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**AOOS Board Meeting**

***April 3, 2015, Anchorage, Alaska***

**Draft Meeting Summary prepared by Darcy Dugan**

Board members present in Anchorage: Ed Fogels (ADNR), Larry Hartig (ADEC), Paul Webb (USCG), Paula Cullenberg (AK Sea Grant), Amy Holman (NOAA), Dan White (UAF), Duncan Fields (NPFMC), Jim Kendall (BOEM), Cheryl Rosa (USARC)

Board members attending by phone: Chair Ed Page (AK Marine Exchange), Katrina Hoffman (PWSSC), Mike Castellini (UAF SFOS), Chris Siddon (ADFG), Tara Riemer (ASLC)

AOOS staff attending: Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Holly Kent

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 9am and asked AOOS Executive Director, Molly McCammon, to lead the group through the agenda.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**Action Item**: Draft meeting agenda approved unanimously.

**Adoption of Board Meeting Summary:**

**Action Item**: The Oct 17 2014 Board Meeting Summary was approved unanimously.

*Motion by Fogels, second by Hartig.*

**Overview by Executive Director**

Molly McCammon provided an overview of recent and upcoming AOOS activities and participation in state and national level initiatives.

National Activities:

* Molly remains on the executive committee of the IOOS Association and serves as Treasurer. The IOOS budget is holding steady and received a small increase in FY2015.
* For the ICOOS Reauthorization Act, there are two issues of interest to AOOS: (1) If AOOS serves up forecasts and real-time observations, staff would be covered as federal employees for tort liability; and (2) Proposed language clearing up gray area about board members simultaneously supporting the mission of a regional association and the mission of a federal agency. This hasn’t been a problem for AOOS, but would be good to resolve.
* Certification – The board voted for AOOS to pursue certification at the last meeting. PacIOOS has gone through the process to pave the way for other RAs. AOOS has most of the systems in place for certification but will need to work on documentation.
* Arctic Observing – AOOS is on a number of planning teams.
* New proposals: AOOS/Axiom has received contracts to do data management services for the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Program (AMBON), and the central California MBON. AOOS/Axiom will also be part of a new project called MARES: the Marine Arctic Research Ecosystems Study. This is a multi-agency program funded by BOEM headquarters, NASA, USGS and others, with the focus on eastern Alaska Beaufort and western Canadian Beaufort. See more under acceptance of grants.
* An FFO just came out from NSF to compete to provide data management support for NSF’s Arctic programs. AOOS has been approached by multiple groups to partner on proposals.
* Molly is working with Scripps on a Pacific Basin workshop on the big ocean temperature anomaly referred to as “the blob”.
* Molly is on a national task team to establish an animal telemetry network. The initiative is co-funded by the IOOS national office and the Office of Naval Research. The plan is to house the network within the IOOS program office.

Alaska Activities:

* Molly is on the steering committee of the Northwest Arctic Borough Science Program, funded by Shell with the goal of enhancing local capacity to support locally relevant science.
* AOOS helped develop an ocean acidification initiative last fall calling for $3 million/year for 5 years from the Alaska Legislature to continue support for the UAF Ocean Acidification Center, which had been fully funded by the state in the past. However, with the tough fiscal climate, we are switching our focus to outreach and education, and searching for external funds. The federal OA program received an increase, and we hope to get an increase in funds for state projects from this source.
* The National Weather Service has $300K for a new NWLON tide gauge in Unalakleet, and $200K for less robust systems. AOOS is partnering with NWS, DNR, and NOS on implementation, and is hosting a technical workshop this spring on cost, needs, etc.
* AOOS received two Cook Inlet grants – one from KWFHP to enhance the Cook Inlet Response Tool, and one from the NFWF for a Cook Inlet beluga database.
* Sea Grant coastal resiliency staff – Paula Cullenberg has been trying to secure an additional MAP agent to focus on coastal resiliency, flooding and inundation. Sea Grant is trying to get four groups to contribute $30K and AOOS may be involved.
* Personnel – AOOS hired Holly Kent as the new Program Coordinator, and she started in March. There were 12 applicants for the Operations Director and the top candidate will visit in April.

Molly also briefed the committee on recent activities in the realms of marine operations, coastal hazards, water quality, and ecosystems. See the PPT slides.

**New University of AK Board Member Confirmation**

Mike Castellini stepped down as Dean of the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences this winter to take on a new university position; UA President Pat Gamble nominated Dan White, the new UA VP of Academic Affairs and Research, to take his place on the AOOS board.

**Action Item:** Board members unanimously confirmed Dan’s appointment to the board.*Motion by Holman, second by Fogels.*

**Tribal Member Update**

AOOS is still seeking a tribal member on the board. Molly gave a presentation to the Indigenous Peoples Council on Marine Mammals in December and they were interested in joining AOOS.They plan to send someone to the AOOS Board meeting in June.

