

FINAL MINUTES
National Association of Marine Laboratories
Winter Board Meeting
S. Dillon Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
08-09 March 2005

Those present (see attendance list) introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of the laboratory/institution they represent. Jeff Reutter, NAML President: focus of this meeting will be NAML's organizational identity, in terms of its objectives and the activities it undertakes to achieve them, especially whether the Association should undertake a more active role in influencing federal ocean-related legislation and the federal budget in terms of ocean programs.

The group broke into concurrent meetings of the regional associations.

A. Regional Association Reports

1. WAML

- next association meeting in June 2005
- action items from previous regional association meeting
 - * implement survey on student enrollment trends at marine labs
 - * develop web-based mechanism for rapid distribution of info on or about marine labs (e.g., jobs, meetings) *ala* IOOS web page
 - * examine small boat safety programs at marine labs, led by UC Davis/Bodega

2. SAML

- next association meeting in May 2005
- likely discussion items
 - * meeting frequency; twice annually may be necessary
 - * Kumar doesn't want to be SAML Treasurer-for-Life
 - * possible use of "Status of the Gulf" assessment/report as a means of developing Gulf-based political cohesion
 - * discuss/revise(?) meeting format into a focused workshop approach

3. NEAMGLL

- next association meeting in May 2005; need to revitalize -- last meeting was several years ago
- likely agenda topics
 - * role of marine labs in ocean observing systems; look at IOOS Office's Data Mngmt. & Communications Plan
 - * project to document marine/Great Lakes biodiversity in NEAMGLL region
 - * mechanisms to support costs at marine labs

B. NAML Business Meeting

Jeff Reutter introduced Bill Wise (Stony Brook University) as new NAML recording secretary, responsible for preparing/distributing Association meeting minutes. Alan Kuzirian (MBL) will focus on duties as Association Treasurer and informal archivist.

1. Secretary - Treasurer's Report.

- Association account balance on 31 December 2003 = \$37,323.62. By 31 December 2004, balance increased to \$55,071.27. Balance on 28 February 2005 = \$61,069.42.
- *ad hoc* Audit Committee will be formed at NAML Biennial Meeting in Sept. 2005 and will conduct financial audit during meeting
- Should NAML Board minutes be posted on the Association web page?; an effective and efficient means of communicating meeting info to the membership, but aware of issues involving sensitive, personal info being made so widely and easily available. Some discussion.
 - **Motion: Recording Secretary will circulate draft minutes and abbreviated summary for web page to those present at Board or Biennial meeting; comments/corrections to draft minutes due back within 15 days, after which final minutes will be prepared and distributed via email to full Association membership and the summary put on Association web page. *Motion Adopted.***

2. Association Biennial Meeting

2005 Association Biennial Meeting will occur 21-23 September 2005 at the Stone Laboratory of Ohio State University, on Lake Erie. Jeff gave a presentation on Lake Erie's environment and facilities at the laboratory. Meeting details will soon be sent to the membership.

3. NAML Mission & Vision

Jeff briefly introduced group to the main topic of discussion for the meeting: NAML's fundamental goals and the means of achieving them. As listed in the current NAML brochure, these goals are:

- advance wise use/conservation of marine/coastal resources and promote benefits of biotechnology
- encourage, support, etc. role of coastal labs in environmental and biotech research and related education/outreach activities
- promote information exchange and collaboration between marine labs
- provide contact point/forum for exchanges between member institutions

and governmental agencies

Jeff noted that NAML has invested in partnerships with other organizations as a means of achieving these goals, especially in communicating with governmental agencies. It was noted that NAML had a budding relationship through an exchange of representatives with MARS (European Marine Research Station Network), but NAML did not send a representative to the most recent MARS annual meeting. **The connection with MARS needs to be further cultivated.** Opportunities exist for NAML to pursue international linkages in the Pacific basin through the Pacific Institutes of Marine Sciences (www.pims.ust.hk/) and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, PICES (www.pices.int) and these should be explored.

