

**2016 NAML Winter Meeting
6-7 March 2016
Washington, DC**

Meeting Notes

NAML President Mike DeLuca called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. He reviewed the logistics of the meeting and introduced Robert Cowen (Bob). Attendance was taken of members present (included at end of minutes) and on the phone (Brian Melzian joined on the phone). President DeLuca indicated that there would be changes to the agenda to adjust for availability of panel members scheduled for Tuesday.

Briefing on Federal Science Budget and Policy Environment and Presentation of the FY 2016

NAML Public Policy Agenda began at 2:19pm. Consultants Joel Widder and Meg Thompson (Federal Science Partners) reviewed information using a brief PowerPoint presentation. Thompson began the presentation with an overview of the budget process and then proceeded to review the discretionary, non-defense budget. Widder reviewed budget priorities of particular concern to NAML members, including pending issues important to NAML members. After a question and answer period, President DeLuca asked Cowen to give an overview of proposed NAML public policy agenda for 2016 and to lead a discussion by the group on the agenda. ***After discussion, a motion was made by Shirley Pomponi and seconded by Michael Crosby to accept the public policy agenda as presented. This passed unanimously.***

Past President Nancy Rabalais came forward and gave the official gavel to President DeLuca, officially turning over the organization to new leadership. President DeLuca took the opportunity to thank past president Rabalais with a round of applause from participants and with a (soon to be) engraved glass mug with heartfelt thanks as a token of appreciation for her service.

Business Meeting – see separate Minutes.

7 March

President DeLuca convened group at 8:12 and introduced first speaker.

Mr. Craig McLean, Associate Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA.

Discussion of current workforce at NOAA, noting that many are currently over 50. Thus, there will be major turnover at NOAA in the next ten years. Discussed National Water Center soon to open in Tuscaloosa, Alabama May 2016. Indicated that his will be the federal hub for looking at water hazard issues and sustainability for a “weather-ready nation”. Brief Question and answer session ensued. The discussion centered around new Cooperative Institutes with members asking about how and when new

centers might be chosen. McLean indicated that centers would be more multidisciplinary and regional than in the past.

Beth Kerttula, National Ocean Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy. General discussion outlining issues of interest as transitions begin between administrations.

Business Item: There was a switch in the order of business because one panel would arrive late. President DeLuca took the opportunity to discuss potential of funds from regional members for helping with administration of NAML. There was general concurrence about this need from all of the regional Presidents. Further discussion will occur.

Education Committee: Jan Hodder, who could not make the business meeting, was introduced to discuss the committee. There are many members on the committee who attend conference calls, but need to have more assistance with action items and with working on different education projects. Hodder requested that members consider taking on leadership roles in the committee; members George and Nielsen responded affirmative and will speak with Hodder.

Break

Cowen began a public policy discussion: There was a discussion of NAML's participation in a Hill Briefing. Some members suggested that it be close to the winter meeting to save travel. Others indicated that the week of the winter meeting was generally filled with other meetings and that adding another would not be practical. The discussion moved in the direction of having a briefing about 2 weeks after the winter meeting. While there was not total agreement, there seemed to be a general consensus that this would be reasonable to give time to regroup after the winter meeting. Some members suggested that it might be useful to schedule two briefings. It was suggested that a white paper be assembled to outline NAML priorities. Widder queried whether NAML would like to draft some language about environmental sciences for testimony to Congress. There was general agreement that this should be done. Widder will follow up with draft for editing.

NSF Program Officer Panel: NSF Initiatives and Marine Laboratories: Dr. Peter McCartney (BIO) was introduced at 10:52 as lead. Lisa Clough accompanied. McCartney began by talking about the Field Station and Marine Lab Grants. Noting a frequently asked question, he clarified that "off campus" in the grant description means who it serves, not necessarily where the station/lab is physically. If it is for classes only, it would likely not qualify. But, if it has significant outreach and public participation, despite physical location, probably would be eligible. He reviewed the planning grant procedure for strategic planning and gave a couple of examples of funded proposals. He noted that it is important to communicate that the home institution has a commitment to the station or marine lab. It is important that grant seekers indicate how material will be made public on such databases as iDIGBIO and DATAONE.

