

National Sea Grant Review Panel Minutes
The Churchill Hotel
Washington, DC
November 17, 2004

Panel Members Present: Robin Alden, Peter Bell, Robert Duce, Elbert Friday, Ross Heath, Manuel Hernandez-Avila, Geraldine Knatz, John Knauss, Frank Kudrna, Nathaniel Robinson (Chair Elect), Jerry Schubel (Chair), Jeffrey Stephan, Judith Weis, John Woeste

Panel Member Absent: James Arrington

Ex-Officio Panel Members: (NSGO) Ronald Baird; Francis Schuler (designated Federal official); (SGA) Jonathan Kramer, Robert Stickney

NSGO Staff: Megan Agy, Susan Borda, Leon Cammen, Madeline Carter, Jamie Krauk, Jim Murray, Amy Painter

Other Attendees:

NOS: Ben Sherman

OAR: Richard Rosen, Jana Goldman

Oregon State University: John Bryne

SGA: Jennifer Greenamoyer

Texas Sea Grant: Amy Broussard

U.S. DOT: Richard Corley

Opening of Meeting (Dr. Schubel)

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the April Panel meeting, seconded and passed
- Agenda approved

Executive Committee Report

Meeting with VADM Lautenbacher in September (Dr. Schubel)

- Said Sea Grant needs to demonstrate its ability to approach problems regionally
- Regards Sea Grant as an important priority but made no commitments

Meeting with DOC and OMB (Dr. Baird)

- DOC meeting was with Deputy Undersecretary Otto Wolff, Deputy Secretary Ted Kassinger and Barbara Retzlaff from Budget and Finance
 - Internal programs are funding priorities
 - Sea Grant needs to demonstrate its ability to accomplish NOAA and national goals
- OMB meeting was with Chief (Commerce Branch) Randy Lyon and NOAA Budget Examiner Emily Woglom
 - Acknowledged Sea Grant is a good program that produces results

- Frustrated with NOAA’s duplicate coastal programs
- DOC budget is tight
- Sea Grant should highlight the top 10 blue ribbon findings
 - state leverage is important
 - oriented toward outcomes
 - demonstrate how Sea Grant surpasses others qualitatively and quantitatively

Sea Grant Leadership Meeting – Long Beach (Mr. Robinson)

- Discussed the need to work together for Sea Grant’s common interest
- Developed a quick-response mechanism for the network
- Dr. Schuler will provide the Panel copies or a Website address of the network quick-response mechanism

Sea Grant Association Fall Meeting – Rhode Island (Mr. Robinson)

- January retreat will be held for the SGA, NSGO, and NSGRP in Houston to develop and refine methods to effectively engage the next Congress and Administration
- Questions were raised about the February NSGO final review process
- Jonathan Kramer is the SGA President-elect
- Media Relations position needs to be filled soon
- Gave a presentation to the SGA regarding the Panel and its activities

National Sea Grant Office, Director’s Update (Dr. Baird)

- Post election implications to be discussed at the January retreat
 - NOAA’s political management is unlikely to change
 - Matrix process has added significantly to the NSGO
 - Ocean Commission (OC) Report may provides an opportunity to increase Sea Grant’s role in NOAA and subsequent budget
 - This Administration and Congress will have to deal with emerging environmental issues
 - Opportunities in coastal communities, urbanization, and ecosystem-based approaches will likely come in \$1-\$10 million increments
 - Specific initiatives should be developed to take advantage of these opportunities
 - Strategy is needed to engage new Congressional Committee staffers
 - Continual contact with OMB, DOC, and NOAA is critical
- Both the Administration and Congress will respond to the OC Report
 - Report calls for an expanded NOAA role
 - Congress will look at where to make its investment in the agency
 - Report will probably influence funding for only two years
 - Concepts embraced by the OC Report include
 - sustainability/ecosystem-based management
 - integrated observing/regional
 - councils/place-based science
 - outreach/education

