



**National Association of Marine Laboratories  
Winter Meeting  
3-4 March 2014  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership Headquarters  
Washington, DC**

Nancy Rabalais, NAML President, opened the meeting with logistics issues for the meeting with the snow storm and government closure for March 3. Speakers and attendees would be calling in as possible.

Mike De Luca, NAML Vice President and Chair of the Public Policy Committee, followed with a short description of the PPC work for 2014. The NAML Education Committee has been rejuvenated by Jan Hodder; STEM and marine laboratory education programs will be involved in Public Policy.

**Oldaker Group Review of the Federal Budget & Policy Environment -- Joel Widder and Meg Thompson, Phil Bye, Esq. was also attending. Presentation posted at <http://www.naml.org>.**

Joel presented the breakdown in the major spending categories of the Federal Budget: 60% goes to social safety that includes Social Security and Medicare; 18% is designated as Defense Discretionary spending; 16% is non-Defense Discretionary spending that includes categories that NAML is concerned with like science funding; the last category at 6% is Interest on the National Debt. Joel emphasized that the budgetary sequester and budget reductions targeted the 18% Defense and 16% non-Defense discretionary portions. He noted that in 2009, spending reached its highest because of Obama's stimulatory programs. Since then, there has been a 34% drop in spending in the discretionary budgets. Although all agencies were supposed to make cuts equally across all departments, we know that some agencies with flexibility reduced extra-mural programs rather than cut their staff or internal programs; this was especially true at NOAA.

December of 2013 saw for the first time in many years the passage of a federal Budget. The new budget did set new limits (caps) on both the FY-14, and FY-15 ceilings. The cap-limits are only enforced for these two budget years. It did not remove all of the sequester limits, in fact, unless changed, the Sequester Reductions will return in FY-16. In the new budgets, Defense and non-Defense spending has modest growth increases that are about equal. Joel said he hopes that Congress has turned the corner on the drop in science funding, and we will begin to have small incremental growth. Meg warned that the \$109 B sequester reduction is still on the books. If enacted, it will cause draconian effects for everyone. The upcoming elections (2016), has the potential for continuing the positive changes in passing Federal budgets on time.

NAML's PPC Agenda for FY-15 has four priorities: ensuring strong support for research with proper funding levels from federal agencies; ensuring continued infrastructure support for marine labs perhaps aided by the National Academy of Science's Report on the importance of marine labs and field stations working to fulfill aspects of the national science interests; promoting the idea of co-locating govern workers and research at place-based marine labs; and stressing the need for the recognizing the importance of ocean education. Joel thinks that some of the small increases in funds will benefit NAML's interests. NSF budget is up 5% but only to FY-12 levels. NOAA-OAR is up 13% but includes cuts in climate research, weather and air chemistry.

Discussions: Amy cautioned that some of the democrats supportive of marine and coastal issues will be leaving Congress and that efforts to make changes before the election are necessary. All PPC documents will be posted on the website; the committee call minutes will be restricted to NAML members. NOAA portfolio in general should be targeted including the new Coastal Office.

The NRC committee recommendations on Field Stations and Marine Labs chaired by Jerry Schubel are critical to federal budget support of FSMLs; the committee includes Felicia Coleman. Mike Roman asked about a link to the NAS panel review of marine labs/field stations. Felicia Coleman said it can be done. Schubel called Joel saying he had not actually heard a lot from marine labs. Joel is concerned that we might miss the opportunity. Ivar and Ian Billick have contributed information. Nancy mentioned our OBFS/NAML report was full of recommendations and information. Input to Felicia was encouraged as their work is coming to closure.

**Dahlia Sokolov, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Research and Technology**, joined by conference phone: Status report on Subcommittee on Research. The American Competes Act was not passed last year and is still embattled this year. Staffers are working at building cooperation across the aisle. Social research programs have been hard hit. The Research Act is getting involved on integrity issues before the money will be released. March-April timeline is being projected for funding levels.

