

National Sea Grant Advisory Board Meeting  
November 11-12, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

La Concha Renaissance Resort Hotel  
1077 Ashford Avenue  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907

Monday, November 11, 2019

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – 8:00am – 3:00pm Atlantic Time

**8:00am – Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, etc. (Elizabeth Rohring – Designated Federal Officer (DFO), National Sea Grant Office (NSGO))**

Ms. Rohring (DFO) read an official federal statement explaining her role to the group and took the roll. She mentioned that unfortunately Amber Mace would not be attending so Dr. Brian Helmuth will be acting as Chair for the meeting. She informed the Board that the next National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board) Meeting will be held in Washington, DC March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and the Fall 2020 meeting will be held in conjunction with Sea Grant Week in Cleveland Ohio the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Roll Call**

Members of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Board):

Dale Baker, Peter Betzer, Paulinus Chigbu, Carole Engle, Gordon Grau, Judith Gray, Brian Helmuth, Letise LaFeir, James Murray, Deborah Sterling

Jonathan Pennock – (*ex officio*) Director of the National Sea Grant College Program (NSGCP), Fredrika Moser – (*ex officio*), President, Sea Grant Association (SGA) and Director, Maryland Sea Grant  
Elizabeth Rohring – Designated Federal Officer (DFO), National Sea Grant Office (NSGO)

Donna Brown – Executive Assistant, NSGO

Others in attendance: Nikola Garber – Deputy Director, NSGCP, Susan Holmes - NSGO, LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant and Jim Hurley, Wisconsin Sea Grant

Virtual attendees: Summer Morlock - NSGO, Chuck Weirich - NSGO

**8:15 Board Updates – Elizabeth Rohring ( NSGO), Brian Helmuth (Board)**

Dr. Brian Helmuth reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve it.

**Motion to approve the November 11-12, 2019 agenda: Stirling**

**2nd Baker**

**Vote All in favor.**

*June 2019 Meeting Minutes*

**Motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2019 Board meeting: Betzer**

**2nd Dr. Jim Murray**

**Vote: All in favor**

Ms. Rohring said that Dr. Bill Hogarth had to resign his position on the Board. There are currently three open positions on the Board. Recommendations for applications are accepted year round, but a review for open positions will be held in early Spring. Current geographical gaps in the Board include the US Caribbean, and the Great Lakes. Ms. Rohring and Dr. Helmuth thanked everyone for their work on the 34 Site Reviews and reminded them to complete the survey from Dr. Murray. The survey results will be shared with the Evaluation Committee (EC). The Independent review panel (IRP) dates were selected – Nancy Target Delaware SG, Amber Mace – Board Chair, Jim Murray, Jim Hurley, Don Kent, Mary Erickson and John Cortinas are also members of the Independent Review Panel. Ms. Rohring also said that the National Sea Grant Law Center is now a Coherent Area Program thanks to the efforts of the Status Review Team led by Ms. Stirling and Ms Kelly Samek (NSGO).

### **8:30-9:30 – NSGO Updates – (Dr. Jonathan Pennock, NSGCP Director)**

*2020 Review – Things that will affect the programs in 2020, etc.*

*Interest – Next Strategies Planning Cycle, FY 2020 Budget Marks, Direction Opportunities, FY2020 NOFO & Sea Grant Portal and Institutional Grants*

- 30 SRT's completed and 4 to go,
- 355 Grant Actions completed,
- \$13 million in supplemental funds to Sea Grant Programs,
- 60 Knauss fellows in FY19,
- 68 Knauss finalists for FY20,
- Longest government shutdown in history
- 400 Impacts and Accomplishments submitted/accepted,
- \$624M in economic benefits from SG activities
- 5 economic valuation method guides produced and used
- SG Law Center earned CAP status,
- Reauthorization bills introduced on the Hill
- Network Visioning Supplemental (DEI and more) – 25% of those dollars to be spent on Diversity and Inclusion.
- Landscape analysis of research funding from 2010-2017
- 2019 Annual reporting review consolidated for consistency

### *NSGO Staff Updates & Future Plans*

OAR approved staffing plan and Org Chart for FY 19-21. It's currently taking about 358 days from submission to initial hiring offer. FY19 focused on aquaculture and early career hires. We've had new hires:

Mark Rath (Aquaculture)

Charles Weirich (Aquaculture)

Doug Bell (Data Management)

Rebecca Certner (NEPA Actions and Grants)

Recruited two new Knauss Fellows for the office  
Jon Lilley left NSGO for BOEM

*What we'll be doing this year*

FY20 Actions Underway: Communications Specialist, Knauss Manager/PO, Knauss Assistant, Gulf Program Officer and an Assistant Director for Programs.

