Press event tomorrow; Will have a couple key staffers at meeting tomorrow; GoMOOS transition (website changed); Non-federal fund contributions (paid NFRA dues and some salary); Regional build out plan. The RBOP process included webinars, writing teams, and an in person meeting on 9/15. Staff participated in national synthesis which will update the regional document. The Products Team continues to work on Climatologies and will get together with the P&E team on 1/5.

Tom and Cassie continue to develop a work plan to engage an **Education & Outreach** Advisory group. The MMSA Easie project developed a podcast on buoys. NERACOOS continues to work with COSEE through Broader Impact Workshops, is a member of GOMMEA, continues partnership with NEOSEC (hosted Professional Development session 10/21 and will sponsor Ocean Literacy Summit in 2012), and continues to help upgrade the Seasons of the Sea exhibit at the Seacoast Science Center. Tom continues to develop a communications strategy/plan. Staff have attended a number of meetings like CBEP, port safety forums, RARGOM, MREC, and NERRS.

NERACOOS continues to engage with **NFRA and IOOS program office** on certification, build out, gaps analysis, etc. Scott Keuster visited the NERACOOS office. Josie and Ru met David Kenenedy at CSO meeting. Gabrielle Canonico will be regional lead/point of contact for the IOOS program office. Ru, Tom and Malcolm participated in the Fall Workshop, Ru attended DC trip in October, and various delegation visits. Ru and Cassie met Congressman Bass in September with his Chief of Staff.

NERACOOS is working with Evan Richert (hired by Maine State Planning office), GOMC, and NROC on **regional planning**. Bruce Carlisle commented on an NROC retreat that focused on ocean planning based on anticipated NOAA resources. *Bruce will send link to website and draft framework.* There will be a competitive process to implement components of the plan. There is understanding that data portal work will stay within the data portal working group and therefore funds may go to NERACOOS for data development.

Ron noted that he met with CT DEP and LISS in December 2010 to discuss need for observations and tools for Hypoxia. Ron has drafted a **Hypoxia management plan** in response to this. Jim met with the LISS Science and Tech Advisory committee and the consensus was that there should be a committee to work on a plan for revising their monitoring effort. The plan is to integrate long term observations into the plan that was drafted 20 years ago that was based on ship observations.

Zdenka provided an update on the **FY12 budget**. NOAA received a budget and IOOS received the President’s budget. There is language in FY12 for HF Radar that will hopefully allow for more funds to the systems. The plan is to have numbers to descope to in January and money out by May.

Dates for 2012 Board meetings: February 8, May 9, and August 22. These will be video conferences and be 9-4. The Annual Meeting will be November 7.

Malcolm adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Notes respectfully submitted by Cassie Durette