

**MINUTES
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES
WINTER MEETING, 1-2 MARCH 2015**

**March 1, 2015
W Hotel, Washington DC**

Public Policy Meeting

Action Items in Bold Italics

Opening remarks were made by *President Rabalais* to outline events for both meeting days. Rabalais noted the members who were having issues with weather for the first day (DeLuca, Babb) and those not attending because of illness (Sanders)

Federal Science Partners, M. Thompson and J. Widder, provided an overview titled “FY16 Budget and Policy Issues Facing the Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research and Education Community: A Briefing to the NAML Membership” (posted at www.naml.org) of the upcoming Congressional agenda for agencies where NAML has interests. There are several relevant implications that can affect NAML related to the FY Budget for 2016. These include the recommendation from NOAA to take at least 5% from extramural programs, and more from selected programs. Once again, the Prescott Program is scheduled for termination.

There is also a continued push to take funds from the Office of Education (\$27.67M down to \$16.4M) to support the Administration’s consolidation of STEM education programs across agencies. As a result of the STEM consolidation effort, the EPA has also proposed elimination of the STAR (Science to Achieve Results Graduate Fellowships in Environmental Study) and Greater Research Opportunities Undergraduate Fellowships (saving \$11.1M in their budget).

There are some positive suggestions such as an increase of \$8.5M for ocean acidification, an increase in Sea Grant for expansion of the aquaculture program, and an increase in climate research of 19%. Widder suggested that, while the sequester did not happen for 2015, it is a possibility for 2016. If the sequester does happen, NOAA funding would be affected directly. Widder suggested that science might gain under sequester, but was not optimistic that this would occur as budget caps loom in 2016.

NAML President Rabalais passed out a resolution concerning adoption of the FY 2016 Public Policy Agenda (p 13-18 of the 2015 meeting briefing book with resolution on page 19 at www.naml.org) along with a draft copy of testimony by Rabalais to be given before Congress on 27 March. The Public Policy Agenda had been modified to reflect the National Research Council’s study on Field Stations and Marine Labs and the Study of Decadal Sciences report. Additionally there was a resolution for NAML’s acceptance of the two NRC reports as supportive of NAML’s mission and Public Policy Agenda goals. Discussion of the Public Policy Agenda and resolution. Mahadevan moved ***to adopt the Public Policy Agenda and the resolution***; this was seconded by Weisberg. ***The resolution passed, with minor modification, on a voice vote with no objections and 1 abstention.*** The resolution is posted on the NAML web site. ***Rabalais will forward the Public Policy Agenda and the resolution to relevant agencies and subcommittees of Congress.***

NAML Business Meeting

President Rabalais reminded the attendees that the NAML Business Minute Meeting Agenda from Spring 2014, March 3-4, 2014, had been posted at www.naml.org , and asked if there were any comments.

Burnett, President of SAML, read into minutes the positive votes from SAML members in support of the recommendation for Michael Orbach and Robert Van Dolah receiving NAML emeritus status. NAML delegates attending the business meeting supported the recommendation from SAML for emeritus status for Orbach and Van Dolah. Their Emeritus Status has been incorporated into the NAML web site.

President Rabalais read into the minutes the NAML Board of Directors' approval of the following members via email votes:

- Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center (AUMERC) (SAML); approved July 2014
- University of Georgia Marine Institute at Sapelo Island (SAML); approved July 2014
- Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Virginia (SAML); approved February 2015
- University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography (NEAMGLL); approved February 2015

The NAML members present at the business meeting voted to support the recommendation of the NAML Board of Directors. These new members have been added to the NAML web site.

Yokum moved to accept minutes as read and Pomponi seconded. There were no corrections. ***Approval of minutes from March 3-4, 2014 meeting passed with a voice vote.***

Yokum further moved (Pomponi seconded) to approve the Emeritus Members nominated by SAML as read into the minutes and the SAML and NEAMGLL membership nominations as read into the minutes. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**

D. Drupa provided an overview of the NAML finances and Treasurer Report for Sanders. He reported that NAML is essentially in a break-even position with intake nearly equaling outflow. There was a brief discussion of changes in invoicing and in the need for members to pay dues. There was a request from the floor for a more detailed financial report. **President Rabalais indicated that she would request this of Treasurer Sanders.** D. Drupa also provided an update on the IRS status for NAML, indicating that final resolution might take up to a year.

