

National Sea Grant Advisory Board (NSGAB) Virtual Meeting
December 10, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 10, 2018

BUSINESS MEETING – 3:45-4:00 PM ET (Board members only)

3:45-4:00 Mandatory FACA Ethics Training (Will Jacobi, Department of Commerce Office of Ethics)

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – 4:00 – 5:30 PM ET

4:00-4:05 Call to order, welcome, review of agenda and roll call (Amber Mace, Chair NSGAB) and (Elizabeth Rohring, Designated Federal Officer – DFO)

Elizabeth Rohring read an official statement explaining her role as DFO to the group. Ms. Rohring stated that the meeting is open to the public and the briefing book is on the website. She said that the next public meeting will be held in March 2019 in Washington, DC.

Roll-Call

Members of the Advisory Board:

Amber Mace, Dale Baker, Peter Betzer, Paulinus Chigbu, Carole Engle, Rosanne Fortner, Gordon Grau, Judith Gray, William Hogarth, Letise LaFeir, James Murray, Deb Sterling

Jim Hurley – *ex officio* member; President of Sea Grant Association (SGA)

Dr. Jonathan Pennock –*ex officio* member; Director of the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP)

Elizabeth Rohring – Designated Federal Officer (DFO), National Sea Grant Office (NSGO)

Donna Brown - Executive Assistant - NSGO

Others in attendance: Nikola Garber – NSGO, Susan Holmes – NSGO, Marnie Brown - IOOS,

4:05-4:20 - Board Chair Update (Mace):

Discussion and approval of the two sets of minutes for the March 2018 and May 2018 meetings minutes. One revision was requested to the March 2018 minutes.

Motion to approve updated minutes - Murray; 2nd - Gray

Vote: All in favor (unanimous)

4:20-4:45 - Discuss and Approve Independent Review Panel Members (Jim Murray, NSGAB Evaluation Committee Chair)

Dr. Murray explained the role of the Sea Grant evaluation process and the addition of the new Board Evaluation Committee to review the 34 site visit reports for consistency and transparency and to provide arbitration on any contested ratings from site visits. The Evaluation Committee consists of Murray, Judy Gray, Gordon Grau, Deb Stirling and Anders Andren, former director of Wisconsin Sea Grant. Board has also been asked to create an Independent Review Panel (IRP) which will consist of 7 members -- the Board chair, the Board Evaluation Committee Lead (Jim Murray), a delegate from the Sea Grant Association, two stakeholders/partners, and two NOAA representatives, one of whom should be a representative from NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). The main purpose is to evaluate the NSGCP in its entirety (i.e. all the individual programs as well as the NSGO at least once every 4 years). This approach allows external reviewers to move beyond evaluating recertification and ratings, challenges, and progress being made in individual programs, to consider the broader issues by evaluating the management of the NSGO and the overall impact of the NSGCP.

The Evaluation Committee, through the vote of the Board, will advise the NSGCP Director on membership of the IRP. The Evaluation Committee requested suggestions from the Sea Grant network. The Evaluation Committee looked at several factors to filter potential IRP members: A solid understanding of Sea Grant and its mission; a national perspective of Sea Grant and its impact; high credibility among all of Sea Grant's partners (NOAA, Congress, the Sea Grant network, etc.); and availability and willingness to devote what could be at least a week's worth of work some time late next summer. The Committee also took into account regional bounds and diversity. The Committee is presenting the Director with several names in each category to provide flexibility in choice and potential need for back-ups. Recommendations from the Evaluation Committee are:

SGA Rep:

Jim Hurley, Director Wisconsin Sea Grant and (soon to be) Past President, SGA (Great Lakes)
Sylvain DeGuise, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant, Past President, SGA (Northeast)

Partner/University:

Rita Colwell, University Administrator/NSF, former MD Sea Grant Director (Mid-Atlantic)
Nancy Targett, Consultant, AGB/University Administration/former Delaware Sea Grant Director (Northeast/Mid-Atlantic)
Bob Duce, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Texas A & M University and former National Sea Grant Advisory Board member (Gulf)

Partner/Industry:

Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association (Northeast)

Geoff Anderson, former President and CEO, Smart Growth America (Mid-Atlantic)
Robert Rheault, Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association (East Coast)

OAR Rep:

John Cortinas, Director, Office of Weather and Air Quality, NOAA OAR
David Turner, Strategic Planning Lead, NOAA OAR
Deborah Lee, Director, Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, NOAA OAR

NOAA Rep:

Rick Spinrad, Oregon State University Administrator/former NOAA Chief Scientist (West Coast/National)
Tim Keeney, former Connecticut Probate Judge/former Deputy Assistant Secretary, NOAA (Northeast/National)
Mary Erickson, NWS Deputy Director (National)

Motion to approve the list of recommendations for the IRP - Baker, 2nd -Betzer

Discussion:

Dr. Hogarth suggested that we need folks strong in aquaculture. Dr. Murray said that he would be interested in getting other names from Dr. Hogarth. Ms. Gray said that the response to the poll for names was light, but the names they received were good ones. Dr. Murray said that perhaps we could postpone the vote and wait for other suggestions (more Gulf coast, West coast, shellfish industry). The work is not planned to begin until late summer, so there is an opportunity to revisit this; or we can vote today, and in March we can have a discussion about adding a name or two.

Revised motion to vote to accept the list as presented from the evaluation committee to put forward for the Director's consideration and if needed the Director will ask for alternates at the March meeting - Murray 2nd - Betzer

Vote: All in favor (unanimous)

4:45–5:00 – Public Comment Period (Rohring)

No written comments and no members of the public ask to speak.

5:00-5:20 – Executive Committee Nominations and Vote (Amber Mace)

The Board executive committee is made up of the Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair and currently one member at large. Jim Murray has served a two-year term as the member-at-large. His term ends in December and we need to replace him. The Executive Committee has agreed that it would benefit the Board to have two members-at-large with staggered terms to keep some continuity between the rest of the Executive Committee terms and for potential grooming for higher positions. Dr. Mace asked for nominations for members-at-large. Dr. Murray nominated

Dr. Hogarth, and Dr. Mace nominated Ms. Sterling. Both members accepted their nominations. Dr. Mace said that the Board can vote on terms for the new positions at the March meeting.

Motion to vote on member-at-large nominations of Bill Hogarth and Deb Stirling - Mace, 2nd, Murray.

Vote: All in favor (unanimous)

5:20 - Wrap up and Next Steps (Mace)

Dr. Mace asked if there were any other topics that the Board would like to discuss. Dr. Betzer asked if there was any news on appropriations. Dr. Pennock said that the program was slated for elimination, but is included in the House and Senate marks. The current continuing resolution has been extended through Friday, December 21st so we'll have more news after that.

Dr. Hogarth said that he knows that Sea Grant has been very active in aquaculture and that the US is falling further behind other countries. Dr. Pennock said that Sea Grant has been working closely with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Aquaculture and Congress has provided more funds for Sea Grant and NOAA Fisheries to work on aquaculture.

Dr. Mace said that if there are any topics for the March meeting to send them to Ms. Rohring. She also said that they would welcome additional names for the IRP, was pleased that Dr. Hogarth and Ms. Stirling will serve as members-at-large, and that she is looking forward to seeing everyone in March.

5:30 – Meeting Adjourned