

NAML Winter Business Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2020

Prepared by Patty Webb, NAML Secretary

- **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by President Bob Dickey at noon Eastern time. Bob Dickey thanked Brett Burk, Jill Drupa, Joel Widder, Meg Thompson, and Lou Burnett for their efforts in setting up and organizing the virtual NAML meeting in light of COVID-19 pandemic.

● **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the following NAML meetings were *approved as submitted* by a vote: 2018 Winter Meeting, 2019 Winter Meeting, 2019 Biennial Meeting.

- **Public Policy Agenda.** Dave Carlon, Moderator. Discussion of the [public policy agenda](#).
 - The 2-page public policy agenda document produced by the Public Policy Committee was included in the Briefing Book. This document will become the Public Policy Agenda for NAML and will be approved by the membership.
 - Joel Widder summarized the importance of the Public Policy Agenda. The Public Policy Agenda was reviewed by the NAML Board of Directors at its meeting earlier today and will form the cover of a statement to submit as written testimony to at least two appropriations subcommittees. The document will discuss funding for programs important to NAML members. The testimony document will be four to five pages and will be referred back to the Public Policy Committee.
 - NAML is considering a “brown bag lunch briefing” in the Fall of 2020. It has done these briefings a number of times. The Public Policy Committee will be considering topics for the briefing.
 - Meg Thompson gave an example of the effectiveness of briefings. She explained they had a series of brown bag lunch briefings several years ago relating to weather issues and long range weather forecasts; several senior members of the senate and house staff attended those lunches and those speakers became very intertwined in weather legislation that was passed by the house and senate and signed by President Trump in early 2017.
 - Brown bag lunch briefings create very strong relationships between speakers and congressional staff so they have ongoing independent dialogue.
 - Briefings can be a useful tool for creating or maintaining the organizations visibility with policy makers.

President Dickey called for a vote of the membership to gauge interest in holding a brown bag lunch briefing in the Fall. *Members approved unanimously* holding such a briefing.

Motion (Public Policy Committee): To approve the Public Policy Agenda with the understanding that some of the language will be subsequently fine-tuned by the committee.

Approved by vote.

- **Committee Appointments**
 - **Nominating Committee.** The Board of Directors set in motion a process to nominate the next President-Elect of NAML. Bob Cowen, as current Past President of NAML, will chair the Nominating Committee. The election will occur at the 2021 Biennial Meeting.

- o **Audit Committee.** A committee will be appointed with representatives from each regional organization to work with Burk and Associates, Inc. to perform a review as required by the NAML Bylaws.
- o **Finance Committee.** An *ad hoc* committee has been established, composed of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer with the Treasurer serving as chair.
- o **Public Policy Committee.** This committee is currently an *ad hoc* committee chaired by the President-Elect. It will have 2 members from each regional organization serving on the committee. Public policy calls will continue to be open to NAML members.
- o **Bylaws Committee.** An *ad hoc* bylaws committee will be formed to review the existing bylaws. This committee will be chaired by President-Elect Dave Carlon and will have representatives from each regional organization. Lou Burnett will be an advisor to the committee.
- **Treasurer Report.** Billie Swalla, Treasurer 2019
 - o 2019 budget summary
 - Total dues collected = \$110,500.
 - Biggest change in expenses in 2019 was the increase in the contract to Federal Science Partners.
 - Credit card fees = \$4,111
 - There was a deficit of \$26,776.
 - Cash reserves at the end of 2019 were \$38,700; 2018 cash reserves were \$63,851.
 - o 2020 budget summary
 - A dues increase and a more rigorous and systematic collection of dues by the NAML Secretariat and the NAML Board of Directors is projected to yield \$143,600; \$17,100 of this will result from the increase in dues.
 - \$108,500 out of \$143,060 in dues (69 out of 89 members) has been collected to date.
 - 36.4% of the dues collected were paid by check; this saves credit card fees (approximately 3.5 to 4%).
 - \$7,000 in arrears dues (i.e., prior to 2020) will be collected.
 - The registration fee of \$150 should cover most of the costs of the winter meeting.
 - Meeting room and catering expenses were significant because of the new venue.
 - Switching from an in-person meeting to 100% virtual will still incur expenses but these will not be known for some time.
 - Burk and Associates, Inc. provided enhanced logistical support for the virtual meetings.
 - Management fee for Burk and Associates, Inc. increased by \$1,000 but will reassess for 2021 given the larger scope of work.
 - The University of Texas Marine Science Institute

