

## Draft Minutes for NAML Winter Meeting

6-7 March 2016

Washington, DC

**NAML President Mike DeLuca called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.** He reviewed the logistics of the meeting and introduced Robert Cowen (Bob). Attendance was taken of members present (included at end of minutes) and on the phone (Brian Melzian joined on the phone). President DeLuca indicated that there would be changes to the agenda to adjust for availability of panel members scheduled for Tuesday.

### **Briefing on Federal Science Budget and Policy Environment and Presentation of the FY 2016**

**NAML Public Policy Agenda began at 2:19pm.** Consultants Joel Widder and Meg Thompson (Federal Science Partners) reviewed information using a brief PowerPoint presentation ( ). Thompson began the presentation with an overview of the budget process and then proceeded to review the discretionary, non-defense budget. Widder reviewed budget priorities of particular concern to NAML members, including pending issues important to NAML members. After a question and answer period, President DeLuca asked Cowen to give an overview of proposed NAML public policy agenda for 2016 and to lead a discussion by the group on the agenda. ***After discussion, a motion was made by Shirley Pomponi and seconded by Michael Crosby to accept the public policy agenda as presented. This passed unanimously.***

Past President Nancy Rabalais came forward and gave the official gavel to President DeLuca, officially turning over the organization to new leadership. President DeLuca took the opportunity to thank past president Rabalais with a round of applause from participants and with a (soon to be) engraved glass mug with heartfelt thanks as a token of appreciation for her service.

**NAML Business meeting** began at 3:10. Melzian remained on phone and Ivar Bab joined the business meeting by phone at 3:45.

**Public Policy:** Public Policy issues had already been discussed earlier in the afternoon.

**Treasurer:** Past Treasurer Jim Sanders presented a treasurer's report in place of Treasurer Billie Swalla who could not attend the winter meeting. Sanders reviewed the budget and made some recommendations for improvement going forward. Sanders indicated that the organization is currently taking in sufficient funds to pay bills, but that the margin was thin between income and outflow of funds. He expressed concern about the amount the organization spends on food for various events. President DeLuca noted that this concern was being addressed with the fee for the current meeting covering the cost for the meeting breakfasts and lunches. DeLuca also noted that he will continue the tradition of the President not taking travel funds for NAML business. Sanders suggested that NAML members review the fee structure again. Lou Burnett indicated that SAML members had been actively recruiting new members and that increasing membership would improve financial standing. There was a lively exchange about budget with many ideas about how to make improvements.

**Finances and Membership:** Financial Manager Brett Burk (Burk Associates) began discussion to indicate how Burk Associates was streamlining operations for the organization. He asked Burnett to explain about the NAML Google account use and advantages. Burnett indicated that this type of account gives the organization more flexibility in using its contact lists. The Google account is NAML.org. The NAML president can be contacted via [NAML.President@NAML.org](mailto:NAML.President@NAML.org) and the NAML Board can be contacted at [NAML.Board@NAML.org](mailto:NAML.Board@NAML.org). Presidents of the regional organizations will now be able to contact their members more easily. There was a brief discussion of some problems occurring with SPAM filters at member institutions when large email blasts are sent. Adjustments will continue to be made to simplify the operation.

**Education:** Chair Hodder could not attend on Sunday, so a report in her stead was given by President DeLuca. There was an update about member emeritus Matt Gilligan and his outreach efforts at LSAMP to encourage broader participation from underrepresented groups in the ocean sciences. NAML partially funded Gilligan to attend a national LSAMP meeting to distribute information about NAML members. President DeLuca also noted for members that the education section of the NAML website is operational and that members can make additions/edits. Briefly, information on continuing work with OBFS was updated and a discussion of the importance of networking ensued.

There was an update on several initiatives including the following:

COSEE (Consortium for Ocean Science Exploration and Engagement): The program is sun-setting and is morphing into a dues supported group. There are both individual and institutional memberships. Information can be found at COSEE.net.

Network Integration: Weisberg and Dickie gave an update. Weisberg noted that monitoring requires good training and quality control in addition to data management. The EPA and NOAA have issued a national nutrient sensor challenge to develop better, cost effective sensors. Melzian indicated that he would provide the URL for the Holgen Report. Pennock opined that regional training would be useful

Science Communication: Karina Nielsen updated the group on efforts to include science communications as a part of NAML. Nielson indicated that Bill Nuttle was holding a Twitter discussion based on the topic of communicating coastal change. Nuttle is proposing a Coastal Change Network which would include the Integration and Application Network (IAN) and NAML laboratories to link people working to solve problems of coastal change at the local level. IAN is currently building the network.

NCCOS (National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences): Rabalais made a brief report to update members on issues of workforce development. Rabalais noted that there are webinars available to members interested in NCCOS.

