



Alaska Ocean Observing System  
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## AOOS Board Meeting

September 2, 2020

### Meeting Summary Prepared by Darcy Dugan and Jill Prewitt

Board Members present: Lynn Palensky (NPRB), Kenny Down (NPFMC), Cheryl Rosa (USARC), Ginny Eckert (AK Sea Grant), Katrina Hoffman (PWSSC & OSRI), Kathrine Howard (ADFG), Jason Brune (ADEC), Robert Foy (NOAA/AFSC), Margaret Williams (WWF), Ed Page (MXAK), Jeffrey Brooks (sitting in for Jim Kendall, BOEM), Dee Williams (USGS), Mike Miller (IPCoMM), Bradley Moran (UAF/CFOS), Sarah Longan (ADNR), Paul Webb (USCG), Tara Reimer (ASLC)

AOOS Staff present: Molly McCammon, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent, Darcy Dugan, Jill Prewitt, Nic Kinsman (on detail to AOOS from IOOS)

Guests present: Josie Quintrell (IOOS Assoc.), Oriana Villar (IOOS Program Office)

**Meeting called to order at 9:02am via Zoom by AOOS Board Chair Katrina Hoffman.**

#### Adoption of Agenda and Excom Meeting Summary

Molly McCammon proposed a change to the agenda schedule to have the discussion on the Engagement and Proposed Working Group on AOOS Inclusion in the morning and the Follow Up on 2017 Axiom Review in the afternoon.

**Action Item:** The meeting agenda with the proposed changes and the Meeting Summary from the August AOOS Executive Committee meeting were approved unanimously. *Motion by Brune, second by Page.*

#### Update on AOOS activities by AOOS Executive Director Molly McCammon

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

#### Alaska Activities

- Covid Response: staff working remotely, deployment of assets, and deferment of projects
- Murdoch Foundation grant to UAF (Russ Hopcroft) to supplement the Seward Line/GOA LTER ship transects: AOOS helping provide matching funds
- HAB Network - new funds and hiring of HAB Network Coordinator
- OA Network, Water Level Watch, and Coastal mapping strategy activities
- Bering Sea data sharing - BeringScience spring report, follow-up outreach & media activities, plans for future reports

- AOOS governance structure and the AOOS 501(c)(3) transition process
- FY 21-26 Proposal process & timeline

## National and International Activities

- IARPC Environmental Intelligence Collaboration Team co-lead
- Member, NOAA Science Advisory Board - Ecosystem Service Management Working Group
- UN Decade of Ocean Science (UNDOS) Arctic planning team participant
- IOOS Association board member and chair, Public Policy Committee
- NOAA OA-HABS collaboration workshop participant
- Ocean Studies Board “Sustaining Ocean Observations” workshop planning co-chair
- IOOS-OAR Pacific collaboration workshop participant

### **Update on IOOS Program Office Activities by Oriana Villar**

Villar gave an update on IOOS Program Office activities; new hires (Surface Currents Program Manager, Data Management Analyst, and Coastal Modeling Portfolio Manager); MBON continuation of funding and federal partners (NOAA, BOEM, NASA, ONR); covid impacts on FY20 field operations; strengthening AOOS-AMBON linkages; IOOS funding summary FY20; HFR data management. Villar stated that the IOOS Office is interested in being part of IOOS regional ongoing conversations regarding Diversity and Inclusion, including within AOOS.

### **Update on IOOS Association activities by IOOS Association Director Josie Quintrell**

Quintrell gave an overview and update on IOOS Association efforts on past, current, and future appropriations, including the status of FY21 appropriations; FY20 HABs appropriations and status for FY21; Fill the Gaps since 2017; status of ICOOS Act Reauthorization; covid impacts to resiliency of observing systems; IOOS Association annual meeting; IOOS Association strategic planning 2020-2025; IOOS economic valuation; discussion on Diversity & Inclusion; FY22 appropriations request; and infrastructure/stimulus request.

