

Meeting Notes for NAML Winter Meeting 5-6 March, 2017

Washington, DC

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1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 400

Conference Rooms A & B

Members should review biographies and general materials in the briefing book to put these minutes into context.

Opening Remarks (President DeLuca and R. Cowen): M. DeLuca opened the meeting at 8:40, making comments overviewing the meetings of the day. He welcomed members from Richard Stockton College Marine Center to NAML. The major topic of conversation was the emerging landscape in Washington, DC and how NAML might respond to changes. S. Ebanks commented on a proposal being fashioned jointly with the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) focused on metrics for education done at marine centers. R. Cowen noted some ideas of how we might respond effectively to initiatives at the federal level, suggesting that NAML focus the congressional briefings on such initiatives. There was a brief discussion by other members. R. Cowen indicated that an email will be sent to members containing summary of ideas generated. J. Widder commented again about the importance of the public policy monthly phone conferences in framing responses. He indicated that members who were not on the committee should send him an email if they wish to be included on the mailing list.

J. Widder did a brief overview of what NAML wanted to accomplish today with various meetings. He noted the different speakers and what each would address (see briefing book).

Michael Conathan, Center for American Progress was introduced. The center is a progressive think tank. M. Conathan indicated that maintaining a bipartisan standing was a priority for the center. The focus there is on Blue Economy-use of science to frame sustainable fisheries, coastal resiliency and similar issues. After a brief overview of his personal background, M. Conathan highlighted some positive news from the previous year including reports on climate change and fisheries, ocean acidification, and completion of the first two regional ocean plans. The Center led the fight on seafood identification issues, worked to gain permanent protection for over 1 million acres of ocean, and pushed for the launch of the GOES R weather satellite. He then turned to the question of where some of these gains might go under the new administration. M. Conathan noted that during the confirmation hearings, the candidate for EPA Director, Scott Pruitt, noted in response to a question concerning ocean acidification that the oceans are alkaline and are expected to stay this way. The question about the new leadership of NOAA is still unknown. M. Conathan commented that the Department of Defense and its discussion of critical infrastructure will have to include climate change and its impact. The major message to NAML is to trust the science and talk confidently about discoveries. Connecting people to nature is critical to advance some of the interests of NAML, noting that facts matter if you communicate them well.

Kolo Rathburn, Majority Staff, Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee: K. Rathburn indicated that everything is in limbo as of the current date relative to appropriations. He noted that the CR runs out at the end of April. The 2017 is still wrapping up with agencies being cautious about spending. He then opened the floor for questions. The first was what are the messages that we should be sending relative to the proposed cuts that were announced on the previous Friday? K. Rathburn said that it is important that NAML members talk to their Congressional members to indicate which programs are important and why. He noted that NAML needs to talk about key programs. If Congress is going to make tough

funding cuts, Congressional members need to know what our priorities are and why. Communication is key. It is helpful to keep comments non-partisan. We need to keep the relation with Congress healthy on several fronts. NAML members asked if Congress members would reach down into NSF to cut geosciences. K. Rathburn said it is likely. In fact, he noted that the House members have been adamant about cutting geosciences. Communicating needs about geosciences is critical in educating House members.

Russell Callender, National Ocean Services. Began by discussing priorities and by providing leadership updates. He reviewed what he thought might be areas of opportunities. He also echoed the notion that communication is key. For example, he said that coastal resilience does not have much support as a topic in conservative audiences. Top level messaging on this topic should focus on safe and efficient transportation and commerce. Preparedness and risk reduction now replace the term resiliency. Stewardship, recreation and tourism are important topics because these address usage of coastal areas. R. Callender made comments on the current white paper: good but too dense. He noted that the one pager should be modified to target the audience addressed. Coastal/county snapshots (translate that as home district) are important when addressing particular members of Congress about the value of coastal areas to jobs and job trends over time. Tailored messages should be created for specific audiences. He suggested that one area of interest is aquaculture. Further, he suggested give Congress and the President some “quick wins” with the topics of interest to NAML. Use plain language and anecdotes that relate to the audience. Key is to continue building partnerships. R. Callender suggested three areas where there might be important connections: acidification (coral reef task force; reef restoration), incorporate data streams into NERRS (make connections with IOOS clear), and harmful algal blooms that can affect health and commerce (both freshwater and saltwater impacts).