- state/local constituent involvement
- coastal growth problems/development
- Sea Grant is a strong player in all concept areas
- In FY 05 budget, a \$14M gap exists between the Senate and House mark for Sea Grant
- FY 06 budget is in late development
- FY 07 budget planning is well along
- Only programs with demonstrated relevance to societal problems will prosper
- Ecosystem thinking is gaining credence in NOAA
- Houston Retreat and Sea Grant Week are opportunities to move forward on new fronts
- National Research Council (NRC) study of Sea Grant's performance review procedures
 - process is underway
 - Panel needs to be engaged in the NRC study
- Sea Grant is gaining momentum on the international front
- Thanked the NSGO staff for its tremendous contributions over the last year

Sea Grant Association Report (Drs. Stickney and Kramer)

- Maine Director Paul Anderson is the President-elect
- Committee on Sea Grant Planning has become a permanent part of the SGA
- Seattle aquaculture meeting with NOAA Fisheries was well attended
 - Mike Rubino, the NOAA Matrix Program Manager for Aquaculture, chaired the meeting
 - Good support from NMFS Assistant Administrator William Hogarth
 - USDA wants some oversight of marine aquaculture
- Sea Grant should work more closely with NOAA Fisheries and the NOAA Education Office
- Washington Sea Grant Director Louie Echols and Connecticut Sea Grant Director Edward Monahan are going to retire
- New Hampshire Sea Grant Director Ann Bucklin and Delaware Sea Grant Director Carolyn Thoroughgood are going to move
- Changes will be made in Puerto Rico
- Chuck Wilson was just named Louisiana Sea Grant Director
- Acknowledged Ms. Greenamoyer's hard work to make the January retreat happen
- Dr. Kramer thanked Dr. Stickney for his efforts on behalf of the SGA
- SGA subcommittee is thinking long and short term to develop the retreat agenda and theme
 - Crafting a national message from which one or two Meta Themes will be developed
 - Theme teams will be engaged to make impacts in Meta Themes
 - Short term thinking of how to obtain funding for Meta Themes
- Call for Meta Themes will come out soon – one-pager with three components

- Linked to OC Report
- Cross cutting
- Contain a tag line
- The retreat is part one of a one-year process
 - SGA meeting in March
 - Sea Grant Week in June
 - will hear from voices outside network
 - work groups will develop an implementation plan of possible impacts Sea Grant can make linked to the OC Report
- Dr. Baird proposed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the National Sea Grant Review Panel hereby recognizes Dr. Robert Stickney for his distinguished service and numerous contributions to the National Sea Grant Program during his tenure as President of the Sea Grant Association.

- Motion was made to accept Dr Baird's resolution, seconded and passed by acclamation

NOAA Research Update (Dr. Rosen, Assistant Administrator NOAA Research)

- Participated in the Michigan PAT to better understand the Sea Grant program
- Was impressed with Sea Grant's work
- NOAA Research Review final report contained 11 categories of recommendations
 - Develop a 20-year research vision and a five-year research plan
 - working on both documents
 - will be a public comment period
 - final document issued by the end of the year
 - Establish an Associate Administrator for Research and a Research Board
 - NOAA does not support the idea of a research czar
 - Deputy Administrator James Mahoney will oversee NOAA-wide research agenda
 - Formalize the process of transitioning research to operation and information services
 - Develop criteria to determine the location of research in NOAA
 - an external task team will develop the criteria
 - Panel should submit recommendations for individuals to serve on this team
 - Articulate better the importance of extramural research to NOAA
 - Standardize the process for cooperative institutes and cooperative arrangements
 - Establish clear guidelines to ensure reimbursable work directly supports NOAA mission
 - Strengthen the research management process within OAR
 - Consolidate labs in Boulder to increase multi disciplinary collaboration and education

- Conduct a core capability analysis of the Air Resources Laboratory
- Review progress in implementing the recommendations of the review team
- Another team will look at Fisheries laboratories
- Utilizing Sea Grant’s outreach capabilities was not in the report, but it should be

