



Alaska Ocean Observing System
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AOS Board Meeting
May 22, 2019
Meeting Summary Prepared by Holly Kent

Board members present: Sara Longan (ADNR), Doug Vincent-Lang (ADF&G), Dee Williams (USGS), Jim Kendall (BOEM), Brad Moran (UAF), Betsy Baker (NPRB), Katrina Hoffman (PWSSC), Cheryl Rosa (USARC), Ed Page (MXAK), Theresa Peterson (NPFMC), Bill Britt (Hilcorp)

Board members present by phone for all or part of meeting: Paul Webb (USCG), Heather Brandon (AK Sea Grant), Margaret Williams (WWF), Lynn Kent (for Jason Brune, ADEC), Tara Riemer (ASLC)

AOS staff present: Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Kayla Schommer

Guests present: Peter Murphy (NOAA), Jeremy Kasper (UAF)

Guests present by phone: Josie Quintrell (IOOSAssoc), Carl Gouldman (IOOS), Becky Smyth (NOAA OCM), Rachel Potter (UAF)

Meeting called to order at 8:35 am at the USGS Leslie Holland-Bartels conference room in Anchorage by AOS Board Chair Katrina Hoffman.

Adoption of Agenda

Action Item: Draft meeting agenda approved unanimously. *Motion by Baker, second by Britt.*

Adoption of Board Meeting Summaries

Action Item: Board meeting summaries from general board meeting November 2, 2018 and executive committee meetings March 1, 2019 and April 20, 2019 approved unanimously. *Motion by D. Williams, second by Kendall.*

Update on AOS activities by AOS Executive Director Molly McCammon

Molly McCammon provided an overview of recent and upcoming AOS activities and participation in state, national and international level initiatives.

Alaska Activities:

- Government shutdown
- AGU: Bering Strait Response, AK chapter Natl Climate Assess
- ADAC/NAS AIS project presentations, ADAC annual mtg
- AMSS: organizing team,
- AFE: booth/display table
- Sea Grant site review April 9, oil spill conference Feb 20-21
- AK Harmful Algal Bloom Network: MERHAB proposal submitted, HAB workshop Feb 15
- AK OA Network: Pacific Marine Expo, AMSS, AFE, Juneau presentation Feb 20
- AK Water Level Watch: network meeting in April, tiered data level portal in development
- AK Coastal Mapping strategy underway
- New projects: Kodiak buoy, HF radars in Bering Strait, HIOMAS model for ADAC, Western AK Storm Models project

National/International Activities:

- IARPC Environmental Intelligence Collaboration Team co-lead

- Consortium for Ocean Leadership: trustee & public policy forum: moderated ocean policy present panel March 13
- Testimony at House WOW subcommittee: May 8
- NOAA Science Advisory Board – Ecosystem Services Management Working Group focusing on “New technologies to support fishery stock assessments”

Upcoming Activities:

- IOOS Advisory committee: meet June 3-4 in DC (later cancelled)
- Ocean Obs 19: Honolulu, September 2019, emphasis on stakeholder engagement, societal needs: white papers submitted, special session on Arctic

Update on IOOS Association activities by Josie Quintrell, Executive Director, IOOS Association

Josie gave an overview of the IOOS Association’s role and then updates on congressional outreach, upcoming appropriations and legislation, and other IOOSA activities.

Update on IOOS Program Office activities by Carl Gouldman, Director, IOOS Program Office

Carl gave a brief overview of the IOOS Program Office’s role, a historical perspective on IOOS funding, program highlights from the past year, and the upcoming focus on gliders.