Jeff referred to his November 2004 email with Tony Michaels (Wrigley Institute) to the NAML membership suggesting that NAML HIRE a Washington, DC-based lobbying firm to promote NAML's interests as Congress and the federal establishment deal with U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations. This message prompted several Board of Directors conference calls and survey of NAML members seeking input on whether the Association should undertake such an effort and soliciting one-time funds to pay for it. Jeff observed that hiring this firm (Lewis-Burke & Associates) was one option for strengthening NAML's efforts to influence ocean-related legislation and ocean programs in the federal budget. Another approach was to partner with other ocean and/or scientific NGO's. He stated that the Board needed to come to resolution by the end of the meeting on how NAML should proceed, if at all, on this issue.

Through the meeting, representatives from several prospective partner NGO's and a representative from Lewis-Burke & Associates spoke to the group about this matter. Their remarks are summarized below.

a. Admiral Richard West & Penny Dalton, President & Vice-President, C.O.R.E.

West. Brief overview of CORE and its tripartite program of ocean advocacy, research, and education. Acknowledged that CORE does not currently represent all ocean constituencies. Sees the Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations as a potential rising tide that would, "float all boats," i.e. something good there for all ocean interests. C.O.R.E. strongly supports broad implementation of the Commission's recommendations. To implement these recommendations fully will require that NOAA be greatly strengthened.

Dalton. CORE surveyed its members on top priorities for CORE's advocacy work: 1) ocean observing systems; 2) increase NSF and marine research funding in federal budget; 3) expand marine ecosystem-level research. CORE is developing a strategy to pursue each priority.

Discussion. Adm. West saw opportunities for CORE to promote NAML's message and priorities, urging NAML to sign on to the "rising tide floats all boats" approach re adoption of Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations. NAML's priorities may overlap to a degree with those of CORE, but they are not identical. Can the two organization's priorities be melded; if so, how? A number of NAML institutions also belong to CORE, albeit the representatives to the two groups are often not the same person; are the institution's marine lab needs/priorities being effectively reflected via their participation in CORE? Can NAML use CORE, its staff/space, as a vehicle for expanding its legislative

and policy-related activities. West/Dalton: maybe, depending on the particulars and the specific priorities NAML seeks; but, have these been identified?

b. Joel Widder, Lewis-Burke and Associates

Joel once headed NSF's legislative affairs office and then worked for the Senate Appropriations Committee. Recounted firm's success in affecting legislation and federal budget for science-based organizations - - their exclusive clientele. Their goal is to raise client's profile and impact, not to secure a specific appropriation. Reviewed the federal FY 05/06 budget: this budget and, likely, those remaining to the Bush Administration, does not/will not reflect a priority on environmental issues, marine or otherwise. Appropriations committees have been reorganized. NSF and NASA budgets are now reviewed by same committee that reviews NOAA budget. Emphasized need for, and Lewis-Burke's experience in, working with agency staff as well as Congress.

Widder's Advocacy Principles:

- work towards a long-term relationship w/decision-makers
- have a clear set of priorities
- know your decision-makers and how to reach them
- understand your audience's environment and how this affects their decisions
- work with other organizations when this makes sense; don't rely on others to fully carry you message

How Would Lewis-Burke & Associates Help NAML?

- develop NAML's public policy agenda
- identify key decision-makers
- develop/sustain working relationship with decision-makers
- engage decision-making process in right place/ at right time
- develop/use NAML membership in a complimentary grass-roots way
- get NAML as seat at the decision-making table

Three Options w/Lewis-Burke & Associates

1. Full speed ahead, immediately (\$100,000)
2. Phase A – assist NAML to develop strategic (legislative/budget action) plan 6 months (\$50,000)
Phase B – implement plan (\$100,000 for 12 months)
3. Phase A – same as Option #2
Phase B – implement plan (\$80,000 in Year One; \$100,000 in Year Two)

Fully-ramped up, continuing effort = \$100,000/year

c. Robert Gropp, American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)

AIBS represents 90 member societies. Maintains public policy, science, and education sections; Gropp heads public policy section. Focus on broad-scale support of science and science policy via federal budget process. Do not engage specific science/science policy issues. Advocacy efforts: submitting testimony; arrange/provide logistical support to Congressional staffers visiting labs, facilities, etc.; arrange/provide logistical support to

member society visits to Congress; and brief/educate member societies on Congressional interaction do's/don'ts.