Consideration of “Communicating for Success – A Review of the National Sea Grant Communications Activities” (Ms. Alden, Mr. Stephan, Ms. Broussard)

- Report will go to the printer by December 31
- Draft incorporates comments and suggestions from the Sea Grant network
- Two changes made since the last plan
 - need for post *Abstracts* planning
 - elimination of one advisory council
- Acknowledged the work of Kerry Bolognese, Amy Painter and Jamie Krauck
- Questions and comments concerning the report
 - Second paragraph at the top of page 39 needs refinement – first priorities should be to develop a vision and a plan of action to get buy-in and support
 - Sea Grant librarian reports to no one
 - Lack of submittals to the library could be taken up at PATs under “Connecting to Users”
 - Media Relations person could be housed at an NGO under a cooperative agreement
- Dr. Bell made a motion to accept the committee’s report “Communicating for Success” with minor wording changes, the motion was seconded and passed

International Update (Dr. Hernandez-Avila)

- Provided Panel members with a two-pager “NOAA/Sea Grant Internacional November 2004 Update Report”
- The USAID/CRSP program wants to partner with Sea Grant

NOAA’s Program Planning, Budgeting and Execution System – PPBES (Dr. Cammen)

- NOAA has new vision and mission statement that can be found on its Website
- Four mission goal teams were created under the new PPBES
 - Ecosystems (Sea Grant is part of this team)
 - Climate
 - Weather and Water
 - Commerce and Transportation
- Under PPBES, each program and line office has an annual operating plan
- Dr. Cammen is the Matrix Program Manager for Ecosystem Research
- Program Managers lead and coordinate at the program level
- Time is taken from Sea Grant duties because of matrix responsibilities
 - Dr. Cammen’s role as a Program Manager
 - Dr. Baird’s role as a member of the Council
- Sea Grant makes up 1/3 of the resources in the Ecosystem Research program budget

- (Federal dollars only)
Budget ceiling is small enough that Sea Grant won't experience big growth

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and passed

National Sea Grant Review Panel Minutes
CORE
Washington, DC
November 18, 2004

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Other Attendees:

CORE: RADM West

NOAA: James Mahoney

NOS: Richard Spinrad

OAR: Richard Rosen

SGA: Jennifer Greenamoyer

Texas Sea Grant: Amy Broussard

U.S. DOT: Richard Corley

U.S. House of Representatives: Amy Carroll

U.S. Climate Change Science Program (James R. Mahoney, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Deputy Administrator)

- Climate Change
 - Administrates 13 agency climate change programs – \$2B a year research program
 - NASA Space Program receives \$1B
 - Agency receives \$1B (10,000 research grants)
 - Four core approaches
 - science and research
 - observation and data management
 - decision support
 - communications
- NOAA Science and Research
 - Legislative language required a review team to look at how NOAA conducts research
 - Barion Moore produced a report that made 11 recommendations
 - Recommendation #2 required a point person who handles science

- Dr. Mahoney will be that person
- Sea Grant
 - Commends Sea Grant’s track record
 - Sea Grant needs to continue its record of quality research and outreach
 - Sea Grant compares favorably to the Cooperative Institutes
 - NOAA needs to investigate how to organically involve Sea Grant in communities, particularly to advance education
- Thrust of the NOAA Organic Act is to better integrate coastal ecosystem-based research

NOAA’s Coastal Programs and Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) (Richard Spinrad, Assistant Administrator NOAA National Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management)

- Wants to strengthen the “O” in NOAA, particularly through relationships
- Construct of the National Ocean Service (NOS)
 - Navigation
 - Coastal Management
 - Resource Management
- NOS coordinates closely with Sea Grant through its Office of National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
- Dr. Baird is the NOAA representative as a science advisor in the Administration’s Office of Science and Technology Policy
 - Composed of 15 Federal agencies
 - Establishes the nation’s top ocean priorities
- Ocean Observing Systems
 - More dense system of observation is needed in the oceans
 - OC Report recommends a \$900M investment in ocean observation systems
 - NOAA owns about \$600M of that investment
 - A large part belongs to fisheries observations
- NOAA is the lead agency for IOOS implementation which will
 - Improve safety
 - Enhance economic benefit
 - Elevate environmental stewardship
- The IOOS regional construct is an opportunity to exploit Sea Grant’s regional organization