**Data Management Committee (DMAC) Member Confirmations**

Previous discussion determined that the DMAC committee would benefit from a traditional knowledge specialist, and a representative from another regional ocean observing system. The two candidates identified were Zach Stevenson with the NWAB subsistence program, and Jim Potemra at PacIOOS.

**Action Item**: Board members unanimously confirmed the appointment of Zach Stevenson and Jim Potemra to the AOOS DMAC. *Motion by Williams, second by Kendall.*

**Acceptance of revised Terms of Reference for DMAC**

The terms of reference for the DMAC was outdated, and they were revised by the DMAC in February this year. They were brought to the board for approval.

**Action Item**: Board members unanimously approved the new DMAC Terms of Reference. *Motion by Holman, second by Fogels.*

**Acceptance of Grants –** AOOS received two recent grants:

**MARES** – Marine Arctic Research Ecosystem Study, funded by BOEM and others and focusing on the Beaufort. The project lead is STANTEC and the proposal is intended to be up to $5 million program for 5-10 years. AOOS has $175K to provide data management services for the initial phase of the program.

**NFWF Cook Inlet Beluga Ecosystem Data Portal** – This $80K grant will develop a beluga ecosystem portal with matching funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and the Cook Inlet RCAC.

**Action Item:** Board members unanimously accepted the MARES and NFWF grants. *Motion by Williams, second by Holma.n*

**FY15 annual budget and work plan**

Molly presented the FY15 work plan and budget to the board.

Special notes:

* There are no big changes from last year in the budget.
* The total cost of the operations director is uncertain since a salary and start date have not yet been negotiated.
* A clean audit was conducted by the ASLC and board members will receive copies when it is finalized.
* The Cook Inlet wave buoy funding was increased to $10K to cover potential unexpected costs of buoy retrieval.
* Axiom funding for core data management is staying mostly level. Axiom received an extra $251K from IOOS for SOS, HF radar, scalability map, and new tools for managing biological data.
* We usually have the opportunity for 2 years of extensions so there are no major concerns if projects are not finished by their initial end date.
* Dan White noted that much of the Year 4 money has not been spent. Molly clarified that it is due to delays in billing from the university and Axiom, and some carryover from year 1. She mentioned it is good to have a few months cushion in case the federal budget process is delayed.

**Action Item:** Board members unanimously approved the FY15 budget and work plan as proposed. *Motion by Hoffman, second by White.*

**Ocean Observing Roundtable**

**Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels (AK Dept of Natural Resources)**

ADNR has a new commissioner, Mark Meyers, who Ed believes to be the most data/science-driven commissioner they’ve had. Commissioner Meyers has received the Governor’s approval to refresh the MOU and add additional members to the Geospatial Council, which commissioned the statewide digital mapping initiative. Chris Hamilton on the AOOS DMAC has been working with the Council and noted that they need a marine component. On the terrestrial side, the original project for developing a digital basemap (an ortho image for the state) is finished with 2.5m imagery. The new statewide DEM at 5m resolution is half complete and still requires additional funding. The original plan included 1/3 state, 2/3 federal contributions, but the state has already exceeded that amount and is waiting for federal funds. The USGS is producing new high resolution US topo maps generated from the new DEM, and Ed brought an example.

Ed was asked whether there was any discussion at DNR about re-instating a coastal zone management program. He responded that the issue had come up in the transition team meetings, but the administration hasn’t had much time yet to consider it.

**Mike Castellini (Former Dean of UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences)**

Mike highlighted the Arctic Science Summit Week to be held in mid March 2016 in Fairbanks at UAF (<https://assw2016.org/>). UAF is soliciting organizations across the country to hold their annual meetings during that time, and Mike suggested that the AOOS board meet in Fairbanks that week. There will be 700-800 arctic science and policy people in town. Mike also wanted to thank AOOS for all the variety of activities he’s been involved in during his time on the board.

**Jim Kendall (Alaska Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - BOEM)**

The BOEM assistant secretary signed lease sale 193 and Shell submitted an exploration plan on Feb 28. BOEM is checking for completeness, and will then open a 30-day public review period. If all goes smoothly, Shell will be in the field this summer and ocean observations will be very important. There was no open water meeting this spring.

**Duncan Fields (North Pacific Fishery Management Council)**

Duncan noted that AOOS is still almost unknown outside of the research community, and there are a lot of AOOS tools of value to the fishing industry. The Com Fish meeting in Kodiak could be a good audience.

The next AOOS Board meeting will be in June.

**Meeting adjourned at 11am**