Regional Ocean Partnership funding by Carl Gouldman and Becky Smyth (NOAA OCM)

Carl and Becky introduced new funding coming from a FY2019 congressional appropriation “to enhance capacity for sharing and integration of Federal and non-Federal data in support of regional coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes management priorities.”. This one-year funding will go to AOOOS as the sole partner for the Alaska Region and is expected to be \$166,262 and should be available in July of this year. The board discussed possible uses of this funding and decided to form a working group to develop options in June with a final decision to be made by the executive committee in July. Working group members are:

- Ed Page
- Jim Kendall
- Bill Britt
- Dee Williams
- Sara Longan

AOOOS Budget Review, Year 4 proposed Budget, and Proposed Year 4 Budget Additions

Molly presented a review of the current budget to expenditures with some discussion by the board. Molly then presented the Proposed Year 4 core budget for approval. \$520K in confirmed additions to the year 4 budget and \$256K in expected year 4 budget additions were introduced for approval. These include new funding for additional HF radars and gliders. Molly discussed the staff call for mini-proposals for potential projects to fund when funds are available for reallocation or new funding sources are available. AOOOS received 20 proposals and ranked 9 viable options. The board was given copies of the 9 ranked proposals for review and consideration. A discussion ensued on the ranking process and individual proposals. Staff will take additional time to get more information on some of the proposals and bring them to the executive committee for a final decision.

Action Item: The Proposed Year 4 core budget and Year 4 budget additions were unanimously approved and adopted by the board. *Motion by Vincent-Lang, second by D. Williams.*

Discussion on Preparing for FY21-25 Cooperative Agreement lead by Molly McCammon

Molly led a discussion on the upcoming Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for the FY21-25 Cooperative Agreement with NOAA. The discussion included a review of the current 5-year strategic plan, progress to date on that plan, and a staff-proposed schedule for preparing the proposal. Molly talked about the staff approach to stakeholder engagement in preparation for the proposal to include workshops on the status

of ocean observing in Prince William Sound 10 years after the Prince William Sound Field Experiment in 2009, ecosystems and fisheries, and Marine Debris followed by an assessment of recommendations from these workshops and development of potential projects to address those recommendations. Staff will also be developing a process for reviewing existing AOS projects for consideration of future funding.

Executive Director FY 19 draft Performance Objectives/Work Plan

Molly presented her draft work plan for FY19 which includes developing recommendations for restructuring the Data Management Advisory Committee (DMAC) roles and responsibilities, reorganizing AOS under its own non-profit status and finding alternative solutions to replace the fiscal administrative functions that the Alaska SeaLife Center now performs for AOS. This fall will be the 15-year anniversary for AOS, and staff are working on development of a 15 year accomplishments report.

Action Item: The Executive Director Performance Objectives/Work Plan was unanimously approved and adopted by the board. *Motion by Peterson, second by Rosa.*

Marine Debris in Alaska - Possible Action Plan & Workshop by Peter Murphy, NOAA Pacific Marine Debris Lead

Peter gave a presentation on several aspects of marine debris including a working definition, NOAA's role as the federal lead for marine debris, the different types of marine debris, the current status of Alaska's beaches, and the efforts on eliminating marine debris here. NOAA has worked with other states to develop a marine debris action plan and would like to move in this direction for Alaska. Peter has begun working with AOS to develop an approach that would capture community knowledge, focus on common priorities, then translate and communicate to a larger group through a workshop co-hosted by AOS and NOAA and tentatively planned for winter 2020.

Enhancing Ecosystem Studies

Molly led a discussion on this topic, including:

- What is AOS' role?
- How do we enhance our current activities, especially in relation to fisheries?
- How do we support partner goals, especially agency management?
- What are USARC and NPRB thinking and how can we collaborate?
- How does this tie in with Ecosystems Status Report/indicators project, a State of Alaska's Coasts and Oceans Report and the upcoming Regional Ocean Data funding?

Cheryl Rosa (USARC) discussed the absence of data for the Bering Strait and Beaufort Sea regions and USARC's development of a needs statement for the Arctic, including the Bering Sea.

Betsy Baker (NPRB) discussed reviewing the AOS Research Workspace to see what data exists and how it is being used, especially long-term datasets, to determine essential ocean variables. Additionally, the IOOS Mooring plan should be reviewed. Ultimately, observations and synthesis must lead to solutions.

Program Briefings

Presentations were given on these AOS programs:

- BOEM Wave Project & Beaufort Coastal Long-Term Ecological Reserve by Jeremy Kasper, UAF
- HAB workshop in May 2019 by Kayla Schommer, AOS Alaska Sea Grant Fellow
- UAF CFOS activities by Rachel Potter, UAF

Ocean Observing Roundtable

Board members and guests shared current news and upcoming events.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.