

**National Sea Grant Advisory Board Virtual Meeting
November 13, 2020
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 13, 2020

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – 1:00pm – 5:00pm

1:00pm – 1:05pm - Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda and Minutes - (Susan Holmes – Acting Designated Federal Officer (ADFO) for the Board, National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), Brian Helmuth, National Sea Grant Advisory Board Chair)

Ms. Holmes (Acting Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)) read an official federal statement explaining her role to the group, discussed the ground rules of the meeting, took the roll call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked the Advisory Board for their time and diligent work on the board and stated that the next meeting will be held in February or early March.

Roll Call

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

Dale Baker, Peter Betzer, Paulinus Chigbu, Carole Engle, Rosanne Fortner, Gordon Grau, Judith Gray, Brian Helmuth, Letise LaFeir, Amber Mace, Jim Murray, Kris Norosz, Deborah Stirling
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), Susan Holmes (alternate DFO), Donna Brown – Executive Assistant, NSGO

Ms. Holmes turned the meeting over to Dr. Helmuth who called the meeting to order. He reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion to approve it.

Motion to approve the November 13, 2020 agenda:

Amber Mace

2nd Judith Gray

Vote: All in Favor

Dr. Helmuth asked for a motion to approve the June 2020 meeting minutes.

June 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2020 Board meeting:

Amber Mace

2nd Kris Norosz

Vote: All in favor

Dr. Helmuth stated that this has been the worst year ever for so many reasons, between Covid-19, the Black Lives Matter movement and the presidential election, etc. we have been faced with many

challenges and a lot of the afternoon will be about all the accomplishments we've had in spite of those challenges. He went over the agenda and introduced Dr. Moser.

1:15 – 1:45 – Sea Grant Association Update – (Dr. Fredrika Moser, Maryland Sea Grant Director and Sea Grant Association President)

I have a suspension that most attended the SGA meeting and would like to go through slides talking about what's going on since that meeting. It's sad not to be at the SGA meeting in Ohio and think that it's been quite a 2020, she stated that SG's attention has been focused on the Black Lives Matter movement, systemic racism, etc. SG is doing an amazing job and find it quite brave of the SG office to post a Values Statement on the website and is talking about doing the same on their website. Believe it's important to make acknowledgement of their place in colonialism and respectfully acknowledge that they are on a good path. Rick DeVoe retiring but still on for now. SG directors will change tenure distribution over the next several months. Shout out to all the SG directors who commit their time to all the activities within the SG network and its important to acknowledge that. Some shifts coming along and Susan White will be the SG President starting on January 1st.

It's sad so much is going on but we're still doing a lot of work and everyone is being kept busy. Congressional Updates: Two virtual Congressional briefings – Resilience during COVID, FY 2020 Budget celebration, \$67M base, \$13m aquaculture and \$7m for director spending. FY2021 House marks – Base \$71m, \$13m aquaculture and no direct spending. Senate (Nov 10 CJS due) and FY2022 Ask is \$127.5m. So as you can see the SG association is on the move and you may have been asked to call your favorite congress person, the house will vote on the senate reauthorization bill to move forward to the white house and optimistic that this will happen but it is 2020 so anything can happen. But this bill is not very different from the house so optimistic that this will happen and further give us justification for the 100 million evaluation and pending legislation in the senate.

Aquaculture Liaison Update:

Ladon will continue to support the aquaculture liaison. Funding is coming in and everyone in the National SG office has put in to move aquaculture.

Network Advisory Council:

Lots of work on Covid 19 responses – finding ways to deliver the incredible services now that we aren't able to do things in person and the board has been able to continuously serve its constituents. We are still very much focused on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) and this has really helped in expanding our network.

Program Mission Committee (PMC):

The PMC has done a lot of focus on professional development and looking to track all they have done in COVID-19 and what the programs are doing for working in this new Covid space. SG alumni network – we will always work on improving evaluation and efficiency and extension activities and education.

The Sea Grant Association meeting this Fall was focused on Covid-19 and DE&I. Success and work done during the Covid pandemic. Rapid response, Supporting stakeholders, Innovating delivery services, Hurricane preparedness, etc.

Safe Meetings and language and how we can conduct them and that kind of died in discussions but will be brought back up in future meetings. So the question is can we strengthen language in the grant award statement to give more awareness on issues of harassment, etc. within our institutions.

Resilience:

Concept paper is out now and in discussions with collaborators and up for discussion at a later time, Collaborative approach on resilience: IOOS, NERRS, CSO, CZM, and OAR.