President Rabalais initiated a discussion of dues collection in response to correspondence from a member. There was a question about how dues are collected. Burnett pointed out that Article I of the NAML bylaws (www.naml.org) indicates that NAML will collect dues and distribute as appropriate to the regional organizations. The discussion indicated that this is a central collection necessary because of tax implications. The implication is that ***NAML collects all dues, including regionals and associates, and redistributed them to the regional associations.*** ***A motion was offered by White and seconded by Mahadevan to affirm that the NAML by-laws stipulate that NAML collects all dues for members and associates.*** This motion was passed with a voice vote with no objections.

Subsequent to the vote, *Secretary Gilchrist* reviewed the by-laws and affirmed this stipulation was found in Article I section 6 A of NAML bylaws. ***It was suggested that a teleconference occur between members of the NAML Board of Directors to discuss how to make regional bylaws consistent with NAML bylaws, or at least vet the dues collection issue.***

President Rabalais began discussion of NAML website, inviting Burnett to give an update. Burnett indicated that the website benefits had been useful to SAML in recruiting some lapsed members to return. Burnett commented that members should send panoramic photos to be included in the rotating header of the website. ***Burnett also suggested that all information sent from President Rabalais should include the username and password for the website to encourage members to update and expand information.***

Hodder (committee chair) provided an update from the Education Committee, noting that the interest in the committee activities was evident in the 25 members who volunteered to serve. A primary goal has been to increase presence of education information on the NAML website. Hodder has identified at least 70 educational liaisons from member institutions.

Hodder noted an initiative spearheaded by former NAML representative M. Gilligan with funding from NSF to showcase REU programs at member institutions. Hodder noted that the education committee is discussing how to respond to the NRC report about Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century, suggesting that there may be an NSF proposal formulated for supporting a workshop about coordinating labs and stations more fully.

Regional Association Meetings. The group broke into regional discussions. Each regional group summarized discussions for the group as a whole. Burnett (SAML) announced date and location for their annual meeting. He updated NAML on recruitment efforts and successes for SAML. The inaugural SAML student support program was outlined. De Luca (NEAMGLL) outlined the regional efforts to bring the group together to discuss collaborative activities. Weisburg (WAML) noted the meeting time and place for the regional meeting this summer.

President Rabalais made closing remarks to indicate the agenda and venue change for Monday. The group adjourned for dinner and the evening session.

Evening Dinner and Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Dr. Shirley Pomponi, co-chair of the National Research Council Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences who gave an overview of the document. Following a question and answer session, President Rabalais adjourned until 8:00am, 2 March.

March 2, 2015 Public Policy Meeting Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Washington, DC

President Rabalais opened session with brief remarks at 8:15.

Widder and Thompson (Federal Science Partners) gave an overview of the day's agenda with suggested questions of speakers concerning issues of interest to NAML. Widder noted that the questions had been

provided to the speakers ahead of time to guide their presentations and to guide discussion.

Dr. Russell Callender, Acting Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service was the first speaker. He discussed three focus areas: Coastal Resilience, Coastal Intelligence, and Place-Based Conservation. Dr. Callender clarified that resilience would encompass both social and economic issues. The new process for nominating national sanctuaries was outlined. He remarked that the Beaufort Laboratory would be closed as it now exists. It would have a smaller presence and a more focused science effort. He noted that the Hollings lab would be undergoing consolidation to rebuild partnerships and to improve cost-sharing/equipment sharing agreements. He turned to a brief set of budget highlights. There will be a \$4M increase in competitive research with all new money designated for new program starts. There will be a small increase in the AmeriCorps Community Resilience Initiative focused on curriculum development. In addition, there is funding available for translating scientific information into material for use by the general public. He remarked that there would be an increase for Arctic Spill Preparedness to consider the fate and transport of oil in sensitive areas and the interactions of oil with a cold environment. A discussion of his remarks was lively. Many asked clarification questions for the remarks made, especially for those about conservation and nature-based resilience. Other questions centered on how NAML might assist in furthering NOS initiatives. As a final remark, Callender indicated that NOS has started searching for a Chief Scientist.