Gropp suggested options as possible entry points via-a-vis AIBS for NAML's expanded governmental affairs effort.

- student interns; undergraduate or graduate students; internship duration typically 3-12 months; paid for by NAML (\cong \$75,000/year incl. stipend & working money); officed at AIBS offices; intern selected jointly by NAML & AIBS
- part-time staff support; officed at AIBS; funded by NAML

d. Luke Forest, NASULGC Board on Oceans and Atmosphere (BOA)

BOA is the arm of NASULGC dealing with marine science, including budgetary & policy issues. Board activities including submission of Congressional testimony, commenting on ocean program allocations within the federal budget, and assisting federal agencies in various ocean-related policy initiatives (e.g., NOAA strategic planning exercise). Suggested that NAML be represented on the BOA Executive Committee as *ex officio*, non-voting member. There is precedent for this (e.g., Sea Grant Association, CORE, UCAR [University Center for Atmospheric Research]).

Consensus that NAML membership on BOA should be pursued regardless of any further arrangement with BOA/NASULGC to strengthen NAML's governmental affairs activities.

Forest mentioned potential models for NAML governmental affairs:

- USGS-style coalition strategy: volunteer efforts directed at supporting USGS in Washington from individuals/organizations who work closely with USGS. Weakness is reliance on volunteerism
- National Institute for Water Resources (NIWAR): hired a paid, part-time lobbyist and have been successful w/relatively small investment

Little discussion.

After hearing from these several individuals, a general discussion ensued on the pros and cons of moving forward with each, as well as concerns about moving forward into governmental affairs at all. Federal facilities/units that are NAML members must be fire-proofed against any lobbying activity undertaken by the Association. Can NAML find a way to raise the funds necessary to field an effective governmental relations effort? Can/should NAML expand its level of such activity using entirely its own fiscal and personnel resources? Is an expanded governmental affairs effort a distraction or a diversion of effort away from other, important NAML objectives (e.g., helpful info exchange between facilities)? Concern that CORE and its message are immutable and reflect primarily the interests of "blue water" institutions. NAML doesn't really require a strategic plan, as suggested by Joel Widder; we just need to decide what we want in this arena and then develop a delivery system that delivers it. Has the Board offered the membership an opportunity to effectively voice their opinion on these matters?

Regardless of how the Association proceeds, more effective governmental affairs work will require a greater personal involvement of NAML delegates than has heretofore been forthcoming.

These and other concerns were raised and extensively discussed.

• **Motion: that NAML approach Lewis-Burke & Associates with a modified version of Widder's Option 3: strike a six-month deal in which the majority of the effort would be expended not on developing a strategic plan, but on active governmental relations work (\$50,000). Continuance of this relationship beyond the September 2005 NAML Biennial Meeting (@ \$80,000 in Year One and \$100,000 in Year Two) will be contingent on 1) demonstration of acceptable progress by the firm and 2) acceptance by the membership of a proposed plan for long-term funding of this type of governmental affairs effort. Motion is contingent upon a finding that engaging the firm for this purpose @ \$50,000 does not violate NAML's corporate tax strictures. Motion adopted**

In discussing the motion, there was considerable concern expressed about whether and to what extent the long-term funding plan would impact the Association's current membership dues structure. This will be an issue in the review of the plan at the September 2005 Biennial Meeting.

The Board created a Public Policy Committee, immediately charged with 1) preparing a list of NAML's priorities for Congressional and federal budget action and 2) developing a long-term funding plan for the Association's governmental affairs activities. Initial membership of the Public Policy Committee: Tony Michaels (Wrigley Institute, chair); Madilyn Fletcher (Baruch Institute); Ivar Babb (NURC/UCONN); George Crozier (Dauphin Island Sea Lab); and Jo-Ann Leong (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology).