Gray – Jon Lilley was education lead and Knauss manager. Some on the Board and in the network feel that they actually need a program lead to fill in where Jon Lilley efforts suffered because of Knauss. Pennock - We're trying to fill urgent gaps (like aquaculture) and NSGO leadership positions. We don't have the staff or resources to have dedicated functional area leads.

Competitions:

- Completion of 2020-2021 Research support and funds release
- 2020-2021 Aquaculture Supplements Supporting Local Needs
- Information services and publications assessment – it's a review of what we need moving forward in that space.

NSGO efforts:

- Better capture/document extension investment in Omnibus – by trying to find a way to do this without creating burdens.
- Economics Impacts Methodologies Project phase II will focus on resilient communities and economies, particularly hazard mitigation, response, and preparedness.
- Establish NEPA representative/lab at each program.
- PIER 90-2 form update.
- Wrapping Up the 2014-2017 PIE Cycle and the Board Evaluation Committee convenes in March 2020. IRP scheduled for late April. IRPs will be analogous to an SRT for the NSGCP
- Next Strategic Planning Cycle Summary – Update current plans for a Strategic Planning “Lite”
  - Guidance due to programs from NSGO – Fall 2019 strategic planning “very light”
  - Assessing and (maybe writing) – 2020
  - Draft of national plan to programs by late summer 2020
    - In time for planning of first round TRPs

### **9:30-10:00 – Sea Grant Association Update (Dr. Fredrika Moser, President, SGA)**

Dr. Moser thanks the board for the opportunity to provide updates and shared some thoughts on her involvement with the SRTs. She asked that everyone thank the team at Puerto Rico Sea Grant for the beautiful meeting.

SGA Spring meeting highlights:

- There is currently a fund for Florida Sea Grant Director Karl Havens III, who passed away this year, that's accepting donations.
- New Directors, Ginny Eckert - Alaska, Tom Johengen – Michigan - Sherry Larkin - Florida and Rebecca Shuford, New York. There are now 13 male and 17 female Sea Grant Directors.

*Open Positions* – Treasurer, Secretary-At-Large, 6 PMC network liaison positions. The Nominations Committee will be charged with finding candidates to apply for these positions.

Activities:

- ERC examining base funding
- Ad hoc Committee on Safe Meetings and Sexual Harassment
- PMC's review of visioning efforts
- NAC's findings on time constraints and workload issues
- Knauss Alumni Network and Reauthorization

Hill activities:

- Congressional engagement
- Workshop at 2019 Fall SGA
- Appropriations
- Reauthorization
- FY2021 "ask" draft
- Letter to appropriations about the budget
- Young Fisherman's Act and AQUAA
- Hill Visits with ERC, SGA, and FSP

There followed a discussion regarding increases to Sea Grant appropriations, however not all of the programs are equipped to or have the resources to use additional appropriations, particularly if they are provided for a few states or in very specific issues that do not help the broader Sea Grant network. Fortunately the SGA has had a lot of great guidance from Federal Science Partners.

Other activities

- Ad hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment and Safe Meetings – 9 official committee members, ex-officio members (NSGO and Board)
- PMC's Updates – Visioning recommendations of and targeted NSI – Builds on \$40K visioning award
- Strategic Planning "lite"
- NAC's Findings – Found that the programs would like more communications related to federal budgets, Feeling time constraints and high workloads, have high staff turnovers causing more impacts to workloads
- Sea Grant Academy
- Network meeting in Savannah

Issues for discussion at SGA this week:

- Aquaculture Liaison Update
- Board Update
  - Openings on Board
  - NSGLC
  - Aquaculture
- Knauss Fellowship
  - Creating a Knauss Alumni Association
  - Knauss language in reauthorization
  - Increasing Knauss diversity

Dr. Moser added that the network is leveraging aquaculture funding to advance other focus areas. Aquaculture monies are bringing networks together –so it shows what money can do and how it helps the network serve their stakeholders better and accomplish more. There seems to be a similar effort on the Hill regarding resilience which could help bring our resilience efforts to the forefront as the aquaculture funding did.

