

**Draft Minutes for NAML Biennial Meeting
11-13 October 2015
Florida Atlantic University
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Fort Pierce, Florida**

Reception and dinner were held on 11 October at Harbor Branch

NAML President Nancy Rabalais called the meeting to order at 8:40 am on 12 October. She reviewed the logistics of the meeting and introduced speakers from the host institution. Dr. Megan Davis then made welcoming remarks, described the history of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, and showed a 4 minute video about HBOI.

Federal Government and Public Policy Environment- Mike DeLuca, NAML Vice President and Chair of the Public Policy Committee made brief comments about work of the committee before introducing Joel Widder and Meg Thompson of Federal Science Partners who were participating via phone. They narrated a PowerPoint presentation of information (posted at <http://www.naml.org/meetings/pastmeetings.php>). concerning the Federal Budget and Policy Issues relevant to NAML. In brief, Widder and Thompson covered spending priorities for the administration relevant to NAML for fiscal year 2016. There was a note that the House of Representatives was not emphasizing the geosciences in its budget considerations. In addition, it was noted by FSP that the House was also putting a low priority for funding NOAA education programs. Of concern was funding for the Sea Grant program. Funding for programs important to NAML in EPA was presented. Contrasts were made between the recommendations from the House and Senate versions of the budget recommendation.

DeLuca thanked FSP for the presentation and went on to describe the monthly activities for the public policy committee, noting that the conference calls are open to all in NAML. Some of the highlights discussed included the creation of a working group for examining research and education at field stations. Widder provided information on IOOS, drafting a letter to Congress in support of the program. DeLuca noted that on 20 November, NAML would offer a congressional briefing from 4 speakers who are members of NAML.

At 9:54 President Rabalais began discussion of **NAML, NCOOS activities**. Vice President DeLuca noted that the agenda included, inter alia, discussion of underrepresented groups in the sciences, identifying compelling challenges, and NAML lab contributions to understanding of coastal resilience strategies. There were brief comments on citizen science and community outreach programs at NAML facilities.

At 10:40, a **mini symposium on Sea-Level Rise** was provided by Dr. Tiffany Troxler, Sea Level Solutions, Florida International University. Troxler's PowerPoint presentation is at <http://www.naml.org/meetings/pastmeetings.php>). There was a discussion among NAML members about the implications from the presentation. There was a suggestion from George Atkinson that it may be useful to host a meeting at the Institute for Science and Global Policy in the future to include discussion of response from NAML members about sea-level rise issues.

Members queried whether there was to be an action from NAML that should be made in relation to solutions for coastal change brought up in the discussion.

Dr. Robert Virnstein of Seagrass Ecosystems Analysts made a short presentation on strategies for selling local governments on the impacts of sea-level rise. He used the St. John's River (Florida) as an example to illustrate his point about the importance of place-based knowledge in evaluating coastal risk and resilience.

Dr. William Nuttle of the Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, presented a discussion of sea-level rise and NAML laboratories. He illustrated ideas about best practices and asked that NAML labs consider becoming early adopter examples for best practices.

After lunch, the **business meeting** commenced at 1:09 pm. Minutes of several meetings were provided for members to review. Minutes from the 29 October NAML Biennial meeting in Honolulu were moved by Jim Sanders and seconded by Shirley Pomponi. There was a brief discussion of the *minutes which were approved via voice vote of members in attendance*.

Lou Burnett began a discussion of the web site status and issues with a request for members to send a panoramic picture for the rotating header. There was also a request for regional groups to update their entries on the NAML website. Burnett reminded members of the URL for the NAML website.

Sanders, NAML Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Information about finances is contained in the meeting briefing book (<http://www.NAML.org/meetings/pastmeetings.php>). Sanders noted that the regionals should each contribute \$2000 to NAML. There was a brief discussion of the costs for winter meetings with members noting ways to cut high costs. Sanders and Rabelais noted that when we have to use hotel conference facilities, costs for audio visual support as well as for conference space are very high. It was suggested that the next winter meeting be held at a time when we might be able to use the conference room at Consortium for Ocean Leadership, which has generously shared their facilities for past meetings. There was a request for more details with the treasurer's report. There was a brief discussion of the need for a budget committee concluding with President Rabalais asking members to consider volunteering or nominating members. Sanders also discussed the need for a formal audit process. After discussion, the *treasurer's report was approved by voice vote of members in attendance*.