- generously contributed \$2,500
 - Provisions for a briefing in the fall have been included in the budget and there may be a need for regional organizations to help with these expenses.
 - The 2020 budget should be +\$12,000.
 - Obtaining conference grants should be explored.
- **Emeritus appointment.** NAML Bylaws, Article V. Section 2.A. *The person will be nominated by a Nominating Committee composed of the three immediate Association Past-Presidents.*
 - Jim Sanders was nominated for appointment as NAML Emeritus member by Past Presidents Bob Cowen, Mike DeLuca, and Nancy Rabalais. The nomination was approved by the NAML Board of Directors at its meeting earlier today. Biographical material on Jim Sanders has been provided. Notable Association contributions
 - SAML President 2004-2005
 - SAML Meeting Host 2007 at Skidaway
 - NAML President 2008-2009

Motion (Quint White, Clark Alexander): Appoint Jim Sanders as an Emeritus Member of NAML.

Approved by vote.

- **Appeal for waivers of dues in arrears.** Bob Dickey announced that the NAML Board of Directors approved an appeal to waive arrears dues by the University of Massachusetts Boston, Nantucket Field Station. The Board voted to approve this appeal unanimously. It was noted that NAML members sometimes fall into this situation with turnover of leadership where dues are not paid. Greater efforts will be taken to remind members to pay dues to remain in good standing.
- **New member approvals.** The following institutions are being considered for new membership in NAML. Each institution submitted a letter of application and the initial approval was granted by the regional organizations, in this case NEAMGLL and SAML. There are four steps in the process to approve new members that include 1. approval by the Board of Directors/Executive Committee of the regional organization, 2. ratification by members of the regional organization, 3. approval by the NAML Board of Directors, and 4. ratification by the members of NAML. Earlier today, the NAML Board of Directors approved these new members (step 3) pending ratification by the members of the respective regional organization. NAML members are asked to ratify these new member institutions (step 4), pending ratification by the respective regional organizations.
 - Downeast Institute, University of Maine, Machias - as Small Lab
 - NEAMGLL Board of Directors approved 22 Feb 2019
 - Regional Science Consortium - as Small Lab
 - NEAMGLL Board of Directors approved on 5 Dec 2019
 - IOOS Association - as Small Lab
 - NEAMGLL Board of Directors approved 4 Mar 2020
 - Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium - as Small Lab
 - SAML Executive Committee approved on 21 Jan 2020

There was discussion about how member institutions are categorized. The Board of Directors/Executive Committee of the regional organizations are careful to scrutinize the size

of the proposed new member using the criteria for NAML membership. Future new members can be asked to address this issue in application letters. This will be discussed at the next NAML Board of Directors meeting in June.

Members *unanimously voted to ratify* the four new members pending approval of the regional organizations.

- **Public Policy Advocacy.** A [written statement of the advocacy and lobbying efforts of NAML](#) was presented and discussed. This statement was first drafted in December 2019 by Lou Burnett and circulated to the NAML Board of Directors and Joel Widder and Meg Thompson of Federal Science Partners at that time for comment. The question of lobbying comes up routinely and this statement clearly outlines the practices of NAML. The statement puts practices of NAML in the context of the Association's IRS 501(c)(3) status. The conclusion is that lobbying by NAML is a very small part of the Associations overall programs.
- **Education Committee.** This committee has been an ad hoc committee for some time.
 - Sue Ebanks gave an overview of the committee and its activities. The committee meets quarterly by phone for one hour. Summaries of the calls are sometimes posted on the NAML website.
 - Bob Dickey suggested a discussion on refashioning the mission of the education committee to focus on the messaging we need to send to decision makers in Washington for the types of programs we need them to support.
 - Concept of NAML was begun so marine lab across the nation could get together and share experiences, do some advocacy but mostly to increase the familiarity and interaction and improve our abilities to administer and lead or respective institutions. Education is a large part of that need.
 - There is a need to make the Education Committee a standing committee.
 - The committee should be of a particular size and have representatives from each regional organization.
 - The NAML Board of Directors will discuss this further at its June 2020 meeting.
- **Old/New Business.** Call for old or new business.
 - There being no old or new business, Bob Dickey and Dave Carlon again thanked Lou Burnett, Brett Burk, Jill Drupa, Joel Widder and Meg Thompson for all their work in a very short time for a virtual meeting
- **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at ~14:10.