Joel asked about STEM consolidation and Climate Mitigation Research fund (\$1B). She was not able to speculate on that the latter. Many agencies gave push-back on STEM consolidation. OMB was surprised at the response to the consolidation. They are reconsidering options. Nothing is firm at this time. Nancy said that at OSM people talked about large investments like OOI were reducing core science components. Dahlia agreed that funding levels for these areas have been reduced and there is not a solution at this time under current conditions. Mike asked what resonating arguments would support core science budgets at NSF. Work-force support and job creation are the two major areas to stress, said Dahlia. How can NAML improve our message on ocean or coastal issues? Make ourselves know to the staffers. They only get requests on issues with about a 2-week lead time. Knowing where to go to get the information is important. This is especially true for the majority staff as they have more flexibility to maneuver. However, the minority staff should also be made aware. A list of experts was suggested. Dahlia said that would be okay, but that she preferred to call Joel first, tell him what she needs, and then ask him to identify people to testify, or provide information, etc.

**Bob Gagosian, President/CEO of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership** welcomed the group via telephone to their conference room. He was happy to host us at COL. He referenced the big change that occurred on Capitol Hill and subsequently research funding relative to marine and coastal science. The old funding model everyone anticipated for research was all based on speculated budget growth that is now not happening. He emphasized that the science community needs to form a new operating model. Creative thinking will be needed about how this can be done. He offered assistance from COL in any efforts NAML might put forth.

**Holly Bamford, Associate Administrator, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, joined by conference phone. She has been attending meeting within NOAA's divisions and with other groups to define NOAA's role in its various efforts. The

discussions highlighted the presence of a distinct science gap in coastal regions and coastal sciences and in the social sciences. She was pleased with the recent increases but acknowledged there is always conflict between intra and extra-mural funding. Budget realities are that NOAA was hit hard by reductions. It is increasing slowly now and she hopes the trend will continue. She hopes that the loss of extramural funds can begin to make headway with increases for FY14, and hopefully for FY-15. Real-time, on-line information access is one priority and could possibly include marine laboratories.

Discussion: Nancy said she was pleased to hear about peer reviewed proposals. Competitive grants will remain part of the program. Cooperative agreements are another avenue besides direct grant proposals. Placing NOAA scientists at NAML labs is not easy in the current system. NAML has a tremendous potential for place-based conservation and research reserves. She will work with NAML to perhaps get it done. Mike Roman asked about NOAA habitat focus areas, their purpose and the possibilities of forming partnerships. Holly said this was a mechanism for a more stable basis of funding. Joel asked how NAML can interact with its Public Policy Agenda for upcoming FY budget development. He asked for a meeting with NAML in early fall to develop our mutual interests. Holly was supportive of the idea.

**S. Bradley Moran**, Acting Director, National Ocean Council; and Assistant Director for Ocean Sciences, Office of Science and Technology Policy. He discussed “Strengthening America’s Ocean Economy” [presentation at <http://www.naml.org>]. Goals: 1. Save Oceans for future generations - Federal, State, Tribal and local stakeholders; 2. Investment in ocean S&T to inform and direct policy; 3. Economic analysis to guide future policy and public/private investment.

Discussion: Nancy asked about an ocean economic analysis, and Brady said that is one of his efforts. He recognizes the need and no one has done it yet and he is pleading to get it done. He hopes it will change the discussion especially in the long-term and not just respond to crisis actions. Nancy asked about how Ocean Policy will assist with issues like federal coordination for major disasters such as the *Deepwater Horizon* spill. Brady hopes these efforts will deal with it before another crisis arises. John Valentine said that there has really not been any true after-action planning for the Gulf since the crisis abated. Coordinated efforts would be so much better. Brad said that his group does not have policy making authority or guidelines. Mike Crosby asked about NAML’s interest of co-locating federal scientists at labs, and also our take on STEM education. Brady said that he knows that shared lab policy very well being at URI with all its federal agencies on the campus. He supports the plan especially for diversity issues. He was not well placed to speak on STEM education consolidation.

