

AOOS Executive Committee

April 28, 2021

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

- Sheyna Wisdom, Executive Director
- Molly McCammon, Senior Advisor
- Katrina Hoffman, Chair
- Sara Longan, Vice-Chair
- Cheryl Rosa, Secretary
- James Kendall, Treasurer

Agenda:

- Review of Board mtg agenda
- Review of DEI Board seat recommendations
- Overall discussion of ExCom and Executive Director roles

Summary:

1. Review of Board mtg agenda

- Sheyna: Because we had several Board members who couldn't commit to a full day, we separated the meeting into two distinct sessions: 1) presentations in morning (10a-12p) and 2) Board action items in afternoon.
- IOOS 2021-2026 Funding Update
 - We have received word from IOOS that the core funding will be flat with FY20, but there is going to be more funding for the regional data sharing initiative and HAB, and potentially more with fill-the-gaps. We have a meeting on Fri May 6 with IOOS.
 - Oriana will also give updates on how IOOS is being brought in with the new administration's budget.
 - President's budget should be out May 17, we know IOOS is getting more money but not sure how much.
- Jim Kendall would like to join in person for the afternoon session as he will already be downtown
- Request to record the morning presentations

2. Review of DEI Working Group Board seat recommendations

- Board established DEI WG with Board members, Kaare Erickson, and Wáahlaal Gíidaak
- Report has been sent to WG for their review. The report includes some suggested changes to the operating procedures and MOA as well as recommendation to add three Alaska Native Organizations seats to the Board.
 - The four Native seats would then represent four regions of Alaska (Beaufort/Chukchi, Bering, Southeast, PWS/Cook Inlet/Kodiak).
- We don't need to have a board decision at this meeting but want to talk about it. We can ask for ideas of entities at the Board meeting, but not expecting an action item at this meeting, but would expect for fall meeting.
- Membership vs Board
 - Other OOS' have members, some collect dues, some not.
 - Our MOA states that if we get to 25 seats, we would adjust to a smaller Board with larger membership group.

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- AOOS has voted twice to not have dues for membership. Mostly agencies have not wanted to pay dues. The advantage would be that if we received revenue from non-agencies then you have a pool of money to use for things that are not allowable under Federal Accounting Rules.
- So much of dues tracking is automated now, so it might be something to consider. Katrina commented that she is on the Board for the Chamber of Commerce for Cordova and it still takes a lot of time to get dues.
- Katrina sees that Board membership might be about the same, but membership might be able to be increased.

3. Overall Discussion

- Sheyna: Would like to hear from this committee what they need from me as new director
 - Katrina: more interest in what you need from us
- Everyone agreed to establish a standing bi-monthly meeting.
 - Sheyna will send out a doodle pool. (Afternoons are best, but not Mon or Wed)
- Helpful for this group to forward information to Sheyna on initiatives or things they think I need to know more about
 - Jim: Important to note that the new administration is focused on climate change, renewable energy, and diversity which should really benefit AOOS. So anything we can latch onto will help. We used to think renewables were far off for Alaska, but BOEM is likely going to push this hard.
 - Cheryl - USARC had sustainable renewable energy conference this week- will be links on site soon.
- Molly: Sheyna is doing a good job coming up to speed, just needs to distinguish between need to know or do now vs. get up to speed eventually.