International Networking: Babb gave an update on his work as a liaison with international organizations on behalf of NAML. He reported on the interest in reviving the Directory of World Marine Labs. After a short discussion, Babb suggested that NAML form an International Committee to strengthen NAML's relations with laboratories worldwide. Members present thought that this was a good idea. Terry Donaldson volunteered to join Babb on this committee.

**Ratification of New Member Institutions and emeritus member:** President DeLuca called on members to make nominations for new members. *First nomination for a new member institution was from Graham Shimmiel on behalf of NEAMGLL to support James J. Carlton Marine Science Center at Williams College to join NAML. Shimmiel made the motion which was seconded by Sanders. After a short rationale and discussion, there was a unanimous vote to admit the Carlton Center. A second nomination was made by Burnett on behalf of SAML to support admitting the Nature Coast Biological Station to NAML. Motion was seconded by Volety. A brief rationale was made. There was a unanimous vote to admit the Nature Coast Station. A third nomination was made for the Mendocino College Coastal Field Station put forward by Steve Weisberg on behalf of WAML. It was seconded by Burnett. After discussion, a unanimous vote was made to admit Medocino College Coastal Field Station to NAML.*

President DeLuca recognized *Burnett to make a proposal for appointing Dr. Paul Sandifer and an emeritus member of NAML. Shirley Pomponi seconded the motion.* Burnett discussed some of the

contributions made by Sandifer to the organization. Burnett noted that after Sandifer retired, the nomination for emeritus was made to the Board of Directors. The Board approved. Others discussed contributions of Sandifer to NAML as well as to ocean science. ***There was a unanimous vote to appoint Sandifer as an emeritus member of NAML.***

Regional Meetings: At 4:45, regional groups met to discuss issues of importance and concern to their respective members. The business meeting reconvened around 5:15 with the following reports:

NEAMGLL: President Shimmield noted that WAML members were moving their regional meeting to take advantage of networking with other organizations. He suggested that it would be useful for the secretary and president to be from the same institution to facilitate communication. He noted that NEAMGL was planning to hold their regional meeting around May. NEAMGLL continued to discuss how to implement their website and will likely call on Burnett who did a wonderful job on both the NAML and SAML websites. Finally, Schmmield indicated that NEAMGLL was planning its election for President.

SAML: President Volety reported for SAML. He noted appreciation from SAML members for the work done by Burnett as president. SAML initiated a student support scholarship open to undergraduate and graduate students. Volety reported about the success of the inaugural year of the program and some small changes that would be made for the second year. The regional SAML meeting will be 11-13 May at Port Aransas. SAML members generally choose both internal and external topics to consider at the regional meeting. SAML members are still discussing topics, but safety and waste disposal will be on the agenda as internal topics. Several ideas were discussed for external topics but a final decision was not made for this part of the agenda.

WAML: President Weisberg reported for WAML. Members discussed several topics including how to interact more effectively with NOAA. Weisberg indicated that WAML had decided to hold a joint meeting with the Packard and Moore Foundation to facilitate discussions of funding and collaborative opportunities. He reported that the website committee was working on getting the WAML website in order, following the template developed by Burnett for SAML.

**ACP Conservation Action Agenda, International Plastics:** Albert George introduced information to the group about the 1st International Plastics Conference in 2017 which will be held in Charleston, SC. The topic is broadly about marine debris, but will focus on plastics. George indicated that the conference would be held jointly with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). George queried the group about how to engage the public. Mark McGuire indicated that he would talk with George about some ideas.

**Meeting was adjourned** about 5:20 to allow those interested in gathering for dinner to make local reservations for the group.

## **7 March**

President DeLuca convened group at 8:12 and introduced first speaker.

**Mr. Craig McLean, Associate Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA.** Discussion of current workforce at NOAA, noting that many are currently over 50. Thus, there will be major turnover at NOAA in the next ten years. Discussed National Water Center soon to open in Tuscaloosa, Alabama May 2016. Indicated that his will be the federal hub for looking at water hazard issues and sustainability for a "weather-ready nation". Brief Question and answer session ensued. The discussion centered around new Cooperative Institutes with members asking about how and when new

centers might be chosen. McLean indicated that centers would be more multidisciplinary and regional than in the past.

**Beth Kerttula, National Ocean Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy.** General discussion outlining issues of interest as transitions begin between administrations.

**Business Item:** There was a switch in the order of business because one panel would arrive late. President DeLuca took the opportunity to discuss potential of funds from regional members for helping with administration of NAML. There was general concurrence about this need from all of the regional Presidents. Further discussion will occur.

