

NATIONAL SEA GRANT REVIEW PANEL

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 30, 2006

Time: 1-4 pm

Panel Members Present: Robert Duce, Ross Heath, Manuel Hernandez-Avila, Frank Kudrna, Jeffrey Stephan, William Stubblefield, Judith Weis, John Woeste
Panel Members Absent: Robin Alden, Peter Bell, John Byrne, Geraldine Knatz, Nathaniel Robinson, Jerry Schubel

Other Attendees:

National Office: Leon Cammen (Designated Federal Official), Melissa Pearson, Scott Duncan

SGA: Jonathan Kramer, Wendy Eichurst

Opening of Meeting (Ross Heath)

- The chair opened the meeting and immediately provided a status report of Nathaniel Robinson's health.
- Nathaniel Robinson will have a long rehabilitation, perhaps a year. However he expressed a desire for the panel to move on.

National Research Council (NRC) Response

- Response Integration Team (RIT)
 - Ross Heath (chair) and Jerry Schubel have agreed to serve from Review Panel.
 - The RIT will go through recommendations, establish working groups. Working groups will be six people.
 - The individuals comprising the RIT are Heath, Schubel, Jon Kramer, Paul Anderson, Nikola Garber and Jim Murray.
 - By November, the workings groups will be in place and the strategic planning will be well underway.
- Strategic Planning
 - Bob Malouf (as reported by R. Heath) – state funding can even exceed national funding (driven by state priorities). There could also be national priorities derived from state funding – perhaps will need a separate section?
 - Jon Kramer – SGA is ready to move. Will be a lot of front-end work for RIT, but should include a lot of continuing work as working groups start rolling out – needs integration. The SGA meeting will devote one day to strategic planning with back and forth among state and national.

- Frank Kudrna – There were two panel recommendations left over from last go-around: a) Recertification and b) another involving NSGO Final Review. Are they still on the table? According to R. Heath, the answer is yes.
- Frank Kudrna – Schubel has served on several of the NRC committees – says you do not need to adopt all the NRC recommendations, just respond. One particular question is “Should we have an annual review?” He expressed the opinion that it is probably not workable.
- Ross Heath – It is a good thing to look, annual reviews would be a lot of work. It may be appropriate for a program that got rated poorly, but subsequently has been improved.
- Frank Kudrna – SGA should think about it as well.
- Jon Kramer – Hard to look at these recommendations in isolation; need to consider them as a package – a lot of upfront work for RIT. Consider all, do not dismiss any recommendations at the beginning.
- John Woeste – Recertification is a very touchy issue – included on list of issues for reauthorization committee to consider.
- Ross Heath – Perhaps varying intensities of reviews could be used – not so much need to review with high-performing programs.
- Frank Kudrna – OMB states “a large portion of Sea Grant is not competed (admin., outreach, etc.). It is the hope that the recertification would accomplish this.
- Ross Heath – To the panel: Is Heath and Schubel acceptable? Panel’s response: YES.

General Question

- John Woeste – Have we (SGA) let Congress know we are going to respond to the NRC report?
- Jon Kramer – We have indicated we are getting started on a response as a network. We can handle our own house.

- Frank Kudrna – Provided an update on the Science Advisory Board Outreach/Education Committee

Review of New Jersey Program

- Ross Heath – Should we use the same team as was sent to review Virginia Sea Grant? Panel's response: YES.

National Office Update – L. Cammen

- Introduced temporary NSGO staff assignments: a) Therese Conant; b) Hollis King; c) Kim Marshall; d) Scott Duncan; e) Sharon Walker.

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AGENDA

Date: August 30, 2006

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I. Old Business

II. Sea Grant Staffing

III. NRC Report