

**National Association of Marine Laboratories
2018 Winter Meeting
Washington Plaza Hotel
March 4 and 5, 2018**

Meeting Notes

Notes for 4 March NAML meeting in Washington, DC

Please note that the meeting agenda and briefing book appear on the NAML website.

Action items are in *bold italics*.

Meeting convened at Washington Plaza Hotel conference room (10 Thomas Circle, NW, WDC).

President Bob Cowen opened to welcome all attending. Everyone was invited to introduce themselves and their organization; new to this meeting was the ability to call in and participate. Bob Dickey, here as president elect, also said some words of greeting and the meeting opened at 2:05pm.

Past President Mike DeLuca was given the floor to provide an update of working with Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) discussed at NAML 2017 Winter meeting. DeLuca gave the background for the discussion. The current bylaws of NAML do not allow for associates as members are regional. NAML would need to amend bylaws to allow associates. In addition to COL, the NAML executive committee has been discussing the possibility of requesting amendments to allow other organizations to become associates as well. DeLuca briefly discussed benefits of working with COL, giving an example of working together when beneficial on specific issues such as aquaculture. NAML could have a slot on the COL board as an associate member, but there would be no voting privileges. The cost for joining as non-voting associate with COL is \$1500/year ordinarily but would be waived in our case. Bob Cowen noted that NAML might consider amending bylaws to allow associate membership in a regional unit. NAML already has in the bylaws a designation for special support group (provides particular information or support). It is still clear that opening an associate category would require a change in the bylaws. Consider that our bylaws currently are broad in definition of marine labs, which may allow NAML to subsume the associate membership under our current bylaws. There was continued general discussion about how COL was shifting some of its focus from the past. It was noted that COL hosts a couple of organizations that NAML might want to have input to/from such as Subcommittee on Oceans and Technology (SOST). Ideas were offered for advantages of joining forces. For instance, could NAML and COL host a roundtable for SOST? This would be a concrete activity for NAML and COL. Question was posed about downsides to the partnership. Joel Widder noted that there would not be diminished service with Science Partners. COL does not generally have public meetings. However, the COL activity with the Hill is generally open to the public. NAML member would be able to attend as delegate appointed by NAML president. Joel Widder indicated that Jonathan White (COL) would be joining the NAML meeting on Monday and members could ask questions of him about association with NAML. Joel Widder noted that COL has already discussed association with NAML and is on board with NAML becoming a formal associate. Multiple NAML members indicated that NAML wants to make sure that our profile/mission stays clear. *The executive committee will follow up on the discussion today with some text on bylaws for consideration.*

Federal Science Partners Presentation. FSP; Joel Widder and Meg Thompson made the next presentation. Joel Widder did a brief overview of the relationship between NAML and FSP, including

what will occur on 5 March. Novim report will look very similar to the 2018 request. The 2019 request will also look similar. Sea Grant may be zeroed out again. The consideration of programs like Sea Grant provides a window into the priorities and thinking about ocean programs. Meg Thompson reviewed the PowerPoint charts concerning Discretionary Spending Caps: Administration vs Congress. She discussed the current continuing resolution (CR) that ends 23 March, noting that Congress raised caps. There will be a corresponding raise of caps on defense spending as well. Mick Mulvaney has made recommendations on where spending cuts can be made in the non-discretionary funds as well. Appropriations subcommittees are at work to come up with budgets. Joel Widder put some general observations in the briefing booklet and made comments on slide of presentation. He noted that some of the science agencies are being asked to go to traditional based (basic research). Mission agencies like NOAA, EPA, USGS etc. did not receive any add back in the addendum to date. For NSF, Widder indicated that the add-back will support the “Big Ideas” (https://www.nsf.gov/about/congress/reports/nsf_big_ideas.pdf), which include interdisciplinary programs. Education and Research may be added into these priorities. There will be a great deal of bargaining about programs, including adding back some of those not funded the previous year. Joel noted that agencies may be able to reprogram a small amount of funding without going back to Congress.