**Education Committee:** Jan Hodder, who could not make the business meeting, was introduced to discuss the committee. There are many members on the committee who attend conference calls, but need to have more assistance with action items and with working on different education projects. Hodder requested that members consider taking on leadership roles in the committee; members George and Nielsen responded affirmative and will speak with Hodder.

### **Break**

**Cowen began a public policy discussion:** There was a discussion of NAML's participation in a Hill Briefing. Some members suggested that it be close to the winter meeting to save travel. Others indicated that the week of the winter meeting was generally filled with other meetings and that adding another would not be practical. The discussion moved in the direction of having a briefing about 2 weeks after the winter meeting. While there was not total agreement, there seemed to be a general consensus that this would be reasonable to give time to regroup after the winter meeting. Some members suggested that it might be useful to schedule two briefings. It was suggested that a white paper be assembled to outline NAML priorities. Widder queried whether NAML would like to draft some language about environmental sciences for testimony to Congress. There was general agreement that this should be done. Widder will follow up with draft for editing.

**NSF Program Officer Panel: NSF Initiatives and Marine Laboratories:** Dr. Peter McCartney (BIO) was introduced at 10:52 as lead. Lisa Clough accompanied. McCartney began by talking about the Field Station and Marine Lab Grants. Noting a frequently asked question, he clarified that "off campus" in the grant description means who it serves, not necessarily where the station/lab is physically. If it is for classes only, it would likely not qualify. But, if it has significant outreach and public participation, despite physical location, probably would be eligible. He reviewed the planning grant procedure for strategic planning and gave a couple of examples of funded proposals. He noted that it is important to communicate that the home institution has a commitment to the station or marine lab. It is important that grant seekers indicate how material will be made public on such databases as iDIGBIO and DATAONE.

Lisa Clough (OOI) discussed the data portal education section for ocean observatories initiative with partners Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, University of Maine, and Raytheon Mission Operations and Services. The emphasis is providing materials for data-enhanced activities. Clough defined these, suggesting a large shift in funding opportunities. Clough noted that almost every Research Experiences for Teachers in Engineering and Computer Science (NSF RET) is approved. One change will be related to the Fair Labor Act which will boost postdoctoral salaries to above \$50,000. There was a short discussion of the impacts of this change with no transition at research institutions.

**Amanda Greenwell, Director, NSF Office of Legislative and Public Affairs (OLPA)** (previously at NOAA, joining NSF in 2015) began her presentation around noon. Talked about her background and began discussion of LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory with #einsteinwasright). This is a project is international with over 1000 collaborators. She suggested that some of the data and sensors begin developed might be of use to ocean scientists in the future. There was a brief discussion led by DeLuca who asked how NAML members could better represent to NSF the

importance of geosciences. Sanders indicated that NAML needs to advocate balance but should push back when changes in funding affect sections important to NAML members. The general discussion was to let science, not politics dictate funding. George asked how members win the rhetoric battle. After the discussion, members adjourned for lunch.

**Lunch was available around 1:10.** Members reconvened for the lunch speaker around 1:35.

**Dr. Margaret Davidson, Senior Advisor, National Ocean Services** gave a rousing, no-holds-barred discussion of issues around coastal resiliency, *inter alia*. Davidson is a familiar speaker at NAML and many members have worked with her over the years. She suggested that there are some funding sources such as the National Association of Insurance Re-Issuers which could fund research and application work on climate adaptations. Davidson also noted that HUD has Resilience grants. She suggested that if members had not read the book *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right* by Jane Mayer. Another potential source of funding that ocean researchers might not consider is FEMA. Davidson suggested that researchers work outside the box to seek new sources. There were several questions. One clear item that had been discussed previously is the need for scientists to communicate better and more often with the public to make people care about issues important to the ocean science community.

**NOAA Panel:** Dr. Keelin Kuipers, NOAA Office of Coastal Management, Chief of Policy, Planning and Communications Division, led the panel which began around 2:10. Kuipers discussed the Regional Coastal Resilience Grants briefly. She clarified that the grants are focused on planning, disaster preparedness, and hazard mitigation. However, Kuiper emphasized that there are two parts that might be of particular interest to NAML members: ocean use and environmental restoration. She emphasize that successful proposals should show partnerships and regional impacts. Kuipers discussed the Digital Coast platform which is a website through the NOAA Office for Coastal Management which is a useful resource to get ideas about coastal management and how NAML members might contribute to the research and conversation.

Dr. Zdenka Willis, Director, Office of Integrated Ocean Observing Program introduced her background and discussed the animal telemetry portal (ATN). Willis discussed some of the advantages of a national network. Willis briefly discussed *The Ocean Enterprise: A Study of US Business Activity in Ocean Measurement, Observation and Forecasting* issued through IOOS on 16 February as a good resource document for NAML members.