Update/Recommendations from the Program Evaluation Committee (Dr. Kudrna)

- Panel members should provide any additional comments concerning Dr. Stickney’s letter about the NSGO Review to Dr. Kudrna by November 25
- Evaluation Committee will discuss comments during a conference call November 29
- Dr. Kudrna will draft a strawman reply to the letter
- Dr. Kudrna will send the reply letter to the whole Panel for comment December 15
- Further Panel comments should be sent to the Evaluation Committee by December 21
- Dr. Kudrna will transmit the final reply letter to the Executive Committee by December

- Executive Committee will take action by January 15
- Dr. Schuler will send Panel members an e-mail listing the above dates

Summary from Meeting Regarding Strategic Planning (Mr. Stephan)

- Proposed clarifications/improvements to the PAT Manual
 - Bulletize “Indicators of Performance”
 - Request by Dr. Heath to bulletize “Benchmarks” as well.
 - p. 24, Under “Indicators of Performance,”
 - change “Endorsement by Advisory Board/University” to “Endorsement by Advisory Board and Acknowledgment by University”
 - clarify the phrase “Evolution over time”
 - p. 25, under “Expected Performance Benchmarks,” change “functional and management goals” to “programmatic and management goals”
 - p. 25, under “Expected Performance Benchmark,” change “allowing creativity” to “encouraging creativity”
 - p. 43, under “Indicators for Planning – Planning Process” change “Endorsement by Advisory Board/University” to “Endorsement by Advisory Board and Acknowledgment by University”
- Dr. Bell made a motion to accept the suggested changes to the PAT Manual, the motion was seconded and passed
- Discussion about providing examples of excellent Strategic Plans
 - Panel needs to agree on examples of good strategic plans
 - Examples could be attached to the PAT Manual or provided through a Website link
 - Following plan of action was suggested
 - program review cycle ends around October 2006
 - Panel should take action in 4/06 to have modifications to the PAT Manual available in 2007
 - Panel should lay out a framework for training at Sea Grant Week
 - develop a draft containing PAT Manual modifications for November’s Panel meeting
 - Dr. Schuler should provide the Program Evaluation Committee with strategic plans that have been rated highly at both the PAT and NSGO reviews

Update from the House Committee on Science (Ms. Carroll)

- Works for the majority staff on NOAA issues except for Fisheries
- OC Report caused a flurry of activity on the Hill about how to respond
 - Focused on everything but Fisheries
 - Provided a leadership person to coordinate NOAA’s research and technology
 - Reorganized NOAA
 - research and education
 - operations and services

- National Weather Service
- resource management
- President will respond to OC Report next year
- Panel comments regarding the Report are welcome
- NOAA Organic Act, which gives NOAA a vision, will be reintroduced next year
- Committee is working on several small bills
 - Harmful Algal Blooms/Hypoxia (may pass into law tomorrow)
 - Invasive Species (will deal with next year)

Update on the Draft Discussion Paper “Program Diversity”

- Changes to the draft paper include
 - Strike the first paragraph – it is narrow and limiting
 - Changes to near term recommendation
 - under number one, change “staffing and programmatic diversity,” to “staffing and achieving diversity in all program components”
 - add a fourth recommendation – “Continued attention to Minority Serving Institutions”
- Committee decided to leave diversity undefined because each institution has a definition
- Dr. Woeste will revise the draft paper and send it to the Panel for comment
- Dr. Weis will send a list of women who can serve on PATs to Dr. Schuler, and he will distribute it to the Panel

Universities and the Ocean Commission Report (Rear Admiral West, President of CORE)