### **Engagement and Proposed Working Group on AOOS Inclusion**

McCammon presented to the board a proposal to establish an Inclusion Working Group to review AOOS board membership, stakeholder engagement, and other policies and procedures, including those for subawards, and develop recommendations for future board consideration. The board noted that this is an important issue that will require more discussion, especially including Indigenous viewpoints and input. It was also recognized that AOOS is a statewide organization, and it will be important to ensure that the viewpoints of the different regional groups and Tribes are put into the statewide context

**Action Item:** A motion for AOOS to establish an Inclusion Working Group that will aim to provide a preliminary report to the board by December 15, 2020 was passed unanimously. Working group members are to include: Ginny Eckert, Lynn Palensky, Mike Miller, Katrina Hoffman, and Katie Howard. *Motion by Palensky, second by Miller.*

## **5-Year Conceptual Proposal Development**

Janzen gave an overview of the process AOOS staff has used for developing the 5-Year Conceptual Proposal, including development of the asset build-out plans, this spring's Request for Proposals and Ideas, the June Technical Review of submitted proposals & ideas by an external panel of experts, and the public comment period of the draft Strategic Direction document. Dugan gave a summary of the AOOS engagement process over the last 5 years that fed into the development of the proposal. Kinsman gave an overview of the Draft 5-Year Strategic Direction document. McCammon introduced the FY 21-26 Proposed Conceptual Budget and Activities that includes scenarios for \$3M and \$6M per year.

The board discussed the process of developing the proposal, including how to balance the funding across the AOOS goals and priorities, as well as geographically.

Recommendations to consider included:

- Increase funding for marine safety and projects that serve an immediate need (i.e. saving lives)
- Increase outreach efforts to really maximize the benefits of the work that's gone into the data portal and data streams
- Require those PIs getting larger sums of money to do more engagement
- Ensure staff capacity matches the increase in AOOS funding or partnerships
- Fund more R&D in the \$6M plan
- Identify the outcomes from the activities: what does the \$6M scenario buy us that the \$3M doesn't?

Overall, there was consensus that the proposal did a good job spreading resources, leveraging other efforts, and accomplishing a lot with limited funding.

**Action Item:** A motion was passed unanimously to approve the proposed budget for the \$3M conceptual funding scenario. *Motion by Page, second by D. Williams.*

The board agreed that more time was needed to delve into the \$6M funding scenario, and will provide input to the AOOS staff by September 18, 2020.

## **Report-out on Implementation of Recommendations from Axiom Review**

In 2017 Axiom underwent an external review that looked at business operations, data system goals, data management life cycle, technical elements and more. McCammon reported that all of the recommendations documented in the review had been addressed. Axiom's contract had been set to expire on Aug 31 and the AOOS executive committee at its August meeting extended the contract for one year. McCammon noted that AOOS could put data management services out for bid but AOOS is so connected with Axiom now that it would be difficult for anyone to compete. Both AOOS staff and the board agreed that Axiom was an incredible resource, their services set a high national standard, and it made sense to continue working together. That topic will be revisited next year. In response to a board question, a need was

identified to hold a future workshop convening data centers across Alaska to communicate and coordinate on data holdings, standards, data sharing, and data gaps.

### **501c3 Transition**

AOOS has matured to the stage where it is ready to become its own 501c3, rather than using the Alaska SeaLife Center non-profit status. AOOS has identified a potential lawyer to help with prepare the necessary legal documents, but questions still remain involving board membership and grant management/administration. We are hoping that passage of the ICOOS Act reauthorization will clarify federal agency membership on the board. The board selected a working group to develop options for the Board structure to present by December 15 and be implemented June 1, 2021. Working group members include: Ed Page, Paul Webb, Cheryl Rosa and a state agency board member (either Sara Longan or Jason Brune).

### **Ocean Observing Roundtable**

Board members shared current news and upcoming events.

### **Executive Session**

The board and Executive Director held a brief executive session to discuss the status of the AOOS executive director search. Motion to go into Executive Session approved unanimously. Motion by Page, second by Longan.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm. Motion to adjourn by Riemer, second by Rosa.