Lisa Clough (OOI) discussed the data portal education section for ocean observatories initiative with partners Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, University of Maine, and Raytheon Mission Operations and Services. The emphasis is providing materials for data-enhanced activities. Clough defined these, suggesting a large shift in funding opportunities. Clough noted that almost every Research Experiences for Teachers in Engineering and Computer Science (NSF RET) is approved. One change will be related to the Fair Labor Act which will boost postdoctoral salaries to above \$50,000. There was a short discussion of the impacts of this change with no transition at research institutions.

Amanda Greenwell, Director, NSF Office of Legislative and Public Affairs (OLPA) (previously at NOAA, joining NSF in 2015) began her presentation around noon. Talked about her background and began discussion of LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory with #einsteinwasright). This is a project is international with over 1000 collaborators. She suggested that some of the data and sensors begin developed might be of use to ocean scientists in the future. There was a brief discussion led by DeLuca who asked how NAML members could better represent to NSF the

importance of geosciences. Sanders indicated that NAML needs to advocate balance but should push back when changes in funding affect sections important to NAML members. The general discussion was to let science, not politics dictate funding. George asked how members win the rhetoric battle. After the discussion, members adjourned for lunch.

Lunch was available around 1:10. Members reconvened for the lunch speaker around 1:35.

Dr. Margaret Davidson, Senior Advisor, National Ocean Services gave a rousing, no-holds-barred discussion of issues around coastal resiliency, *inter alia*. Davidson is a familiar speaker at NAML and many members have worked with her over the years. She suggested that there are some funding sources such as the National Association of Insurance Re-Issuers which could fund research and application work on climate adaptations. Davidson also noted that HUD has Resilience grants. She suggested that if members had not read the book *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right* by Jane Mayer. Another potential source of funding that ocean researchers might not consider is FEMA. Davidson suggested that researchers work outside the box to seek new sources. There were several questions. One clear item that had been discussed previously is the need for scientists to communicate better and more often with the public to make people care about issues important to the ocean science community.

NOAA Panel: Dr. Keelin Kuipers, NOAA Office of Coastal Management, Chief of Policy, Planning and Communications Division, led the panel which began around 2:10. Kuipers discussed the Regional Coastal Resilience Grants briefly. She clarified that the grants are focused on planning, disaster preparedness, and hazard mitigation. However, Kuiper emphasized that there are two parts that might be of particular interest to NAML members: ocean use and environmental restoration. She emphasize that successful proposals should show partnerships and regional impacts. Kuipers discussed the Digital Coast platform which is a website through the NOAA Office for Coastal Management which is a useful resource to get ideas about coastal management and how NAML members might contribute to the research and conversation.

Dr. Zdenka Willis, Director, Office of Integrated Ocean Observing Program introduced her background and discussed the animal telemetry portal (ATN). Willis discussed some of the advantages of a national network. Willis briefly discussed *The Ocean Enterprise: A Study of US Business Activity in Ocean Measurement, Observation and Forecasting* issued through IOOS on 16 February as a good resource document for NAML members.

Dr. Mary Erickson, Director, NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science briefly discussed information about new funds coming through the Restore Act. Guidelines will be issued and there will be \$15 million available over a three year period. DeLuca asked about IOOS and NERSS. Crosby inquired about the megafauna group for sensor/telemetry data. Erickson indicated that the Ocean Tracking Network from Canada will lend sensors. The National Park Service may also be a useful source for telemetry data and sensors. Sensors are being developed and deployed to determine organisms passing through the area from DNA shed into the water.

Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Assistant Director for Education, NSF began her discussion of education activities at NSF. Ferrini-Mundy noted that NSF is open to new reviewers for proposals as well as rotators in different programs. She encouraged members to apply for both of these positions to learn more about NSF-HER and other programs. Ferrini-Mundy indicated that the new preferred term for citizen science is public participation in science. She emphasized that these had to be authentic STEM experiences for participants including data collection and analysis. There are new funding opportunities through the Science for All initiative for K-12 Computer Science. There is also the NSF INCLUDES program which is focused on groups underrepresented in the Sciences and Engineering with preliminary proposals due 15 April. Full proposals for that program would be due in June. There was a brief question and answer period in which members asked whether materials such as the Smithsonian ARMS would be appropriate for these programs. Ferrini-Mundy indicated yes.

Break occurred about 4:05

Notes for after break were contributed by Felicia Coleman

Panel on working with Like-Minded organizations: First speaker was Ms. Michelle Wyman, Executive Director, National Council for Science and the Environment. This is a not-for-profit which has universities and junior colleges as membership. The mission is to improve the scientific basis of environmental decision-making. The organization seeks to bridge science, its applications and policy. Dr. Chris Avery, Senior Advisor, National Council for Science and the Environment was also present.

Ms. Josie Quintrell, Executive Director, IOOS Association SECOORA noted that there is a great deal of overlap between the goals of IOOS and NAML. The IOOS Association is a non-profit formed by the regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing. IOOS is working on a data portal and trying to sustain observational work. The organization is working on IOOS re-authorization, especially in creating a buy in by the Republicans on various committees. It is important to have bi-partisan support. Quintrell noted that users are not getting needed information because of flat funding for the past few years.

Ms. Rebecca Roth of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association began her presentation by discussing the problems of graduate fellowship programs on NERR sites. The organization is considering creating a small advisory committee. NERR adopted a work plan with three focus areas: commonalities among sites of potential partnerships (e.g. NAML), science and services that sites provide (legislative agenda focused on system-wide monitoring and building out sentinel-site program), and capacity to communicate and have legislative outreach. Roth noted that the group is concerned about having clarity in transition planning, including talking to incoming political and government agency contacts. She noted that NERR will focus on furthering investment in monitoring and sentinel programs, not allowing momentum to decrease with political changes.

Ms. Lexi Shultz, Director of Public Affairs, American Geophysical Union, introduced herself as part of the government relations team. The AGU has a mission to promote Earth and space science for humanity. The key issue this year for the organization is energy production, with AGU taking a leadership role. Shultz directed the members to the website <http://thebridge.agu.org/2016/02/16/the-science-policy-scene-in-2016/>.

Dr. Suzan Park, Executive Director, Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, provided an overview of the mission for CERF. The focus is on students and early professional mentoring. The organization supports a peer reviewed journal, Estuaries and Coasts. Park noted that estuaries and coastal areas do not get the recognition that they deserve relative to their economic and ecological contributions to the nation. Park further noted that there is a great deal of overlap between CERF and NAML. CERF is currently undergoing strategic planning, focusing on translating the importance of coastal science. She indicated that they are searching for their niche in the policy realm to translate their mission into action.

Closing Remarks: Widder noted that there is a biomedical lobbyist group that meets for breakfast once a week in DC. This group is very informal, trading information about what is going on around town and within groups. Widder suggested that Ocean Leadership could host something similar, but cautioned that a focus would need to be established.

NOT SURE WHO SAID THIS It was commented that where NAML members fail too often is in going back to our home institutions and getting the attention of upper administration on campus to policy initiatives when their focus is on big money grants. How can NAML members aggregate to make positive responses to recommendations for transition.

NOT SURE WHO SAID THIS (Avery?) There are other forums that exist for university leadership. The Congress-federal government is not the only place where decisions are made. Members should think about other levels of government to which universities and organizations can lend their voices. For instance, a number of governors came together to focus as a group on best practices for decision making without federal input. Coleman noted that this is what happened with the governors surrounding the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Coalition and the restoration thereof, signed by six governors and the mayor of DC.

Meeting was adjourned by President DeLuca who thanked those in attendance for productive meeting.

In attendance

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Attended 6 March only *

Attended 7 March only **

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