**10:00-10:30 – Break**

**10:30-12:00 – 2017 Hurricanes in the U.S. Caribbean (Ruperto Chaparo, Director, Puerto Rico Sea Grant)**

Mr. Chaparo provided an update on the damage, response and recovery of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

**12:00-1:00 – Lunch Break**

**1:00-1:30 - Committees, Nominations and Voting – (Elizabeth Rohring, DFO, NSGO)**

Aquaculture Sub-Committee on the Board – The board needs to think about aquaculture to better understand the successes, gaps, and public understanding of it. A discussion followed to determine what kind of information was needed, from whom, and to whom. Ms. Rohring suggested that she work with Dr. Engle, Dr. Swann, and the NSGO aquaculture team to plan for a panel at the next public Board meeting.

The Board also voted on new Executive Committee members-at-large and reps for other opportunities for Board engagement

The new Executive Committee members as of 1/1/2020

Chair - Brian Helmuth

Vice Chair - Deborah Stirling

Past Chair - Amber Mace (no vote required)

Member-at-Large 2020-2021 - Paulinus Chigbu

Member-at-Large 2020-2022 - Carole Engle

Letise Lafeir volunteered to serve as the Board rep on the 2020 Knauss Selection Panel (May 19-22, 2020)

**1:30-2:00 – Evaluation Committee Update – (Jim Murray, Chair Evaluation Committee and Board Member-at-Large)**

Dr. Murray provided an overview of activities for the Evaluation Committee in the next few months.

*Site Review Teams* – 30 completed and 4 more to go to be completed by week of November 18<sup>th</sup>. Reports will be final once they are reviewed by the Board Evaluation Committee, then sent on the Jon Pennock.

*Evaluation/Survey* – Evaluation Committee developed a survey to get feedback on how the site visits worked during this cycle. The survey will be sent to Directors, NSGO staff, and Advisory Board members.

Dr. Helmuth said that they received some feedback from the external reviewers and that perhaps the survey should be sent to them as well. Dr. Murray agreed and said that he'd work with the NSGO to get those names.

*Evaluation Committee* – Jim Murray (Chair), Judith Gray, Gordon Grau and Deb Stirling

The Evaluation Committee is going to meet a week before the Board meeting in March in order to review SRT reports, director responses, and survey results to ensure that the report language reflects and supports the findings appropriately. The report will be sent to the Board for approval, then shared with the NSGO.

*Independent Review Panel*

Assess the overall effectiveness and impact of the NSGO College Program and the NSGO.

- Formatted like an SRT, including report-out to OAR and NOAA leadership
- Will include findings, suggestions and recommendations for improving the program

Members: Nancy Targett-IRP Chair, University of Delaware Dean and Professor Emerita, Amber Mace – Chair of Board, Jim Murray – Evaluation Committee, Jim Hurley, Don Kent, Mary Erickson-Deputy Director NOAA National Weather Service, John Cortinas – Director NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory.

## **2:00-2:30 Aquaculture Update – (Nikola Garber, Deputy Director, NSGCP)**

We have Summer Morlock and Chuck Weirich attending virtually and hopefully some of this talk will help clarify some of the things that were brought up earlier, etc.

*Aquaculture Report Out*

Year in Review of 2019 after the shutdown.

NSGO Aquaculture Team: Chuck Weirich and Mark Rath have a lot of stem fish and aquaculture background. Summer Morlock is on detail from the Budget Office.

National Leadership Team – Jonathan Pennock. High Level Meetings – Nikola Garber. National Senior Aquaculture Lead - Mark and Chuck are Aquaculture and we've divided them into regions: Mark – Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, W. Great Lakes and Weirick – West Coast/AK/Pacific, New England, E. Great Lakes, and LaDon Swann – SG Aquaculture Liaison.

Activities from 2019

- Federal Partnership Discussions:
  - NMFS: Office of Aquaculture, Saltonstall-Kennedy grants program, State Marine Fisheries Commissions

- NOS: NCCOS (Siting & Competitive Research) and IOOS
- NOAA Ocean Acidification Program
- NOAA Small Business Innovative Research
- NOAA Office of Education
- Aquaculture Interagency working group
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA): National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Navy

- 2019 Competition Snapshot:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Funding Amt.</b>	<b># Letters of Intent</b>	<b># Full Proposals Reviewed</b>	<b>Fundable</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
Exploring New Aquaculture Opportunities (SG programs apply)	Max \$100 K (2 yr.)	74	44 (\$4.3 M)	30 (\$2.9 M)	16 (\$1.5 M)
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research Needs in Aquaculture (Anyone apply)	Max \$250 K (2 yr.)	80	46 (\$9.5 M)	36 (\$7.5)	16 (\$3.3 M)
Advanced Aquaculture Collaborative Programs (SG programs apply)	Max \$1.2 M (3 yr.)	52	34 (\$36.2 M)	25 (\$26.9)	11 (\$12.2 M)