All the things they've been working on – Grants have all been funded, awesome proposals that the visioning groups put together – DEI-Internships and more, shoreline flooding and erosion, coastal tourism, west coast seafood alliance – visioning- community of practice, partnerships meaning liaison positions and NOFO. Aquaculture – economic and markets, supplemental and NSI's and we also directed fisheries grants.

Meeting Evolution – Considered strongly how some highbred model will work in the future and maybe work that doesn't get done can fit in a special meeting to get more things done, there is a lot of connecting together so maybe we can do some breakout sessions to be more effective. Maybe Jon doing these webinars beforehand can be useful as well.

SG week – At our Awards ceremony I promised to have a fall SG meeting in 2021 but thought if they didn't do awards now it would risk all the COVID actions – surprisingly we did the awards ceremony in an hour – wrote up summary and it's on the SG website for review.

Meeting on Monday Nov. 16th and have sent information to Elizabeth regarding the open meeting – revisit Discussion on Ethics By-Laws change and Code of Conduct and other business and would like to put these changes forward and reviewed.

Thanks for tolerance in having her around and you can't have a better partner in Susan White who starts on January 1st. Coastal resilience will be more forthcoming than in the past and Susan brings all this to the forefront. Dr. Moser then introduces Susan White to the Board.

Susan White:

I don't have any comments prepared but looks forward to working with you all and looking forward to learning from everyone.

Brian Helmuth– Thanks Fred for everything you've done, you've done some amazing things and I'm looking forward to working with Susan going forward.

Jim Murray – I would love to have the talking points that were sent to SGA but don't recall seeing them and would like to write a letter to local congressmen over the weekend.

Fredrika – Stated she will send it to everyone and thanked everyone.

Amber Mace - Gratitude from working with Fred and everything she's done in leadership and appreciates the change to have worked with her and keeping things moving forward. Grateful that Susan is now taking the baton. The national SG board is here because of all your hard work.

Fred – Thanked everyone again -- and stated in the voice of Rick Devoe “It’s the people...people”!

1:40 – 2:15 – Biennial Report Final Approval - Judith Gray (Board Biennial Report Committee Chair)

I would like to let the board know that the report this year is a bit longer but hits our targets. Tried to give everyone two lines in a word document but went a bit over but hit our target for all the sections. Got several comments from Craig and Ko regarding reorganization but decided to keep as is so that it will flow naturally.

One of the biggest changes from previous versions was based on comments received by Craig and Ko stating that it was a huge piece missing in Climate so they added a feature in Climate. I feel that 2020 features really stand up in front of what the nation is facing right now.

One of the biggest changes from the report last time to this time – they added recommendations on Social Justice, Equity and Inclusion. New recommendations – should support and amplify efforts to institutionalize social injustices.

Emerging Opportunities Section – decision not to have a recommendation and move education in emerging opportunities portion of the report. Biennial Report Team – remised because she didn't follow Fred's excellent example and thanked her for support and review of the report. Acknowledged everyone's help in pulling together the report, adding sections, etc. response to pandemic and language on partnerships and thanks to Peter and how they are accomplishing so much more, references to DEI and research documents. Extension oriented and delivery of products rather than the research that went on for so many years. So next year we'll ask for research accomplishments. Craig and Ko had lots to say – stating it was not enough critique in the report regarding how well or not well the program is doing. So I put in language about the recommendations. Also, with the recommendation she added more language from the original justifications and by including that language it hopefully took care of some of the questions. More connections from 2018-2020. Good questions raised was specific to JEDI recommendations and how do they measure success – looking for ways to measure that success by tracking people which is uncomfortable for most. Craig and Ko after reading JEDI recommendations made a stunning revelation and wanted to make sure it was more than just minority and DEI serving institutions. Put in more language to better track. Craig and Ko said something very important – going back to the idea that SG is the economic engine to Other little things - Fred changed language like feeding and pipeline and used more inspirational language. Also unfunded mandates – wanted to make sure we weren't putting unfunded mandates on the report. Craig's assertion that every SG program should be a weather ready ambassador and Fred pushed back on that but replaced it with language that will hopefully satisfy Craig and Ko. Writing of Climate reports that come out every 4-5 years, had meeting with climate office and SG programs about how to get more involved in the climate arena, but it important that SG fight to have a seat at the table which requires some fancy foot work so would like to get feedback from everyone. Hope everyone read the report this one last time and welcomes feedback, and is happy to answer any questions.