Appendix

Public Policy Agenda for 2021

Approved by the Public Policy Committee on April 2, 2020.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES
FY 2021 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA
April 2020

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) was established in 1989 to support the vital role of Marine and Great Lakes Laboratories in the Nation's Ocean and Coastal Enterprise -- This network of place-based marine and Great Lakes laboratories is a unique and valuable national asset. The geographic reach of this network includes estuaries, the coastal zone, the Great Lakes and inland watersheds, the global ocean including polar regions, and the sea floor. NAML labs connect scientists, students, public and civic leaders with leading edge science, environmental and coastal intelligence and professional training that contributes to the understanding, management, and stewardship of our ocean, coastal zones and Great Lakes.

The intersection of ocean, coastal zone and Great Lakes natural resources and U.S. economic activity is complex and highly interdependent. The U.S. depends on healthy marine and freshwater resources, yet many human activities and natural events impact these resources, thereby jeopardizing jobs, wages, our gross domestic product, human health, and well-being. NAML labs operate on the frontline of a rapidly changing environment providing coastal intelligence, comprised of both human socioeconomics and the natural aquatic world to better manage and sustain the full spectrum of marine and Great Lakes resources.

Marine and Great Lakes science laboratories play pivotal roles in the national priorities identified in the [Memorandum on Ocean Mapping of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone and the Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska](#), and in national assessments on [Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision](#); [Sea Change: 2015-2025 Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences](#), and [Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century](#). These documents emphasize the need to understand the ocean in the earth system, promote the blue economy, advance monitoring and predictive modeling capabilities. NAML laboratories bring a high degree of relevance to these critical efforts at lower cost, higher return on investment and with the important benefit of training future generations of the marine science and policy workforce.

The Importance of Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes to National, Economic, and Environmental Security -- The ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are among the United States' most treasured resources. They are an integral part of our national identity and our Nation's future. The ocean covers 71% of the Earth's surface and hundreds of millions of people rely on a viable ocean. A healthy, productive, and resilient ocean is inextricably linked to Earth's climate and weather patterns and contributes significantly to our quality of life. The ocean provides and creates jobs, gives mobility to our national commerce and Armed Forces, helps feed our Nation, secures our borders, fuels our economy, and provides places for recreation and solace. Understanding the physical, chemical, biological, and geological changes in the ocean is vital to the survival and prosperity of humanity.

In the United States, the ocean and its wealth of natural resources have played a critical role in fueling American prosperity and energy independence, protecting our country, generating over 3 million jobs, sustaining industries, and contributing to 2% of the nation's gross domestic product. Our coastal ports and ocean transport systems are the engines of world trade, facilitating a thriving U.S. economy through the maritime enterprise. The biological diversity and productivity of the ocean sustains the health of coastal communities and promotes a vibrant national economy. At the same time, coastal communities that drive the ocean economy are also vulnerable to events such as hurricanes, tsunamis, sea level rise, floods, over-development and surging coastal population growth. Many of these stressors to our oceans and coastal zones, and by extension the services they provide, are evidenced by human observations of changing coastlines and ecosystems, navigation routes, water quality, species diversity, the timing and occurrence of pathogen outbreaks, the rising burden of marine debris, and flat-lined or declining populations of commercially and ecologically important marine species.

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) is a nonprofit organization representing the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes interests of member laboratories that employ thousands of scientists, engineers and professionals nationwide. NAML labs conduct high quality research and education in the natural and social sciences and translate that science to improve decision-making on important issues facing local, state, regional, national and international entities.



The ocean science and technology (S&T) enterprise – through its use and support of marine and Great Lakes laboratories – can provide the knowledge and the education and training needed to address these and other important and complex challenges while also providing fact-based information for decision makers that will ultimately strengthen our Nation and its communities.

NAML Research and Education Priorities for FY 2021 – To support the vital role of marine and Great Lakes laboratories in the ocean S&T enterprise, NAML requests that our Nation's Leaders fully fund the Federal Government's investment in extramural, merit-based, competitive research, infrastructure, observing and education programs at NSF, NOAA, NASA, EPA, DOI, USGS, and other ocean, coastal and Great Lakes related agencies. Investments through these agencies are essential for the development of knowledge, a diverse workforce, an ocean-literate society, and the technological innovations needed to power the Nation's economy, improve human health, and sustain a strong national defense and vibrant society. NAML urges expanded support for these extramural programs that support research, infrastructure, observations, and education. Examples of what they address include:

- The U.S currently imports 90% of its seafood - U.S.-based aquaculture is needed to address this imbalance, to advance seafood security and to expand opportunities for economic growth;
- The ocean is changing – we must understand the impacts and causative factors of shifting environmental regimes such as sea level rise, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and ocean acidification to improve coastal resilience and inform risk management of critical defense, transportation, civic and business infrastructure along U.S. coastlines;
- The ocean holds vast renewable and nonrenewable resources - ocean exploration, research, and technology development are needed to advance national security, commerce and domestic energy independence;
- Technology is the great enabler – big data, sustained ocean observations, predictive ecosystem models, "omics" are all needed for comprehensive understanding of ecosystems fueling adaptive management strategies to sustain the social-economic productivity of U.S. exclusive economic zones;
- Marine infrastructure is vital - ships, autonomous vehicles, laboratory refurbishment, data analysis, observational capabilities, and instrumentation development combine to understand the complex four-dimensional ocean; and
- STEM is the foundation – biological, chemical, geological and physical marine sciences, ocean engineering and marine policy education and training is key to long-term advancement of human and environment health and social-economic objectives.

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The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) is a nonprofit organization representing the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes interests of member laboratories that employ thousands of scientists, engineers and professionals nationwide. NAML labs conduct high quality research and education in the natural and social sciences and translate that science to improve decision-making on important issues facing local, state, regional, national and international entities.

NAML Advocacy and Public Policy

The question of the role of NAML and its regional associations in lobbying activities often comes up. To clarify the position of NAML and its regional associations on the subject of lobbying, the leadership of NAML issues the following statement.

First, the regional associations (NEAMGLL, SAML, WAML) are not engaged in lobbying activity (see definition of lobbying below).

Second, for NAML, as a non-profit organization with an Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3) designation, there are some constraints on what is allowed in the way of lobbying and this is discussed below. To understand the context of NAML's advocacy activities, it is helpful to view the stated purposes and objectives of NAML as specified in the NAML Articles of Organization (<http://www.naml.org/about/bylaws.php>).

From the NAML Articles of Organization

II. PURPOSES

The purposes for which the Association is organized are exclusively charitable, scientific, and educational within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this Association shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal revenue law.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association shall be:

1. To stimulate research and promote education in marine science, to disseminate information in marine science, to promote application of marine science, and to advance the profession of marine science.
2. To provide a forum for the resolution of problems common to non-profit marine laboratories in the United States.
3. To further the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources, and to encourage increased accomplishments and initiatives in related areas.
4. To increase the effectiveness of member institutions in their work on marine and coastal resources.
5. To stimulate cooperation and unity of effort among members.
6. To act on other such matters as may be of mutual interest to marine laboratories.

NAML Advocacy of Public Policy

There are three ways that NAML fulfills its objectives in the area of public policy.

1. **NAML Public Policy Agenda.** NAML has a very active Public Policy Committee, chaired by the NAML President-Elect. This committee has monthly calls open to any NAML member (<http://www.naml.org/policy/policyagenda.php>). A Public Policy

Agenda is published each year that outlines positions and recommendations of NAML on various issues of public policy of interest to the Association. This agenda is carefully crafted by the Public Policy Committee with the assistance of the Federal Science Partners and is ratified by the membership of NAML at its winter Public Policy Meeting. The Public Policy Agenda is published on the NAML website (<http://www.naml.org/policy/policyagenda.php>).

2. **NAML Briefings.** To educate legislators and their staff on issues of interest to NAML, periodic public briefings are held from time to time, often in Washington, D.C. These sessions are arranged with a small number of speakers on particular topics. Examples of these briefings are found on the NAML website (<http://www.naml.org/policy/briefings.php>).
3. **NAML Positions.** NAML, either alone or in concert with other organizations, sends letters to different entities, usually in the U.S. federal government, urging a particular action (see Public Policy tab > Documents, Letters, Positions or <http://www.naml.org/policy/documents.php>). Some of these activities can be considered lobbying as defined by the IRS (see below).

Definition and Limits on Lobbying

The information below (in italics) on lobbying is provided on the website of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

From <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/lobbying>

*In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as **lobbying**). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.*

***Legislation** includes action by Congress, any state legislature, any local council, or similar governing body, with respect to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (such as legislative confirmation of appointive office), or by the public in referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment, or similar procedure. It does not include actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies.*

An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

Summary. Clearly, some of the activities of NAML described above, namely item #3 NAML Positions, can be considered lobbying. However, these activities are only a small part of the overall activities of NAML in the area of public policy and an even smaller part of the overall activities of NAML. In addition, NAML has engaged [Federal Science Partners](#) to assist the Association and especially its Public Affairs Committee in the activities mentioned above.

Thus, the leadership of NAML feels that its public policy advocacy activities are well within the constraints of the guidelines offered by the IRS for a non-profit organization.