President-elect Dickey made the next presentation on the draft public policy agenda. Comments were centered around the notion that it was too broad. President-elect Dickey countered that if we make it too narrow, it will not cover interests of NAML members. NAML members were asked to take a look at the 4 March version of the agenda and see how items might be prioritized. A discussion of the ways to prioritize or combine topics followed. There were several suggestions. Joel Widder forwarded a current copy of the agenda with strikethroughs and notations. President-elect Dickey noted that Sea Change (<https://www.nap.edu/resource/21655/decadal-survey-summary-final.pdf>) was the inspiration for the agenda. It was suggested that pursuant to previous discussion about partnerships that we might be able to consider a broader agenda this year. Joel Widder noted that that last year, we focused on programs within specific agencies with NAML agenda. He indicated that this year NAML might want to focus more on science questions. A lively discussion ensued. ***The Public Policy committee will take into account the discussion in formulating a more concise agenda.***

As an adjunct to the public policy discussion, Joel Widder discussed how NAML has been invited to roundtable of extramural ocean science groups. The focus of the discussion is to think about testimony that could bring the extramurals together. He noted that in the spirit of trying to work together, COL and NAML will be briefed on SOST. Widder ran the generic idea by Rick Murry. ***It was suggested that a small group be assembled together for the discussion, with others participating by webcast.*** It is not scheduled or done, this is just an idea at this point. With a requested show of hands, it was noted that least half a dozen of NAML members are on COL.

NAML Business Meeting began at 3:50 p.m. (see **business meeting minutes**).

5 March at Consortium for Ocean Leadership Conference Room 100 New York Avenue WDC

Meeting was opened at 8:34 am with remarks by Bob Dickey and Bob Cowen

First speaker of the day was William Easterling, AD Geosciences NSF. Easterling gave some background on himself and then talked about what is happening at NSF. Easterling is a climatologist. He discussed the dawn of NSF's 10 Big Ideas; started by push from National Science Board from internal discussions

among and between NSF directorates beginning in 2018. Navigating the new Arctic is one of the ideas. He noted that the Arctic needs no big introduction; dramatic changes in Arctic have wide-ranging and global implications. NSF wants to partner to understand natural and human activities in this important region. Easterling discussed convergence science, suggesting that grand challenges will not be solved by one discipline alone. Scientific disciplines need to be blended in a coordinated, reciprocal way to foster robust collaborations needed for successful inquiry. Innovations at the nexus of food, energy and water systems is a good example of the interdisciplinary approach needed for addressing broad challenges. Mid-scale infrastructure addresses gap between major research instrumentation and major research equipment and facilities construction results in missed opportunities. Easterling outlined a new process for the \$4-70 million level. Has been a recent “dear colleague” letter about this process. Specific updates to GEO budget were noted. FY 2019 for GEO going to be roughly level with FY 2017. Two early initiatives: Dynamic Earth and launch new initiative on Coastlines and People (CoPe). CoPe can address urban flooding, sea level rise, coastal hydrogeology, tsunami triggering, severe storms and trans-ocean subduction zones initiatives starting in FY 2019. Easterling talked about the *Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences 2015-2025* from National Academy of Sciences. He indicated that it had enormous impact on balancing the internal budget within OCE. At the time, investment for facilities and infrastructure were too high. Field stations are in “sweet spot” as low cost and highly relevant. He suggested that ocean observing initiatives are critical to addressing major priorities in *Sea Change* report. Regional Class Research Vessels (RCRVs) have to modernize academic research fleet. New technologies are not on the older vessels; it is expensive to retrofit. Proposal deadline for operator selection is on 19 April. RCRV 1 awarded to Oregon State University.

Members began questioning Easterling about specific parts of the presentation. Members had several questions about the impact of addressing the “big ideas” on individual projects. Easterling tried to assure members that the individual projects will not be lost. He stated that core principles protect core research. But sometimes disciplinary research can ignore interdisciplinary research. Need to protect interdisciplinary as well as core research. Others asked Is there a role for NAML in helping to shape the CoPe initiative now? Easterling indicated that there has already been a working group established. Discussions on this proposal are moving quickly. There may be a series of workshops to build/involve science community. Another line of inquiry from members was what is the cross walk with other mission agencies concerning CoPe? Probably using SOST will cut through some red tape, but budgets, calendars, etc. difficult.

Because some of the speakers had to be rescheduled, the Hill Briefing discussion was substituted for the 10:45 presentation.