Dr. Helmuth asked for a motion to approve the final Biennial Report to Congress.

Judith Gray

2nd Jim Murray

Vote: All in Favor

Kris Norosz thanked everyone who put so much effort and time into this report and in the future it would be helpful to know those comments before their final review which could have maybe provided better feedback had she known this information before reading the report. I'm always thinking about things that are more pro-active so the statement should include "support and initiate" instead of "support and amplify". Changing in words if you say promote may be seen as one of the unfunded mandates that Fred was worried about.

Fred – the balance is there's a deep commitment to improve who our service organizations are reaching and we need to reach a diverse crowd which is a two-way street. What metrics are we going to measure success? Does success mean we are checking X boxes because we can put our fingers on a change which seems rather _____ we have communities of all different types, cultural experiences, etc. so as we change our processes to try and expand how we do our work, but we can't be everything to everybody which can be a bit problematic. Interested in our commitment to do more and do better so we may not have all the solutions for everyone. Understanding co-production is a two-way street so that's a bit concerning. Just want to be cautious of how they will be measured and thanked SG for listening to her on this subject.

Brian – Can't come up with a list of metrics – but by that same measure the goal is to integrate lessons learned, so where is the middle ground?

Letise – Some of the wording – institutionalize strikes her – so Fred's point to commit to decision making or partnership endeavors or approach rather than outcome.

Judy – Well I think it's more of WHAT should be done vs. HOW? I tried to accomplish that in the justifications and give a little spirit – integrate it into all other priorities.

Kris – When she reads it's about National SG and its programming we are showing good leadership in moving the needle in our programs. Support and Amplify – looking for someone else to lead instead of us leading. There are other ways to measure that as we see employees being more diversified and inclusive and who we're partnering with- we're doing a lot more and our goals are higher – so this should be open for discussion.

Carole – The word promote to an economist is more like advertising- when she saw the statement and read it...was struck on how very well it was crafted. Everyone is at each other's throats and we're living in a fractionated world – what she really like is its very forward looking in a positive way instead of complaining about what was done in the past – I like the word amplify because it implies or recognizes what SG has done in the past – SG has been very open than a lot of other agencies – amplify is the intent to move things forward and build upon it and thought it was extremely well crafted.

Judy – The whole effort is to reduce words – maybe take out words like "support" and leave "amplify". So if we're good with that it's easy to take out.

Brian – Does this mean that everything is done – maybe we should add further support.

Judy – Add in “Continue to Support and Amplify”?

Jon Pennock – I read this and don’t like that the one thing we struggle with as an office is trying to include some of the WHY’s...why is it necessary to have this in the office and don’t think it can be done with adding just words – some may see it and think it’s just a political statement but it isn’t. It’s important for us to include our communities, etc.

Judy – I’ll speak more with Kris offline to capture her concerns? Would like to talk about the release of the report, ect.

Gordon – Thinks it should read “Serve and Amplify efforts” – support is weak in his opinion – either remove support cause it seems passive and replace with AMPLIFY efforts.

Kris - Leaving support in means someone else is supporting the work and we don’t want to minimize it, so if folks want to take out the word support she’s fine with it.

Amber – I like Letises’ point to institutionalize – reframed it to reduce!

Letise – Institutionalize means to take it and make it your own in many of the communities we’re trying to serve – so what we’re really trying to do is COMMIT to what we are trying to do. The goal is that we are TRYING TO DO MORE BETTER – institutionalize has negative connotations.

Judy - Replaced institutionalize within the report.

Carole - Instead of “commit to use” we can say “incorporate”? In the legal world it could be a way of getting around something. But if you incorporate it means that you plan to make things happen.

Voting on language that Judy last read or pivoted to what’s in the chat box?

Judy – Asked that the Board accept the Biennial report as submitted for this meeting with the DEI changes.

Vote to approve the Biennial Report:

Judy Gray

2nd Jim Murray

Vote: All in Favor

Judy – Everything is crazy on the hill and I want an environment that’s receptive to it and would refer to Jon and Joel on how we should release the report but not in a big hurry since all the attention is focused on the circus that’s going on now.

Letise – Is there a deadline per statute?

Jim – We put together a small committee from the board before roll out on the hill, so it would be really good to report to them which is our jobs – same team going to hill making rounds with the report – timing would be good.

Brian – We can’t use a new committee but can use the committee that’s already been established.