**Jeremy Weirich**, Professional Staff, Majority, Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee and **Kolo Rathburn**, Professional Staff, Minority, Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee: Non-defense discretionary spending is rather flat with no real increases. NOAA satellite programs will increase but it is also coming at the same time as NASA’s. NSF, NOAA and others will have to decrease as a result of the simultaneous large increases. They projected a budget will come at the end of May with final passage expected by 30 September. They realize that cuts in research have been a sensitive issue; importance of these programs is not lost, but they do make choices. External funding for NOAA should be addressed to the Administration and show how it benefits their core program. Mike De Luca asked about how NAML can advocate for increased funding in marine and coastal issues that would benefit NAML laboratories. They said to work with the House subcommittees who

really cut the funding levels for the oceans. Senate has had much better cooperation by both parties as opposed to the House subcommittees. Amy asked about the Prescott Grants where the government is actually competing with research institutions. NOAA spend plan for FY-14 is influenced by large ocean programs including ships as infrastructure. They are aware of the issue. Nancy said that the infrastructure is also high because of older ships. Some are being retired as new ones come on-line, but it is still costly. NSF infrastructure will be involved in this as well. Felicia Coleman asked about availability of NOAA vessels for research. Nancy said that NOAA's ship budget has been drastically cut. In those cases, it is a pay-as-you-go from the first penny. Ship funding by NOAA for their purposes are an issue as well. Mike Roman mentioned for their information that NAML labs are observing stations based upon the land and in cooperation with OBFS we have increased that as well. Mike De Luca asked about how NAML should 'pitch' our message especially in the House. Kolo said to be sure to direct it to their districts so it will raise their awareness. It is easier in the Senate because of the connection to the oceans. It is not the same in the House. Congressman Fatah is the most directed towards oceans. Wolf is still the chairman of the appropriations committee.

**National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA) -- Rebecca Roth:** NERRs are places where science happens: research, education and policy/decision makers. They are engaged as an association along with the state agencies affecting the region where the reserves are located. They try to take the science, process the data and then put the results into an action program: Sea level rise and environmental indicators are examples.

Discussion: Mike De Luca mentioned the comments by Holly Bamford and the potential of meeting with NOAA and he offered further exploration for NERRA to join in that meeting. Science-based networks like NERR sites and NAML labs can join together for improving NOAA missions. Mike Crosby asked if it would be useful to look at where the NERRs sites are located in relation to NAML labs. He also stressed that NERRS are partnerships with NOAA not an actual program. Rebecca suggested we could spotlight one or so working arrangements between NERR and NAML that can be used on the Hill for funding. Ivar stressed our OBFS/NAML report on networking and suggested that NERR be invited to the joint meeting in the fall. John Valentine stressed the monitoring programs being done in the Gulf that would mesh with all our interests including the mussel-watch program. Sue Ebanks mentioned co-location networking she has been involved with that would be another situation to explore.

**Joint OBFS/NAML Meeting, 20-24 September 2014, Bill Schuster/Ivar Babb:**

Ivar started with a review of the association between OBFS/NAML. Motivation was complex infrastructure; commonality placed-based research and education; info on changing the environment and education about it; stronger networking to facilitate science and education; how to reduce or share the costs in times of reduced funding. NSF grant to form a strategic visioning timeline and final report produced in Mar 2013. Currently an NRC committee on field stations, marine laboratories and nature reserves. How do NAML and OBFS fit within the observation network, LTER, NEON, IOOS, NAML greatly enhances the number of sites. The two groups are now working to develop a strategic vision for the future of collaborative research.

Program: NAML, Ivar Babb, Nancy Rabalais, Mike DeLuca, Neil Davies, Graham Shimmield; OBFS: Ian Billick, Bill Schuster, Jan Hodder. Four Plenary sessions: environmental change; Networking FSML and sentinel sites; Communication science to public audiences; NAS

report on future of FSMLs –Jerry Schubel. [Report posted under March 2014 meeting materials at <http://www.naml.org>].