At 2:15, President Rabalais initiated a discussion of memberships. She indicated the importance of bringing new members into both NAML and the regional organizations. There were two nominations from the regional associations for marine laboratory membership in NAML: South Carolina Aquarium and Bowdoin College. After a brief discussion and comments from Dr. Albert George from the aquarium, *Robert Dickey made a motion to accept the application form South Carolina Aquarium and Billie Swalla seconded. This was approved by a voice vote of those in attendance*. A short discussion of the application of Bowdoin College ensued. *Pomponi made a motion to accept the application from Bowdoin College and Schimmiel seconded the motion. The application was approved by those in attendance*. The Nature Coast Biological Station will be nominated by SAML for 2016 membership in NAM.

The NAML president series rotates among the three regional associations. With Nancy Rabalais of SAML leaving the presidency of NAML at the end of 2015, the WAML group was notified by her that it was their round to nominate a new Vice President for 2016-2017 for eventual presidency in 2018-2019. have a note about a discussion of Article IV, Section 2 about a nomination from WAML for a Vice President-elect. ***Dr. Robert Cowen of Oregon State University was offered as the nominee from WAML. Burnett made a motion to accept the nomination which was seconded by Pomponi. The nomination was approved by vote of those in attendance.*** President Rabalais thanked Bob Cowen for his willingness to begin his service for NAML.

The NAML meeting was reconvened at 3:10 with the presentation of a **mini-symposium on Regional Observations**. Dr. Steve Weisberg was the symposium facilitator. He discussed the opportunities for networking among the NAML facilities, commenting on the successful collaborations on public policy issues. He queried how NAML members might cooperate/collaborate on scientific projects. Weisberg and Marinelli of WAML discussed how WAML was planning to network concerning issues about ocean acidification. Dr. Roberta Marinelli reviewed the planning meeting supported by NSF for this west coast OA collaboration in July 2015. She summarized the meeting indicating that among the topics of discussion for the meeting were standardizing measurements and collection of ecoinformatics data. Other topics included examination of data already collected, current and future experiments planned, and training. Marinelli then posed the question: “Who do we bring to the table besides WAML?” The working group has submitted an NSF proposal for a “data wrangler” and to support procuring common instrumentation. Swalla commented that in forming networks, it is critical to have standardized instruments. Dickey added that NERRS already suggests standardization methods. It was also noted that data sharing portals are important to the success of a network.

Dr. Dennis Hanisek, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, introduced the Indian River Lagoon Observing Network. He described the network and how they established sampling sites. He posed the question about long term monitoring versus observing acute events, showing data from Atlantic Safe Ocean Sensors. He indicated that the network was creating a platform for education and outreach from acidification observations. The network is preparing a workshop for December 2015 to review current data and to discuss data management. Members present asked several questions about the network including how the group is setting up training and the general cost per sampling site (estimated at \$120K).

Brian Melzian (call in) commented on the EPA’s national sensor challenge. Sensors were deployed for three months with no maintenance. The data were provided to two different research groups. Melzian suggested that this type of collaborative use of data is cost effective. Members inquired about a possible NAML inventory of onsite information. ***After a brief discussion, as an action item, Davis indicated that she would request a survey of information from SECOORA.***

The **Business Meeting, Part II** began around 4:10 with a call in report from Dr. Ivar Babb. Babb submitted a PowerPoint, which was included in the meeting briefing packet (<http://www.naml.org/meetings/pastmeetings.php>). He discussed the World Directory of Marine

Labs which was initiated in 1963 and needed information for an update of the listing (www.surveymonkey.com/s/WWVRNNS). Babb suggested forming an international committee through NAML. President Rabalais asked Babb to clarify the difference between MARS and WAMS. It was noted that MARS was only European labs. Further clarification about the directory indicated that this is a WAMS initiative. President Rabalais asked whether one would have to be a member of MARS to contribute to the directory and whether NAML missed an important deadline. President Rabalais indicated that Val Klump could contact MARS to see if NAML might still participate even if the deadline had passed. Members queried what the advantages of being a part of the directory might be. One item that was indicated was having access to international postdoctoral students in areas of interest to NAML member laboratories.