- Synthesis Panel - Dr. Swan coordinated a Synthesis Panel using the PIER/NEMS database impacts and accomplishments
  - 17 Syntheses:
  - Experts of Sea Grant's 52 years of Aquaculture work
  - Questions asked for each tree
  - Sea Grant's Foundational / Early work
  - Categories of Sea Grant work
  - Is there a potential for a thriving market and should Sea Grant be involved?
  - If moving forward, what would be the ideal state?
  - What are the gaps / opportunities to get there?

*Immediate Next Steps* – Past Project Review, Economics and Marketing LOI/NOFO, Supplemental Omnibus funds supporting state priorities, Spring 2020 NOFO release (for FY 2021 Funds), Annual National Aquaculture Symposium, Special Projects – Considering liaison(s), additional workshops.

**2:30-2:45 – Break**

**2:45-3:00 – Wrap up and Discussion – (Elizabeth Rohring)**

Ms. Rohring reviewed the agenda for the following day and Dr. Helmuth asked if there were any follow-up conversations that needed to be discussed. There were none.

**3:00 – Public Meeting recessed until Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> @8:45am**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

Open to the public: 8:45am – 2:00pm

**8:00-8:45 – Business Meeting/Decisional Meeting – (National Sea Grant Advisory Board Only)**

**8:45 – 9:00 – Call to Order – (Brian Helmuth)**

**9:00 – 9:15 – Public Comments**

There were no public comments

**9:15 – 10:15 – OAR Update (Ko Barrett – Deputy Assistant Administrator)**

Ms. Barrett provided an update.

- NOAA Leadership: Two new people in leadership positions
  - Neil Jacobs who is now the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
  - Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
  
- *NOAA Priorities*: Reduce the impact of extreme weather and water events (Weather Act) and to Increase the sustainable economic contribution of our fishery and ocean resources.

*OAR Updates*

CraigMcLean is the Assistant Administrator OAR has two Deputy Assistant Administrators

- Ko Barrett handling the programs and administration portions
- Gary Matlock who has the laboratories under him.
- Changes: John Cortinas left the office of Weather and Air Quality (OWAQ) to become the Director of NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL

*Budget Updates*

- FY20 was due on October 1<sup>st</sup> but we did not get a budget but didn't happen so we're operating under a continuing resolution.

- Another resolution passed November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The House and Senate mark has proposed a 5.3 billion dollar budget for NOAA

### *OAR Future*

I'd like to applaud the SG network for network visioning and we appreciate the input of all these visionaries. Since 2017 OAR has been on a journey to develop a corporate mindset, transform its culture, and secure its position in the environment research community.

### *Success for the Future plans:*

- Develop a unified vision and strategy focused on a bottoms-up approach
- Align the structure and processes around contributing value to the vision
- Develop the workforce with attributes and behaviors that enforce collegial engagement and cooperation
- Engage stakeholders, customers, and partners in a meaningful and scalable manner.
- Chance that Sea Grant will get direct hiring authority. It can be hard to hire good people because of the time it takes for the federal hiring process.

### 2020-2026 OAR Strategic Plan

Vision: Deliver NOAA's Future

Mission: Research, Develop, Transition – Conduct research to understand and predict the Earth system, develop technology to improve NOAA science, service, and stewardship, and transition the results so they are useful to society.

### *Values*

Commit to Diversity, Explore to Solve, Uphold Scientific Integrity and Engage from Local to Global

*Strategic Approach* – (1) Deliver world-class science together, (2) Develop the next generation workforce, (3) Prioritize mission-relevant Research, etc.

Goals we hit on are those that reflect OAR desires to achieve, where to focus activities, and ultimately, how to improve the organization's ability to deliver NOAA's future.

- Explore the Marine Environment
- Detect Changes in the Ocean and Atmosphere
- Make Forecasts Better
- Drive Innovative Science

Dr. Betzer asked about economic stimulus as a goal? Ms. Barrett said that it has not been discussed but OAR is trying to see if there's a place for it. It's good to have these conversations now before we finalize strategic plan

Dr. Helmuth asked if there was any discussion on the UN Sustainable Development Goals how they relate to NOAA.