Breakout session: communicating science; FSML networking among stations; Data management/database solutions; Environmental sensor network for environmental change; biodiversity/genomics sampling; Research on public lands –open them up; Facilitating large scale science; Facilities operations, management; Aquatic ecology at FSMLs; FSML governance (10 sessions). Education and outreach session suggested by Sue Ebanks.

Discussion: Mike suggested that the four plenary sessions should be the focus of the breakout sessions; more focused on what the meeting is all about. Ivar said that the list was developed from meeting exit polls from members on topics they wished to address. Brian shared that northeast IOOS would be a good fit to overlap with Bill's work. Mike stressed the opportunities of forming this networking among stations and labs with data sharing to include public education and outreach. Bob Dickey discussed sharing info with the Nat Ocean Council to again expand networking. Graham asked how far we have moved since the workshop so we can show NSF that we have spent their money wisely; it has been 3 years. Good suggestion to outline what has been done.

### **NAML Business Meeting:**

Delays in speakers due to weather issues led Nancy to advance the NAML business portion of the meeting to 3 March. There were no objections. Other aspects of the NAML business meeting were handled on 4 March. All materials are combined below.

**Minutes of the Biennial Meeting in Honolulu, October 2013**, were introduced and Nancy noted that corrections were needed, and that she would make them. It was moved and seconded by Lou Burnet and Mike Crosby, respectively, to approve the edited Minutes. The motion passed. The approved minutes will be posted on the new NAML web site.

The **Financial Report for 2013** was presented by Alan Kuzirian. The income and expenditures were reviewed.

Discussion: encompassed some of the expenditures and their relevance to NAML's goals like membership in AIBS and CNSF. High meeting expenses drew a discussion of meeting structure, including a single winter meeting that would be co-hosted around the NAML system and include more material than public policy, the need to meet in Washington DC for the winter meeting, and the desire to meet at other marine so that the scope and dimensions of the various labs can be appreciated. Joel Widder remarked that he really appreciated visiting other labs. It was suggested that perhaps he could be invited to Regional Meetings if the Biennial Meeting was eliminated. Nancy said the Executive Committee would discuss the many thoughts about meeting structure in an Executive Board conference call.

A motion was made by Lou Burnett and seconded by Ivar Babb to approve the Financial Report for 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy discussed the **transfer of society meeting materials**, membership lists, and treasury documents to Burk Associates, Inc. in accordance with the contract between NAML and BAI agreed upon by the NAML members over a year of discussion and contract negotiations and signed in summer 2013. A resolution was submitted by Nancy Rabalais:

ACTION, the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) has entered into a contract with Burk Associates Inc. for the management of NAML's daily operations;

ACTION, Mr. David Drupa of Burk has been assigned as the NAML Secretariat on behalf of Burk Associates Inc.

ACTION, BAI is specifically authorized by NAML to:

- receive and disburse NAML funds according to approved budgets and schedules;
- deposit and withdraw NAML funds from approved financial institutions pursuant to the above;
- negotiate on behalf of NAML for the procurement of those direct services to NAML that require approval of NAML Officers; and
- perform the services for NAML specified in the contract signed June 10, 2013 or which are otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors of NAML.

ACTION, NAML has retained BAI to develop and maintain the NAML.org website;

ACTION, a committee of NAML members and BAI web specialists has developed a well-designed web site;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAML Executive Board work with BAI and the current NAML Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Alan Kurzian, to:

- transfer all founding documents, articles of incorporation, original IRS designation documents to the NAML Secretariat and BAI;
- release the non-profit re-instatement process of NAML (expired) to the NAML Secretariat and BAI for its renewal;
- transfer all NAML financial assets (i.e., closing NAML current accounts) to the NAML Secretariat and BAI;
- transfer all NAML financial records (current and archival) to the NAML Secretary and BAI;
- transfer of full and complete NAML membership rolls in any simple electronic format to the NAML Secretariat and BAI;
- transfer the NAML.org name to the NAML Secretariat and BAI; and
- transfer all documentation on the current NAML.org web site to the NAML Secretariat and BAI for posting on a web site under development by BAI and NAML volunteers.