Mike DeLuca led the Hill Briefing discussion. In past, the briefing was done in Fall. NAML began participating in 2015. The first one was on ocean acidification. DeLuca gave an overview of the history and offered comments on potential one we are considering. A pivotal question is whether we should do joint briefing as well as individual briefing. The March-April grouping would be the roundtable discussed on 4 March. DeLuca posed the question of what might be an overarching topic that we could put together across the spectrum of NAML. Some suggested that coastal resilience might be theme. Another idea was to demonstrate value we have to train the next generation of problem-solvers; STEM education. Such a topic could highlight the benefit of Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) and NAML for assessment tools and best practices. Some suggested that perhaps including some ideas of forecasting when problems might occur could be a useful topic. Coastal intelligence and impact on economies was another idea. Brian Melzian suggested harmful algal blooms. These are good topics that NAML needs to consider and focus for the briefing to be effective.

Kei Koizumi was the next speaker invited to present a discussion of *Warning Signs: Effects of Proposed Federal Funding Cuts to Environmental and Climate Research and Development Programs* supported by Novim.org. Report authors want to keep terms relevant concerning impacts of funding choices. Overall idea is to keep the real needs in funding at the forefront. Overall question is what would you prioritize to come back in the budget? All are important, but probably in order of high-level themes in the report: investment in capacity, observations and modeling, adaptation and assessments, workforce, and international commitments. After the presentation, members asked question about the report, especially about how the report was being distributed. Koizumi indicated that the group needs more help on social media aspects of getting information distributed, but currently the authors are trying to do grassroots work with groups like NAML.

RADML Timothy Gallaudet, Deputy Administrator, NOAA spoke extemporaneously as the lunch speaker. He is a Navy Oceanographer from US Naval Academy and received PhD from Scripps. Introductions around the room were made. He indicated how NOAA was planning to minimize effects of implementing Severe Weather Act. Earth Prediction System and Modelling are critical components. Second is the Blue Economy part of planning. Fisheries will focus on optimizing yields through better science. There is new app for commercial fisheries to upload information as part of public participation program. Acoustic tollgate planning and implementation is allowing better use of technology to help with stock assessment. National Marine Sanctuaries are important, bringing in \$8 billion. Also information to work together with ports and sensors to help operate ports efficiently will continue. Big effort now is to promote aquaculture in the US. Seafood Production important now and in future. Streamlining rules to support effective management needs to happen. Members asked how NOAA was planning to make the aquaculture technology transfer actually work. Policy needs to change by revising draft executive order to streamline permitting. NOAA wants to be lead agency to help individuals navigate regulatory interests and Increase market access as well. NOAA is working with US trade representative to increase market for American seafood. Members inquired about how NAML can make a more effective case to the decision makers; a few suggestions were discussed. NOAA is planning a new program with unmanned systems; first will be the aerial group and then the aquatic group.

Sea Grant Putting Coastal and Great Lakes science to work: Future of the Sea Grant Program. Jon Pennock, Director National Sea Grant College Program, James Hurley, President, Sea Grant Association and Director, Wisconsin Sea Grant, Amber Mace, Chair, Sea Grant Advisory Board were panel. Pennock did high level overview. US Dept Commerce Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Helping the American Economy Grow. Amber Mace National Sea Grant Advisory Board presentation on what the board does. Jim Hurley discussed Sea Grant Association.

Kolo Rathburn and Blaze Sheridan made remarks without slide presentation. Rathburn noted that this year as far as FY 2019, funding looks similar to last year. Response from Congress may look similar to last year. Both Rathburn and Sheridan indicated that NAML and similar organizations need to build champions on the House side. There are some but they need to be cultivated more fully. It was suggested that House member might be invited to NAML meeting next year.

University Federal Relations and NAML Labs; Moderator Ms. Jennifer Poulakidas, APLU; Speakers: Ms. Ellyn Perrone, University of Texas; Mr. Brent Burns, Michigan Technological University; Ms. Gabrielle Serra, Oregon State University Great Lakes Research Center Federal Relations Support Panel members discussed how NAML members can assist with support. Discussion of federal relations person on campuses ensued. Main point is to connect with government relation officer early and often.