Jan Hodder was not able to call in for a report from the education committee. Committee meets by phone on an as needed basis.

Dr. Sarah Oktay, Managing Director of the Nantucket Field Station, called in to update information on **NAML/OBFS partnerships**. She indicated that there would be a meeting of OBFS on 4 March that might be of interest to some NAML members. NAML members indicated that NAML should try to avoid overlapping the annual winter meeting with the OBFS meeting. Oktay discussed a Gulf of Maine Consortium planning grant being submitted. She summarized information on research, education and outreach activities upcoming for OBFS.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 and members proceeded to dinner on their own.

Vice President and chair of the Public Policy Committee, DeLuca, convened Business Meeting Part III at 8:39 am on 13 October. He did an overview of the information from Federal Science Partners contained in the briefing book (<http://www.naml.org/meetings/pastmeetings.php>). A summary slide of the material was shown to members. DeLuca and Rabalais indicated that FSP is very proactive on NAML's behalf. Swalla asked if the public policy committee is a lobbying group. DeLuca indicated that is it an advocacy group. It was recommended that NAML continue with FSP. DeLuca indicated that the public policy calls are well managed and that FSP is very helpful in keeping members up to date on issues of relevance. Darren Rumbold asked how much FSP does in relation to the annual winter meeting. Rabalais and DeLuca indicated that FSP has a great deal of input on the agenda planning and on inviting guests to inform group about important issues from Congress and Federal agencies. ***Pomponi made a motion to continue contract with FSP which was seconded by Dickey. After a brief discussion, those in attendance agreed with this motion.***

At 9:07, a discussion of Burk and Associates and their handling of the NAML Secretariat was initiated. DeLuca summarized the working group's recommendations about Burk Associates. Among the recommendations, DeLuca included suggestions for a bi-monthly conference call, a meeting about events and planning, and improved communications. He noted that Burk and Associates had done a good job of the website update. President Rabalais underscored the notion that in the next contract that it would be critical that NAML make clear its expectations, especially about communications. ***DeLuca concluded with the working group's recommendation that the contract with Burk and Associates be continued. Dickey made a***

motion to affirm the recommendation which was seconded by Swalla. The members in attendance supported the motion.

At 9:52, the regional groups did a break out session for each group to discuss matters of interest. The **business meeting was reconvened at 10:45. Regional groups reported about their discussions.**

Rabalais reported for SAML. SAML has made a major effort to increase membership and to bring some lapsed members back to the organization. Burnett has been very active in encouraging member participation in recruitment. The upcoming regional meeting is in Port Aransas, Texas on the 11-13 of May. The group discussed the nomination of a Vice President for NAML in 2017. There was an update on SAML's student support initiative. The group also discussed updating pictures and other information on the website.

Weisberg reported for WAML. He indicated that members at the meeting discussed a joint proposal from WAML members. Weisberg noted that the group talked about their next meeting in some detail. Further, they discussed the website for WAML and suggested forming a committee/subcommittee to address this issue.

Shimmield reported for NEAMGLL. They talked about the website and needed updates. Shimmield reported two new members, both of which had representatives at the current meeting. He indicated that NEAMGLL was exploring whether it might be possible to piggy-back with other meetings in the region to increase attendance. He reported an intense discussion of the Secretariat. Thoughts from the group included the notion that the Secretariat should confer with regional presidents regularly. The group was very displeased with communications and discussed this at length. NEAMGLL is planning their next regional meeting.

At 11:25, **Other Business** was discussed. Pomponi underscored the importance of international efforts among NAML members. She suggested that NAML should continue to confer with MARS to see if there were opportunities for collaborative EU Framework Grants. It was suggested that Babb continue to be the liaison for international collaborations as he has already established connections. Swalla interjected that NAML also needs to keep connections with WAMS.

President Rabalais noted that because we had our 501(c)3 lapse, we could not obtain a list serve for NAML. Now that we have this back in place, she noted that we can open a list serve. There was a brief discussion about this idea with no resolution to the item. Rabalais then thanked the hosts and all members for a successful meeting.

Dickey noted that many members had left the meetings after part I of the business meeting. There was a discussion of how NAML might make sure that members stay for the entire business meeting instead of attending only one day. There was no resolution to this item.

Pomponi made a motion to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by Dickey. This was approved by those in attendance.