

**Minutes for NAML Winter Meeting 5-6 March, 2017
Washington, DC**

Submitted by S. Gilchrist

NAML Business Meeting commenced at 2:05 pm on March 5.

The minutes below reference the final briefing book (FBB) created by Federal Science Partners (Widder and Thompson) available on the NAML website.

Opening remarks: President DeLuca made welcoming remarks to the group at the business meeting held in the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle. The overall theme of the remarks was that NAML needs to make the case at federal, state and local levels that NAML institutions have strong programs that are cost effective and deliver quality products.

Those in attendance were asked to consider approval of new member application offered by NEAMGLL for Richard Stockton University. The executive committee approved the application previously so that it could be brought to the full membership at the business meeting. R. Dickey offered the motion and V. Klump seconded. After some brief remarks and discussion, **there was a positive vote supporting the application.**

President DeLuca read an email in tribute to colleague Graham Shimmield who recently passed away. The Bigelow Lab has established an endowment in Dr. Shimmield's name. After comments from NAML colleagues, **President DeLuca presented a contribution to J. McManus for the endowment from NAML** to honor Graham.

Report from Federal Science Partners (J. Widder and M. Thompson): The powerpoint prepared by Federal Science Partners is online at the NAML website.

The presentations began with introductions as there were many at the meeting who had not attended in the past. J. Widder took the lead in discussing the material. There were announcements about President Trump's proposed budget that directly pertained to NAML and the Ocean Science Community, so J. Widder spent some time on these matters. In particular, there was a discussion of the recommendation to de-fund Sea Grant. Widder noted that there would have to be an amendment passed to change the budget control act to make spending unequal between defense and non-defense spending by Congress if the president's recommendations were to be followed. Widder also noted that to date, the White House has not discussed what might occur with the budget of the remaining fiscal year 2017. Grants from different agencies are being made slowly with the agencies being cautious about spending. Widder noted that though there are suggestions about getting rid of extramural funding from some agencies, there will be multiple meetings with Congress committees and push back from members because of impacts on districts.

Discussion of NAML Public Policy Agenda (R. Cowen, Chair): The policy material connected to federal budget activities is very important. R. Cowen urged members to participate in the monthly phone calls of the committee even if not a formal part of the committee membership. Chair Cowen indicated that he has taken notes from the policy calls on what could be potentially added to the next white paper produced by NAML.

Chair Cowen asked J. Widder about what may be the timing for the congressional meetings for which NAML could make contributions. Widder indicated Spring is a good time, perhaps by the end of May. Timing could give NAML the opportunity to support agencies and others in a meaningful way. The notion of a collaborative briefing on coastal issues was discussed. Capitol Hill Ocean Week is the second week in June (13-15); this might be a good time. Chair Cowen asked what the high level message is that NAML wants to convey. There was brief discussion of what would be most impactful. Some suggested translational research, benefits from marine research, jobs/workforce development and research education. These are considerations as NAML prepares for future activities.

Business meeting

International Committee (Chair, Ivar Babb): The order of the committee reports was altered to allow Chair Babb to allow the group to interact with Dr. Herman Hummel (Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research) via phone. Dr. Hummel sent a powerpoint presentation to pair with his remarks. There was a MARS meeting 31 January to 2 February in Santander, Spain. MARS (European Network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations) is important in representing smaller institutions/stations. Chair Babb and Dr. Hummel led discussion of joint activities/topics NAML and MARS might have. One project that might be easy to join is the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) marine station list to update the facilities around the world.

Treasurer Report (Billie Swalla): NAML is financially in good shape; we are in the plus column.

Education Committee (Sue Ebanks): Committee is looking to add someone from NEAMGLL; volunteers welcome. There are general education meetings quarterly. Focus of recent meetings has been on what to include in NAML white paper. In particular, there has been a discussion of how NAML labs can quantify the educational value of labs. The general education meeting will be 17 May and the executive meeting will be on 23 March.

Network Initiatives (Steve Weisberg): Ocean acidification network update was first topic. NOAA tentatively will fund a part of the OAN for training. B. Swalla talked to NSF concerning the network. NSF wanted to have a research network grant proposal. The second network initiative discussed centered around genomics with Neal Davies. A game plan has been formulated to do training. In general, the notion is to create a cyber network. A question that has arisen is how do we tie taxonomy to the samples? R. Dickey discussed consideration for coastal observing monitoring systems, indicating that significant educational value of these should be recognized. There was a brief discussion of network integration with the conclusion that it can work, but that there needs to be more consideration of what model to follow.

Evaluation of Contractors (President DeLuca): Contractors were asked to leave while members discussed performance. President DeLuca made a few comments about FSP and their contributions to NAML. DeLuca noted that Widder and Thompson have been supplying NAML with timely and important information, positioning the group to be “players” at the federal level. In particular, President DeLuca noted that FSP has been excellent at helping NAML to develop testimony for Congress. FSP has also been outstanding at producing the NAML white paper in a tight time frame. President DeLuca noted that we will be asking more of FSP this year. He proposed an increase in their contract. B. Swalla made a **motion to increase contract**, which was seconded by W Curry. A discussion ensued. R. Dickey **suggested a \$10,000 increase** for the year. This was accepted by the mover and the seconder as a friendly amendment. **The motion was passed on a voice vote.**

President DeLuca turned to a discussion of Burk and Associates, reminding members that there were some initial miscommunications and problems with this contractor. President DeLuca and Treasurer Swalla now meet monthly with Burk and Associates. The communication and service has increased tremendously with this increased contact. After a brief discussion, Treasurer Swalla suggested a \$2500 increase in the contract for Burk and Associates. Members asked if a price comparison for comparable services had been made. The general consensus was that we are getting a good bargain for the services provided. Treasurer Swalla made a **motion to increase the contract by \$2500** which was seconded by L. Burnett. **This passed on a voice vote.**

The business meeting then continued with each of the regional groups meeting. Groups returned with reports to the whole.

Report outs

NEAMGLL: There is positive movement ahead on developing the website. Election for members-at-large and president are upcoming.

SAML: Regional meeting will be 21-23 May at UNC-Wilmington. The internal topic will be ship costs and the external topic will be communicating coastal resiliency.

WAML: WAML had a joint meeting with the Packard Foundation last Fall where the topic of what initiatives could be networked was discussed.

President DeLuca discussed the biennial meeting to be held at Rutgers. He suggested early to mid-October as a time frame. Members could fly into the Philadelphia Airport as an option.

There was also a brief discussion about upcoming Gordon Conferences (early June) focused on ocean dynamics and chemical oceanography that might be of interest to members.

Meeting was adjourned about 5:20.