

**National Sea Grant Advisory Board (NSGAB) Virtual Meeting**  
**May 14, 2018**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 14, 2018

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM EST

Via Conference call and in-person in Silver Spring Metro Center 3, Room 01303

**Virtual Attendees:**

Peter Betzer, Dale Baker, Paulinus Chigbu, Rosanne Fortner, Judith Gray, Amber Mace, Brian Helmuth, Jim Murray - NSGAB

Jim Hurley - Sea Grant Association (SGA)

Brooke Carney, Dona Brown - National Sea Grant Office (NSGO)

Rick DeVoe - South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

Carole Engle, Deb Stirling - Public

**In-Person Attendees:**

Elizabeth Rohring (Designated Federal Officer), Jonathan Pennock (Director), Christos Michalopoulos (Acting Deputy Director) - NSGO

**3:05PM – Call to order** Ms. Rohring opened the meeting and did roll call. She reviewed the agenda and meeting purpose. She said that the Board received no public comments but that there would be time at 4:10 pm should others want to make comments. The minutes for this meeting will be published on the website after the NSGAB has approved them.

**3:11pm – Evaluation Committee** Dr. Mace said that the Board Executive Committee has sent a letter to the family of Patty Birkholz to let them know all the work she's done, how much of a wonderful role model she's been and how generous she was with her time on the NSGAB.

Dr. Mace moved on to the next agenda item to approve the evaluation committee. Ms. Rohring explained that the committee will help organize the site visits, review any contested site visit reports, and help to select an independent review panel made of Board members and external reviewers. Dr. Mace suggested that Jim Murray to serve in the role of Chair of the Evaluation Committee.

**Motion: Jim Murray serve as Evaluation Committee Chair. 2nd - Peter Betzer.**

Discussion: Dr. Murray said that the charge to the Board describes three tasks for the advisory members that will serve on the Evaluation Committee - 1) Help to organize and run the site visits; 2) Ensure that the site visit reports are done in a transparent and equitable manner, and review any contested reports; and 3) Convene and Independent Review Panel. Ms. Rohring will staff Dr. Murray on these tasks.

**Dr. Mace called for the vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**3:19pm – 2018 Biennial Report to Congress** – Dr. Fortner shared the final draft of the 2018 State of Sea Grant Biennial Report to Congress with the Board. She stated that many people have contributed to the report, including folks from the NSGO and SGA, but the report remains a product of the Board alone.

There was a motion to approve the 2018 Biennial Report to Congress by Dale Baker. 2nd Peter Betzer. The discussion on specific sections followed.

**Table of Contents** – No comments – SG page 10 is Amber’s letter to submit to congress. There was some wordsmithing and grammatical corrections noted.

**2016 Recommendations/NSGO Responses** -There was a discussion regarding partnerships with NOAA and across the network, ensuring that it was clear that Sea Grant works in both realms. There was mention that partnership bring in more leveraged funding to help NOAA, Sea Grant, and partners reach their goals. Other comments were for grammatical corrections.

**Sea Grant Model and Sea Grant by the Numbers:** The Board would like to work on a better definition of “extension”, and include the concept of engagement. There was a request to add sources that are cited for budget and numbers in Sea Grant by the Numbers.

**Focus Areas** – There was a request to build more into the fisheries focus area description to show examples of work. Other comments were grammatical.

**2018 recommendations** –Comments included discussion of Great Lakes inclusion for topics currently called out as ocean. Wording was changed to include all coasts, not just marine. Other comments were grammatical.

**3:50 Public Comments:** The discussion was paused to take public comments. Ms. Rohring asked if there was anyone on the line who wanted to make a public comment. There was no answer and Ms. Rohring stated that no one had requested access to the conference line for public comments. She did read the two public comments that were received via email (which were also in the Briefing Book.)

The discussion of the 2018 Biennial Report continued.

**Challenges:** There was discussion of the limitation of saying changing climate because challenges also include increasing coastal populations, ocean acidification, changing economy and new technology, etc.

**Dr. Mace called for the vote. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.