After the end of the formal Board meeting, Tony Michaels led a discussion to identify NAML's current priorities for Congressional & federal budget action.

C. Other Presentations

1. National Ocean Policy: Education

Dr. Matt Gilligan (Savannah State University) made a presentation on implementation of the US Commission on Ocean Policy's recommendations regarding marine science education. These recommendations include:

- strengthen formal & informal ocean education
- incorporate ocean-based examples into routine K-12 curricula
- effect more coordination within NSF's COSEE network
- promote more investment in education activity by the Sea Grant network
- use ocean-related materials and examples to meet national learning standards
- expand opportunities for pre-service for teachers

Dr. Gilligan's PowerPoint presentation is available: gillganm@savstate.edu

2. Summer Student Traineeships at Marine Labs/Field Stations

Dr. Walter Nelson (EPA's Pacific Coast Ecology Branch) spoke briefly about the dearth of funding presently available to support traineeships for students attending summer courses at NAML institutions. NSF once had a program that provided such funding; the Foundation's REU program might have superceded it and the REU program is not really the same. It was suggested that an appropriate individual from NSF be invited to the September Biennial meeting to discuss this need.

3. Marine Labs as Models of Environmental Sustainability

Drs. Gordon Grau and Phil Wirdzek (Hawaii Sea Grant College Program) briefed the group on a joint USEPA/DOE initiative program, "Labs21." The goal of the program is to promote the design and operation of laboratory buildings, including marine labs, that are high-functioning, environmentally friendly and energy-efficient. Labs21 offers assistance to lab owners through a partnership program, training and education materials, and a tool kit (guides/video's/rating instruments, etc.). With support from USEPA through Labs21, Hawaii Sea Grant has recently established a Center of Excellence in Marine-based Laboratories as part of its Center for Smart Building and Community Design. The Center is developing a program of research, education, and establishment of best-practice standards for the design and operation of marine laboratories. Discussion focused on how this Center might interact most productively with NAML. Gordon and Phil will send Jeff Reutter a conceptual proposal.

For further information, contact Gordon: sgdir@hawaii.edu

4. NAML Web Page Makeover

Chris Damatos of MBL, NAML's webmaster, presented a number of changes and improvements to the Association's web page resulting from suggestions made at a previous NAML meeting. The group made several suggestions for additional changes and thanked Chris for his excellent work on this important and highly visible portal to NAML. The NAML web page contains a listing of all member institutions sorted by regional association. Some of the contact info on these listings is data. **Member institutions are strongly encouraged to review their listing and revise it, if appropriate.**

Attendees
2005 NAML Winter Board Meeting

NAML Member Delegates

Ivar G. Babb, NURC, UCONN
George W. Boehlert, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University
Eugene C. Braig, F.T. Stone Lab., Ohio State University
George Crozier, Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Chris Dematos, Marine Biological Laboratory
Madilyn Fletcher, Baruch Institute of Marine Biology, University of South Carolina
Matthew R. Gilligan Savannah State University
J. Frederick Grassle, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Rutgers University
Michael Hadfield, Kewalo Marine Lab, University of Hawaii
Jan Hodder, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon
Steve Jordan, US EPA - Gulf Ecology Division
Alan M. Kuzirian, Marine Biological Laboratory
Kumar Mahadevan, Mote Marine Lab
Brian Melzian, US EPA - Atlantic Ecology Division
Tony Michaels, Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, Univ. Southern California
Walt Nelson, US EPA - Pacific Coastal Ecology Branch
Jeffery Reutter, F.T. Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University
Jim Sanders, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Wes Tunnell, Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M University
Bill Wise, Marine Sciences Research Center, Stony Brook University

Guests

Penny Dalton, CORE
Luke Forrest, NASULGC
Gordon Grau, Hawaii Sea Grant College Program
Robert Gropp, AIBS
Richard West, CORE
Joel Widder, Lewis-Burke and Associates.
Phil Wirdzek, Hawaii Sea Grant College Program