Discussion: The archival materials are intended for preservation on the newly constructed NAML web site, and will be available to all NAML members at all times. Should the web site be moved, the materials will move with it. The motion was formally presented by Lou Burnett and seconded by Val Klump; the motion passed with one abstention.

Nancy stated that the roles of the Secretary and Treasurer had been consolidated into a Secretary/Treasurer, Alan Kuzirian, for some time. The NAML Bylaws allow for the appointment of one each or a combination of the two at the time of the incoming President for NAML. She indicated that she would be talking with the NAML Executive Board about the roles and responsibilities of those NAML officers (ex-officio board members), especially with regard to the responsibilities taken on by BAI, in a conference call planned for March 2014. There was also a discussion of long, transcriptional type of minutes versus shorter minutes that document the business of NAML. Efforts would be made to post as many of the meeting presentations on the NAML web site as possible following the meeting.

Nancy said that there will be a recruitment drive for new members once the web site is ready to go "live." Also she will send a letter with the invoices to stress payment of NAML dues at the appropriate amount.

**Lou Burnett – Website Committee report.** The website is not yet live, but should be within a month. Much thought went into the design and contents, and the product is temporarily stored at [coney.arvix.com/~naml99]. Photos of labs or science are welcomed. PPC policy call notes will be password protected from the general public. Several categories such as courses, employment and research programs will be accessible to members for postings. Brain cautioned about beta-testing the site before opening it to the public. Mike Roman suggested that we add information that might be helpful for references for government agencies so they can go there for services, testimony, etc. [see below]. Further suggestions about the web site were conveyed to Lou.

Nancy thanked Lou Burnett and other members of the web committee, Ivar Babb and Jim Harvey, and the capable people of Burk Associates Inc., David Drupa, and the web designer, Ruediger Birenheide, for all the hard work and attention to the web site. [N.B., the web site was beta tested and the site went “live” officially on March 31, 2014. Further suggestions have been submitted to Lou. The web site remains a project in development and enhancement.]

### **Mike De Luca, Public Policy Plans for 2014, joined by Margaret Davidson NOAA**

Mike De Luca introduced a NAML Public Policy Work Plan for 2014 and federal FY15 developed at the meeting [posted at <http://www.naml.org>]:

Immediate:

- Develop testimony for the record for House and Senate CJS Subcommittees – Oldaker to draft
- Cultivate champions for extramural research (Rep. Culversen, TX) – Oldaker to identify based on members of key committees with NAML labs in district/state; outreach to be conducted by NAML lab director and staff with assistance from Oldaker

Short Term:

- Identify opportunities to deliver testimony on behalf of NAML priorities – Oldaker and NAML members
- Cultivate champions for extramural research (Rep. Culversen, TX) -- Oldaker to identify based on members of key committees with NAML labs in district/state; outreach to be conducted by NAML lab director and staff with assistance from Oldaker
- Craft key messages, based on PP agenda, to resonate with Key legislators (emphasis on House members) – Oldaker to develop first draft, to be re-worked by NAML policy committee

Long Term:

- Develop list of expert NAML network witnesses – organized by topic or policy issue -- for to use as a resource for future hearing witnesses; Place on website – NAML policy committee and NAML members
- Develop opportunities to integrate NAML with other science-based networks (NERRS, OBFS, IOOS, FWS, NEP) – NAML Public Policy Committee with assistance from Oldaker
- Establish opportunities to co-locate federal scientists at NAML laboratories (report language, follow-up meetings with Holly Bamford and Bob Dietrich) – Oldaker to raise in testimony to House and Senate appropriators, NAML leadership
- Prepare 1-pagers for each NAML lab on local examples of NAML programs/benefits for key legislators and staff – NAML labs
- Post these on website, and/or prepare 1-pagers on policy issues/current topics being addressed by NAML labs and post on website

