

National Sea Grant Review Panel

Meeting April 29, 2008

Ms. Robin Alden

Dr. Peter Bell

Dr. John Byrne

Dr. Robert Duce

Dr. Ross Heath

Mr. Jeffrey Stephan

Dr. William Stubblefield

Dr. Judith Weis

Dr. Frank Kudrna

Dr. John Woeste

Rear Admiral Richard West

Dr. Leon Cammen

Dr. Jim Murray

MOTION: Approval of minutes (Judy and Robin seconded)

Correction: Leon and the staff will give Duce an idea of what was needed as far as the scope of the research committee. Jim Murray has already drafted for Leon a charge letter regarding this committee and we expect to distribute it shortly.

Administrative Review Report – R. Heath

- Concern was expressed over the administrative cap and the need for and underlying rationale for budget and staffing levels. The committee also believed that a definition of the functions of the NSGO was necessary.
- Four things were described that needed to be done (listed in the report). The report is a strategic level view. Next step is to demonstrate what would happen if the cap was removed and articulate which of the priorities will have to be placed on the back burner.
- If the cap is removed, the NSGO should develop an implementation plan and success measures for what will be done with the increased funds.
- Suggestion that the information in the attachments (excel file) be summarized in the report itself. Might also mention exactly how much staff and skill level has been lost over the years to remain within budget. Also, the report should highlight the fact that a certain level of skill is needed to fulfill the NRC recommendations.
- Heath will do the wordsmithing (and correct third bullet on page 2) and bring it back to the panel. Concern was expressed about putting too many figures into the report and becoming too quantitative.
- Once report is complete, Murray will provide a copy to Paul Doremus.
- Aspects of the report have already been incorporated in responses to congressional questions and in talks with OMB.
- **MOTION: Approve report with subsequent revisions by R. Heath. Accepted.**

Pennsylvania Sea Grant - R. West

- Site committee recommended to the NSGO that PA SG be approved for institutional status.

- Change shouldn't have much impact on the budget over the next year because some money has already been allocated and will be available for them over the next 12 months.
- As soon as approved by the Director, the NSGO will provide a bump in PA SG's funding.
- **MOTION: Approve committee's recommendations (Woeste) Second (Byrne) Accepted.**

Response to House Committee Questions:

- J. Woeste did a great job with his testimony. The Panel appreciates his work.
- Panel testimony: Tried to keep things direct and not get into too much detail. Suggestions on how to shorten future response would be appreciated.
- The House Natural Resources Committee was complementary of the SG program. Chair was very interested in the program and seemed supportive of quick reauthorization. Hoping the House Science Committee would move the bill this year. There were some questions about Sea Grant's international presence and a possible 2-year Knauss fellowship.
- Not a lot of discussion about the reauthorization level. There's a full mark-up tomorrow (4/30) by House Resources Committee. Not sure if something will change there or not. May 21st, we were asked to provide more stakeholder names. Senate might want to do the hearing differently than the house did.
- Comment about written responses:
 - Top of page 5 (Question 7) and last page regarding why the panel recommends increasing authorized amount: Panel should add the opportunity costs of not acting given the challenges facing U.S. coasts. Show what SG could do with more money. We need to highlight that we want to do more than get funding back to its previous level.
- Panel might not want to make detailed budget advice.
- Highlight that increased authorization/funding is necessary to address the Ocean Committee's/NRC's recommendations.
- P. Bell will send grammatical changes to Murray and Woeste.
- The bill did make some mention of regional work, but not about any regional efforts that don't require match. Not sure why they didn't include this.
- Woeste will have to go back to written submission to see if testimony addressed the non-match issue. It wasn't part of the oral testimony. If it wasn't addressed in the testimony, we shouldn't address it here.
- Request that NSGO share congressional Q&As and Dr. Spinrad's answers with the panel.
- Suggestion that the panel consider taking submitted comments to the Senate Committee with modifications and adding the no-match regional component. The panel, however, didn't have a specific recommendation. It was left as a non-issue. Cammen asked to take this on and provide panel with an outline of the issue and give talking point to West. West will talk to Julian about how to move this along. Panel needs to explain why requiring match would be a problem. The panel should also follow up with the House Resources Committee and Paul

Doremus on this point. West will work with Murray and Cammen on this next week.

MOTION: Approve question responses with incorporation of modifications discussed here (Stephan). Second (Byrne). Accepted.

Public Comments:

- None.

Closed session begins

Overview of New Orleans meeting: - Murray

- Nov. 12-14 was originally set for fall meeting. In March panel decided to keep these dates but meet in New Orleans and add a field trip.
- SGA has moved meeting to 13-14th because the entire city is booked for another convention.
- Due to reduced availability, the best the panel might have to move meeting to Baton Rouge.
- Possible options:
 - Move panel meeting back a day, arrive on the 10th, full session on 11th, field trip on 12th and conclude on 13th mid-day. Some could then attend the SGA meeting.
 - Get rooms for Nov. 12-15. Arrive on 12th and have meetings coincide with SGA meeting.
 - Nov. 10-13 in Baton Rouge and some could go to New Orleans for SGA meeting.
 - Have panel meeting after SGA, arrive Nov. 16, meet 17, 18 field trip, 19 finish mid-day.
- It would be ideal to meet before the SGA and report out.
- Murray will find out availability in Baton Rouge. Might want to ask Nancy Rabalais about where to stay
- **Panel decides to arrive Nov. 10th, meeting November 11-13 (with field trip on the 12).**
- Backup plan: Move meeting to New Orleans to coincide with SGA meeting.
- Three options for field trips:
 - New Orleans east to Empire and Venice. Look at disaster and recovery work and SG's planning activities.
 - Southwest to Huma. Same hurricane issues, longer drive, could see Nancy's lab. There's a little less to see there.
 - Fort Fushon and energy industry, fisheries disaster, SG's response. This needs to be worked out with LASG.

Fall Meeting:

- Panel should look at Knauss 2-year option and international aspect.

Other Business:

- Panel needs one new member to serve on NSGO's evaluation criteria working group. Peter Bell is already on the committee.
- Murray and West will approach new members who might participate. Schmitten has already been approached by Murray.
- Panel should support national academy review of education program. Sharon Walker is taking lead. Doremus should also be engaged. Request that the NSGO keep the panel informed.

Monthly update – West

- First monthly email newsletter (with activities, due dates, etc.) will be out by May 8th.
- It would be helpful if committee reps (FEE, SAB, etc) would provide an update for this monthly email.

Panel recruiting – West

- Recruiting needs to be stepped up. The panel needs to take a more active role in this.

Follow up with Stewart Levenbach on Coastal integration issue:

- West is going to reschedule with Levenbach. We're well prepared for the meeting and will report back to the panel.
- Next step is to look at overlap, redundancies, niches. Some people think specialization is necessary and SG is an end to end program.

Climate Service:

- Probably best to wait on this for the next administration. West will get a feel from Mary Glackin about where this is going.

Ocean Bill:

- Law Center did a review of the Oceans Bill. Murray will forward this review along to the panel.

Cammen's update:

- We're still working on getting legislation approved. Panel will see a copy when it's done.

FEE report:

- Hope to get panel's report to Cammen by the later part of June.
- Programs need answer by July 1, 2008. We will probably need to set up a conference call for the panel to approve the report.
- Woeste will find a date for this conference call.

Focus Teams:

- Focus team meeting is in June. Panel members will receive instructions on this process next week.

Adjourn.