- CORE consists of five major programs
 - Census of Marine Life
 - Ocean Research Interactive Laboratory
 - National Ocean Science Bowl
 - Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence
 - National Oceanographic Partner Program (composed of 15 Federal agencies)
- Problem in ocean funding is that agencies are afraid to infringe each others’ funding
- OC Report is an ocean blueprint – the President’s response is expected by December 19
 - States the ocean and coasts are in serious trouble (meaning is unclear)
 - Calls for action by President, Congress, Federal agencies and state and local governments
 - Not a funded mandate
- Cross cutting themes of the OC Report
 - More effective governance
 - Improved science for decision making
 - Strengthen education programs to increase public knowledge about oceans
- CORE and Sea Grant
 - Sea Grant and CORE membership overlaps in many areas except for the Great Lakes
 - Sea Grant, CORE and others should partner from momentum of OC Report

- Time to act on the OC Report is now (it only has a two-year life)
 - Encourage collective, sustained efforts by stakeholders at all levels
 - Embrace the report as a whole
 - Build on current political interest and receptiveness
 - Make a case for additional fiscal resources
- NOAA Organic Act gives budget independence from DOC
- Personal observations about Sea Grant
 - Gives a great return on the public investment
 - Is a closed group that needs to be bigger
 - Evaluation process is not transparent
 - Needs to have more research

Issues of Transparency (Dr. Schubel)

- Transparency within the Panel
 - Executive Committee is not doing a good job of communicating to the rest of the Panel
 - Member-at-large (Dr. Friday) should inform Panel members about what is happening at the Executive Committee level
- Transparency of NSGO Review
 - As requested by Dr. Baird, a formal letter was written to him by Director of California Sea Grant Dr. Moll outlining problems perceived in the final review process
 - Dr. Baird returned a reply addressing those problems
 - Dr. Schuler will distribute Dr. Baird's reply to the Panel
- Discussion
 - Evaluation is called for in the legislation and is the most important work of the Panel
 - More time at Panel meetings should be allocated to discuss Panel issues
 - Questioned whether a letter sent to the NSGO is Panel business
 - The transparency issue was mentioned by RADM West
 - Program Evaluation Committee will investigate the issues of transparency
 - within the Panel
 - NSGO Review process

Ocean Commission Report – Developing a Sea Grant Strategy (Dr. Schubel)

- Topics to be discussed at the January retreat in Houston
 - Provide examples of interactions between CORE and Sea Grant
 - Document examples of regional cooperation
 - Address the “closed shop” issue, show where Sea Grant funds are awarded
 - Decide who the target audiences are
 - Determine method to get information read
 - NOAA Organic Act can best address the OC Report
 - will position NOAA to receive more funding

- may want to structure Sea Grant into it and potentially into Sea Grant's legislation
- opportunity for Sea Grant to provide input in March/April

NSGO Staff Updates

Outreach Division (Dr. Murray)

- Partnerships
 - EPA Coastal Development Program led to major developments for smart growth
 - NOAA Fisheries Extension Enhancement established 18 unfunded fisheries positions
 - AFS Fisheries Symposium
 - USDA/NASA Land Grant, GS extension specialists
- Preparing a proposal for "Sea Grant Academy," new extension hires to receive training

Research Division Update (Dr. Cammen)

- Three national competitions this year
 - Oyster Disease
 - Invasive Species
 - Oyster Health
- Other activities may begin with the new appropriation
- Emory Anderson's position will be filled soon by NMFS

Electronic Grants Submission Management (Dr. Schuler)

- All grants will come through the grants.gov portal
 - Received national competition omnibus from Maryland Sea Grant
 - new system rejected some proposals
- By next year, all grants will be electronic

FY 2005 Budget (Dr. Schuler)

- Administration request in FY 2004 was \$57.4M; received \$61.9M after rescission
- Administration request in FY 2005 is \$57.5M
 - House budget calls for \$60M
 - Senate budget calls for \$73.9M

Adjourn

Ms. Alden made a motion that the meeting adjourn, it was seconded and passed