- Organize Hill briefing to demonstrate value of NAML – Oldaker to identify opportunities; Work with NAML public policy committee to organize briefing
- Generate system-wide input to NAS study on field station infrastructure – NAML Public Policy Committee
- Meet with key partners in Fall to discuss development of PP agenda and key (consistent) messages (Holly Bamford, MAD, NERRA) – NAML Public Policy Committee with assistance from Oldaker
- Develop system-wide education project that capitalizes on NAML infrastructure, monitoring and science – NAML Education Committee

### **Regional Reports**

**NEAMGLL: Graham Shimmield** announced their upcoming meeting on June 24-27 in conjunction with Bigelow’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. The meetings focus will unite biodiversity and ocean acidification. Other items covered were Regional Ocean Council and dialog between stakeholders, science education NEASEC, recruitment of past members back into NAML by focusing on organismal and biotech areas, and NSF funding of the Marine Algal Collection. They will post a notice to NEAMGLL members and encourage participation in Ocean Sampling Day.

**SAML: Lou Burnett** announced their upcoming meeting 21-23 May in the Florida Keys. The focus on internal issues will be Diving Policy at marine labs with DSOs participating and pre-surveys to NAML labs about diving. The external issue will be acidification in southeastern U.S. and Gulf coastal waters that typically drop very low seasonally. The SAML website is anticipated to be developed by May, and will follow the basic design of the NAML web site.

**WAML:** No WAML members were able to make it to the meeting.

**Other business:** none presented.

**Closing Remarks:** Nancy has developed a list of items of concern including getting material to Felicia Coleman for the NAS report. There will be an executive board teleconference in March to discuss NAML reorganization of Sec/Treas position. There will be a link to the new website for beta testing and possible new items to add to it. Nancy thanked Joel and Meg for the program and the logistics that had to encompass the snow storm; also, for putting out the background material that was so helpful to us and speakers. She thanked BAI for help with the meeting arrangements. She thanked Alan Kuzirian for his continued efforts on behalf of NAML.

**Adjourned**



Minutes transcribed by Alan M. Kuzirian, NAML Secretary/Treasurer  
 Minutes edited by Nancy Rabalais, NAML President  
 Draft as edited on 2 April 2014

**Attendees**

Babb, Ivar, NURTEC-Univ of Connecticut  
Bronk, Debbie, NSF  
Burnett, Lou, Grice Marine Lab  
Bye, Phil, Oldaker  
Coleman, Felicia, Florida State Univ  
Crosby, Michael, Mote Marine Lab  
Davis, Megan, Florida Atlantic Univ, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute  
De Luca, Mike, Rutgers Univ  
Dickey, Robert, Port Aransas Marine Science Institute  
Drupa, David, BAI  
Ebanks, Sue, Savannah State  
Gilchrist, Sandra, New College of Florida  
Hammer, Amy, Hubbs Sea World  
Hill, Peter, WHOI  
Hogarth, Bill, Florida Institute of Oceanography  
Kuzirian, Alan, MBL  
Melzian, Brian, EPA  
Rabalais, Nancy, LUMCON  
Roman, Mike, Horn Point Laboratory  
Roth, Rebecca, NERRA  
Schuster, William, Black Rock Forest Consortium  
Shimmield, Graham, Bigelow  
Stepein, Carol, Univ Toledo/Lake Erie Center  
Thompson, Meg, Oldaker  
Valentine, John, Alabama Marine Science Institute  
White, Quinton, Jacksonville Univ  
Widder, Joel, Oldaker  
Winokur, Bob, Michigan Technology Research Institute, Michigan Technology Univ