Dr. Mary Erickson, Director, NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science briefly discussed information about new funds coming through the Restore Act. Guidelines will be issued and there will be \$15 million available over a three year period. DeLuca asked about IOOS and NERSS. Crosby inquired about the megafauna group for sensor/telemetry data. Erickson indicated that the Ocean Tracking Network from Canada will lend sensors. The National Park Service may also be a useful source for telemetry data and sensors. Sensors are being developed and deployed to determine organisms passing through the area from DNA shed into the water.

Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Assistant Director for Education, NSF began her discussion of education activities at NSF. Ferrini-Mundy noted that NSF is open to new reviewers for proposals as well as rotators in different programs. She encouraged members to apply for both of these positions to learn more about NSF-HER and other programs. Ferrini-Mundy indicated that the new preferred term for citizen science is public participation in science. She emphasized that these had to be authentic STEM experiences for participants including data collection and analysis. There are new funding opportunities through the Science for All initiative for K-12 Computer Science. There is also the NSF INCLUDES program which is focused on groups underrepresented in the Sciences and Engineering with preliminary proposals due 15 April. Full proposals for that program would be due in June. There was a brief question and answer period in which members asked whether materials such as the Smithsonian ARMS would be appropriate for these programs. Ferrini-Mundy indicated yes.

**Break** occurred about 4:05

Notes for after break were contributed by Felicia Coleman

**Panel on working with Like-Minded organizations:** First speaker was Ms. Michelle Wyman, Executive Director, National Council for Science and the Environment. This is a not-for-profit which has universities and junior colleges as membership. The mission is to improve the scientific basis of environmental decision-making. The organization seeks to bridge science, its applications and policy. Dr. Chris Avery, Senior Advisor, National Council for Science and the Environment was also present.

Ms. Josie Quintrell, Executive Director, IOOS Association SECOORA noted that there is a great deal of overlap between the goals of IOOS and NAML. The IOOS Association is a non-profit formed by the regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing. IOOS is working on a data portal and trying to sustain observational work. The organization is working on IOOS re-authorization, especially in creating a buy in by the Republicans on various committees. It is important to have bi-partisan support. Quintrell noted that users are not getting needed information because of flat funding for the past few years.

Ms. Rebecca Roth of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association began her presentation by discussing the problems of graduate fellowship programs on NERR sites. The organization is considering creating a small advisory committee. NERR adopted a work plan with three focus areas: commonalities among sites of potential partnerships (e.g. NAML), science and services that sites provide (legislative agenda focused on system-wide monitoring and building out sentinel-site program), and capacity to communicate and have legislative outreach. Roth noted that the group is concerned about having clarity in transition planning, including talking to incoming political and government agency contacts. She noted that NERR will focus on furthering investment in monitoring and sentinel programs, not allowing momentum to decrease with political changes.

Ms. Lexi Shultz, Director of Public Affairs, American Geophysical Union, introduced herself as part of the government relations team. The AGU has a mission to promote Earth and space science for humanity. The key issue this year for the organization is energy production, with AGU taking a leadership role. Shultz directed the members to the website <http://thebridge.agu.org/2016/02/16/the-science-policy-scene-in-2016/>.

Dr. Suzan Park, Executive Director, Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, provided an overview of the mission for CERF. The focus is on students and early professional mentoring. The organization supports a peer reviewed journal, Estuaries and Coasts. Park noted that estuaries and coastal areas do not get the recognition that they deserve relative to their economic and ecological contributions to the nation. Park further noted that there is a great deal of overlap between CERF and NAML. CERF is currently undergoing strategic planning, focusing on translating the importance of coastal science. She indicated that they are searching for their niche in the policy realm to translate their mission into action.

Closing Remarks: Widder noted that there is a biomedical lobbyist group that meets for breakfast once a week in DC. This group is very informal, trading information about what is going on around town and within groups. Widder suggested that Ocean Leadership could host something similar, but cautioned that a focus would need to be established.

**NOT SURE WHO SAID THIS** It was commented that where NAML members fail too often is in going back to our home institutions and getting the attention of upper administration on campus to policy initiatives when their focus is on big money grants. How can NAML members aggregate to make positive responses to recommendations for transition.

**NOT SURE WHO SAID THIS (Avery?)** There are other forums that exist for university leadership. The Congress-federal government is not the only place where decisions are made. Members should think about other levels of government to which universities and organizations can lend their voices. For instance, a number of governors came together to focus as a group on best practices for decision making without federal input. Coleman noted that this is what happened with the governors surrounding the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Coalition and the restoration thereof, signed by six governors and the mayor of DC.

**Meeting was adjourned** by President DeLuca who thanked those in attendance for productive meeting.

In attendance

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Attended 6 March only \*

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