Kolo Rathburn, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, suggested that Congress is back in a tough budget environment noting that the President's budget request does not align with sequestration guidelines. Among his comments, Rathburn noted that a focus would be to try to get the satellite programs up to standard. Increases for issues related to ocean acidification and aquaculture were highlighted. Rathburn indicated that the GAO report on ocean acidification showed areas of duplication which need to be consolidated through data sharing. After Rathburn's remarks, members shared concerns about essential flat budgets in areas important to NAML.

Dr. Sarah Oktay, President, OBFS (website www.naml.org under the 2015 meeting subtitle) began remarks with comments about the NRC report "Enhancing the Value and Sustainability of Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in the 21st Century." Oktay reviewed the positive aspects of the partnership that has been started between OBFS and NAML at their joint meeting in Woods Hole in September 2014, highlighting take home messages from the NRC report. Oktay indicated areas of future cooperation, including a study and design of metrics towards highlighting marine laboratory successes and suggesting additional joint meetings (perhaps on a 3-year schedule) to further a common agenda.

Dr. Richard (Rick) Murray, new NSF Division Director for Ocean Sciences, remarked that there is a strong interest in returning funds to the core mission of ocean sciences (www.naml.org). He praised the Decadal Report as a fair and clear guide to future considerations, referring specifically to the science priorities described in the document. He fielded questions from members about plan development. He indicated appreciation for the NAML resolution in support of the OBFS report and the Decadal Science report.

Dr. Rick Spinrad, Chief Scientist, NOAA, was the lunch speaker. Spinrad began remarks by noting that he was responding to questions posed to him in NAML briefing materials. He commented that NOAA is an environmental intelligence agency focused on a few key facets of resilience concerning the economy, environment, and social issues. Spinrad noted the importance of building the National Centers for Environmental Information in workforce development. There will be an increase of \$45M in the NOAA budget. Spinrad discussed balancing intramural and extramural funding balance,

suggesting that a driving factor would be how to sustain capability to produce workforce of the future. Members asked several questions about crossover issues between agencies.

Vice President Mike De Luca took over the meeting when President Rabalais needed to go to a National Sea Grant Advisory Board Executive Session meeting.

Dr. Charles D. Liarakos, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Biological Sciences, NSF (www.naml.org) began remarks with an overview of the NSF Directorate and budget. Liarakos discussed how the 5 grand challenges (2010 National Research Council Report) were shaping the NSF biology directorate areas of concentration. He reviewed the impact of digital initiatives on how biology is considered using framework of size, place and time. He highlighted some specific FSML grants. Members asked about cross-directorate activities as well as specific clarifications of comments provided in the presentation.

Between speakers, Public Policy Committee Chair De Luca took the opportunity to talk about initiatives for the public policy agenda for NAML. There was a brief discussion of the resolution up for adoption at the NAML winter meeting of 2015 to be voted upon later by members concerning the decadal report recommendations and FSML.

Ms. Sherri Goodman, President and CEO, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, addressed the group briefly, beginning with a short introduction of her background. Her basic discussion was how Ocean Leadership can work with NAML towards common goals.

Dr. Libby Jewett, Program Director, Ocean Acidification, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (www.naml.org) reviewed major projects for the organization. Two cruises for this summer were noted, one along the east coast and one around the coast of Alaska. She outlined a variety of initiatives including the Global Ocean Acidification Network (GOA-ON). Members asked clarification questions about projects.

Dr. Louisa Koch, Director of Education, NOAA, and *Dr. Jill Karsten, Geoscience Education, National Science Foundation*, conversations centered on, respectively, NOAA education programming, in particular the Administration's rationale for cutting NOAA's competitive grant funding for education; and, the impact of the FY16 budget proposal on GEO's support for STEM education. For both speakers, members raised questions concerning the Administration's plan for STEM education consolidation, how it impacts activities relevant to NAML laboratories and what NAML can do to support STEM education at NAML laboratories.

Following general discussion, Vice President De Luca adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Minutes by Sandra Gilchrist, NAML Secretary
Edited by NAML President, Nancy Rabalais