Gulf of Mexico Restore may be stable for now. On workforce across the board, goal is to enhance diversity/inclusion. Look for opportunities involving underrepresented. FAMU has a cooperative center for oceans, for instance. NOAA’s education program very important for increasing workforce diversity; need to emphasize this type of information. R. Callender urged members to focus on the long game and to keep focus on what matters. Stories with numbers important. Value of place based science important. Larry Robinson Center for Coastal and Marine Systems important connection for getting students involved.

Panel Discussion for lunch. L. Jewett: Devote at least 20% for fully competitive funding concerning ocean acidification. Can look at GOA-On, which is the global OA portal as a source of information. David O’Brien (NOAA NMFS Aquaculture): Secretary Ross suggested that we want to become a net exporter rather than importer. Have complicated regulatory system which may be scrutinized. Two science pieces: make quick and efficient decisions based on data and how do we help the industry get to the next level technologically. He pointed out that Maine is doing a good job on their aquaculture activities. Have a one stop shop for permits and general information. Fishing families have started to invest in aquaculture activities. Jonathan Pennock: Still feels he is a part of NAML. Emphasized working with universities to weigh in on importance of Sea Grant. Future expansion? Partnerships are critical. Making concerted effort to build partnerships.

Following afternoon notes are summarized from J Gardiner.

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (Fern Gibbons and Sara Gonzalez-Rothi): This Congress, the committee is working on several items of interest to NAML including IOOS, tsunami

legislation, and vessel incidental discharge act. The goal of the committee is to have a consensus product before presenting bills so that they can be passed by unanimous consent. NAML can work with Congress people in their districts/regions to inform them of NAML priorities. Should be sure to underscore the impacts to commerce as this is important consideration. Senator Nelson of Florida is interested in continued investment in observing platforms, community and coastal resilience and research. Secretary of Commerce Ross understands what NOAA does and he has the attention of the President. He may be someone that NAML needs to focus on to get across our priorities.

There are two bills that have been put forward already (S74 marine oil spill prevention act which includes NOAA and Coast Guard improvements and S338 the scientific integrity act requires agencies to put into place integrity policies that protect scientists within their agencies from political interference) that may be of interest to NAML members.

The committee also expects to work on HAB and hypoxia (strong bipartisan support) legislation as current authorization expires next year. There should be some minor changes to the Coastal Zone Management Act, which should be monitored by NAML members. There are plans to develop legislation related to Community Resilience. Coral reefs may also be considered in legislation. The committee has a large Great Lakes presence now, so it is likely that issues from NAML framed in that sphere would have support. The Tsunami Warning, Education and Research Act has two components: research and education (NOAA), and the observation and warning system (NWS). It may be a funding challenge to get this program reauthorized.

If SeaGrant was zeroed out, it could be reauthorized by making a deal with the house for something they're interested in; pushing for reauthorization tells appropriators that this program is still a priority. NAML members can help with discussing the value of SeaGrant.

For our brown bag congressional briefings, NAML should highlight where dollars for specific research have come from (specific line items); can use lines from last fiscal year's request for now.

Highest impact time is between now and end of April when current continuing resolution runs out.

NSF (Peter McCartney and Chris Meyer): P. McCartney discussed FSML program, noting the geographically diverse places that provide access to a variety of resources as well as providing a venue for training the next generation of marine scientists. He emphasized that marine labs are also places for translating basic science into societal benefits including communicating science to the general public. The cap for planning grants is still at \$25000 while the cap has been removed for improvement grants. There should still be about 25 awards. P. McCartney emphasized that data management section of grants should include how to network information. He also noted how regional themes are emerging as a theme in the grants. Planning grants can include a group of marine/field stations for instance.