Ms. Barrett said that they are not formally a part of NOAA's strategy, but Mr. McLean has been having some conversations with our partners about it. She said that as a domestic federal agency it is not in our purview, but it is a point to think about because we do have some international reach.

#### *Scientific Integrity*

OAR is committed to scientific integrity and Mr. McLean has shown this.

#### **10:15-10:30 - Break**

#### **10:30-11:00 – Information Services and Publications Committee (Rebecca Briggs, Program Officer and Research Coordinator, NSGO)**

Information Services and Publications Committee

- Members: Gordon Grau and Dale Baker and is staffed by Rebecca Briggs
- Charge to the Board:
  - Address programmatic needs in collecting, managing, and archiving the Sea Grant research, education, extension, and communication information, tools, and products
    - Provide recommendations on the current and future information services Sea Grant will need to support its mission.
    - Help determine the role and the importance of the information services and digital collections
      - How do we envision that changing in the next 10 years as the role of libraries change and information services adapt to the digital age?
      - What should be included in the SG archive?
      - Should this be collected at the national or state level?
      - Should SG explore interactive digital platforms?

Dr. Briggs and Dr. Grau will get other subject matter specialists to join the committee to help with the review.

#### **11:00 – 12:00 – Biennial Report to Congress Update (Judy Gray, Chair, 2020 Biennial Report to Congress Committee and Board Member)**

Ms. Gray explained that the Biennial Report would revert to the format of 2016 and previous years. It seemed to be better received by Congress.

#### *2020 Brainstorming Recommendations*

- Network Visioning
- Build Awareness of Sea Grant Role in Emergency Preparedness & Resilience
- Enhancing Sea Grant based on Results of Evaluation Process

#### *Discussion:*

- Dr. Betzer suggested adding something about developing productive partnerships because of the value added. Ms. Gray said that it is fine if he would like to write a justification for that. Dr. Pennock said it could be linked into the recommendation on network visioning.

- Mr. Baker noticed that the recommendations did not mention aquaculture.
- Dr. Murray suggested that it could be beneficial to mention FEMA.
- Dr. Pennock asked for clarification on the preparedness and response recommendation. Is the recommendation simply to build awareness or is the discussion around building our capacity?
  - Ms. Gray said that Sea Grant occupies a pretty amazing space in preparedness and response. So we need to work on expanding awareness and partnerships. The SGA is also focusing on this to try to identify Sea Grant's space.
- Dr. Grau reminded everyone that there is a Sea Grant white paper on this that he'll send out.
- Dr. Pennock asked that the Board be cautious of the distinction between the National Sea Grant College Program vs the National Sea Grant Office. .

### *2020 Emerging Issues*

- Implement the vision identified in the Sea Grant visioning effort
- Tie Sea Grant Activities to the IPCC Reports Findings

Ms. Gray said that the climate space is a significant one for Sea Grant and we want to describe the future for the organization. Dr. LaFeir said that we need to identify how to move forward with some of these key recommendations. We need to seek communities to invest in what we do.

### *Request from Programs - Impacts, Accomplishments, Highlights and Best Management Practices*

Ms. Gray would be sending a request to the directors to send their top three impacts, accomplishments or highlights to be included in the report. This information will be shared at the SGA meeting.

### **12:00 – 1:00pm – Lunch Break**

### **1:00-2:00 pm – Follow-up and Planning for the Future (Helmuth and Pennock)**

Discussion:

*Brian Helmuth* – Where do we see the role of Sea Grant going in the future?

*Jon Pennock* - We should explore this resilience space – the NSGO is trying to figure out how best we fit into that space so we need your input in and around resilience.

*Judy Gray* – How do we as a national program deal with the success of the aquaculture endeavor and how do we keep it from eating up the other programs?

*Jim Murray* – It is not to our advantage to get directed funding from the Hill based only on their interest. We need to think more about resilience...we now have a track record of doing good things so can we tally that into long term thinking and we all have access to vulnerable communities in that space.

*Gordon Grau* - We should consider developing renewed interest in a white paper. We could get a large group that included NOAA leadership, partners, commissioners and others and then have a meeting with a smaller group to generate a white paper to comment on.

Dr. Helmuth said that this conversation would continue at the next Board meeting and that the Board welcomes innovative thinking at that time.

Dr. Helmuth thanked the Board and audience for their time and adjourned the meeting.

**2:00 – Meeting Adjourned**