INCLUDES grants (Chris Meyer): There is a goal of broadening participation and diversifying the STEM workforce. The focus of the program is to support novel approaches and social innovation strategies; new research models, networks and partnerships to scale social innovations; leverage the current broadening participation portfolio; as well as to encourage collaborative alliances across education levels, between public and private sectors. Last year was pilot year for grants; more are expected to be awarded this year.

RCN and RCN-UBE programs (Chris Meyer): Established to foster communication and promote collaboration among scientists with common interests from broad backgrounds, “Me to We”. UBE track will focus on undergraduate biology education, learning and assessment; collaboration between BIO and HER. There will be incubator awards to form new teams and full awards (up to \$500K for 5 years). Will support a broad range of themes: from active learning to faculty professional development. Challenges/opportunities include broadening participation in networks, sustaining networks through time (5 years is not always long enough for networks to reach full potential), and evaluating network success.

FSML doesn't have a lot of money to fund an RCN, but can help broker a deal between programs; needs to be science-led, not infrastructure (but can include infrastructure needs); pick a program and submit to meet their deadline – it will get reviewed in that program, possibly co-reviewed (based on dates).

Biological Collections, Instrument Development – no deadlines this year to date. Collections will likely come back, because of a huge outcry from the community.

Ocean Sciences OCE (Rick Murray): There are some personnel changes for those who keep track. Bill Easterling is replacing Roger Wakimoto on June 1 as the new Assistant Director for Geosciences. New Lead Program Officers: Candace Major (MGG) and Hedy Edmonds (CO); Physical Oceanography has grown to 4 (2 permanent, 2 rotators; George Voulgaris now permanent). Marine GG has grown to 5 (3 permanent, 2 rotators; Debbie Smith is now permanent Marine Geophysics).

Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences (Sea Change): baseline in 2014 was an increase in infrastructure funding, decrease in science funding; as of 2016, leveling out (at ~ 50/50 right now), moved ~ \$14M from one side to another.

Infrastructure: biggest categories ARF (fleet, goes up and down as new ships come online, old ones get retired), IOSP (flat), OOI (20% reduction over 2 FYs). OCE is increasing investment in OOI.

Research fleet: *Sikuliaq* into full operation in 2014. ONR: 2 new ships; *Sally Ride* (Scripps) and *Armstrong* (WHOI). Regional class research vessels: budget to handle 3 ships if awarded by Congress.

LTBR coastal/ocean sites: 2 new ones announced last week (WHOI, University of Alaska leads).

Earth Science experiment to remove deadlines: 50% decrease of submissions, consistent over 3-4 funding cycles, quality of proposals is higher; every program is studying this and will be making their own decisions shortly; single deadline is not being considered.

Reproducibility and Robustness: NSF handling these issues through data management plans, making sure that scientists are capturing and maintaining the data.

There is a new PAPPG; stressed compliance with the new doc: collaborators go on separate doc, not in biosketches. Files need to go in the right spot, proposals are being sent back without review because more and more of the compliance checks are becoming automated.

New decadal-scale ocean research plan coming soon (June/July for public input): includes Great Lakes and estuaries. There is an emphasis on public outreach

FY17 is closing out in June (one month early) due to the move to Alexandria, be patient with program officers.

No new cross-directorate programs coming that would involve OCE; some Big Ideas (have been published in *Science*) that are in early to mid-development stages, budget uncertainty regarding rollout.

OCE receives criticism for lack of funding for Great Lakes research. OCE is currently doing a self-study to look at proposals submitted and funding rates for Great Lakes-centric research

Next Steps/Wrap-up:

Calls for public policy, 2nd Wednesday monthly

Looking for additional volunteers to work on and help implement strategies

Continuing discussion on topics for stand-alone briefing

Reminder of biennial fall meeting (probably October in NJ)

Thank you to J Widder and M Thompson for all of their work to put this meeting together and to give us a voice in public policy issues and to Burk & Associates for handling logistics and our finances

Final comments – J Widder: Get the public policy agenda down to a few key points/programs, be on the calls for Public Policy when possible to keep up with what is needed and new information.

Adjourned at 5:08pm