Judy – Want to get the report done by December – get in people’s hands – get it to the SGA as they’re putting their packages together for their new delegation so that they have their materials in hand. In

terms of the Board rolling out a cover letter from Brian (not marching around hill) working with NOAA and the national office as to how we get that sent out.

Brian – I just want to make sure it doesn't get to congress **before** we send to them.

Carole – We should try to go to congress simultaneously because we want the reception to be as positive as possible. So maybe we should wait until January to roll out to the hill – latter part of January may be a good time to get it out and placed in the hands of folks who are in transition.

Brian – Is everyone in agreement with roll out plan?

Vote: All were in favor and everyone agreed!

Jim – Opportunity to not just roll out electronically – a small group beating the pavement with the transition going is an opportunity to showcase an awesome report and wouldn't miss the opportunity to do so. Asked who is responsible for the printing of the report.

Elizabeth – NOAA print shop will print copies.

Jon Pennock – Everyone agrees with Jim but there are no committees meeting face to face right now so we have to be flexible because we do want that information to go out – but it could be six months from now so we don't want to wait.

Susan – We are way over into Jon Pennock's discussion and haven't had a break – so let's take a break and give Jon time to present.

2:36 – 2:41pm – Break

2:43 – 3:00pm – NSGO Updates – (Dr. Jonathan Pennock, NSGCP Director)

Thanks to everyone for being present today and all that you do and thanks Fred for her time!

We covered a lot in September:

Knauss Fellows - We successfully placed 54 executive fellows – it was a virtual operation but thanks to Maddie Kennedy she pulled it off. Aquaculture and Economic Markets competition complete and at GMD. The National Federal Partnership Liaison competition complete and on its way to GMD.

We've had a number of administrative issues we're dealing with – yesterday we released the 2018-23 strategic plan with update for 2022-23. Revised Sea Grant National Competition Policy was released yesterday and 2022-23 Omnibus Guidance will be release next week. We've been very busy on things on the management side.

Significant ongoing effort on how to better capture extension and education. Preliminary results from the great red snapper count (10 million) released to congress. Out of 16-17 Divisions – Sea Grant “won” the award for the highest FY20 obligation rate in OAR. 99.79%. It's really a testament to the work Jon Eigen does. It's a complicated business so to be able to come in for a landing of where we are expected to be is great.

Three things changing: Advisory Board nominations and extensions are still working on that, but with the four members 4 year terms we're working on extending one more year, ultimately working towards

not extending in the future but it's a crazy time so we got approval from Craig for the extensions. OAR approval of potential nominees can take up to 6 months to a year.

Budget Marks:

FY 20 base is \$74M, \$13M in aquaculture totaling \$87M. FY21 House, \$71M base, \$13M in aquaculture totaling \$84M and FY21 Senate (draft) \$76M base, \$13.5M aquaculture totaling \$89.5M.

Three Charges for 2020-21 – Times we went through the SRT's was a heavy lift and things that are important to us that we asked for formal input from the board and outsiders as necessary. Two other charges I'd like to ask board to vote on are the 40% research group for assessment and recommendations of research investment expectations. **(I lost connection and unfortunately did not get the end of JRP's speech)**

3:00 – 3:30pm – Update from NOAA – (Craig McLean, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Research)

I've been here at NOAA since 2006 and have had more than ample opportunity to accomplish things and hope that I've done that and I confirm to stay where I am. As you probably know I was in an acting temporary position as Chief Scientist – Assistant Administrator, I don't plan to go anywhere in the immediate future. It's been a trying time...when I got news that Neil Jacobs and Tim Gallaudet were coming to Commerce and no one wrote to me or told me of these changes, I learned of these new people by reading the newspaper. I was informed through the papers that no writing would be distributed to NOAA workforce and it was up to the administrators to let their employees know of this news. So I took it upon myself to write an email about the new Chief Scientist but it took a month to show up in NY times – every transition has been strange with everyone trying to rush at the very end – but the whole issue the nation is dealing with right now is race – I can't begin to overestimate how its effecting our workforce – the more we talk and hear goes to the root of diversity to understand what everyone's life is about – and then when you add Covid-19 to that it just makes matters even more burdensome. Covid-19 has added an unnecessary vindictive transaction of leadership, I personally have never seen anything like it but we're doing the best we can to give Sea Grant the advice needed during this transition. The quality of recommendations coming from the board is outstanding – to be honest with us and give us concerted recommendations and advice that Jon Pennock is able to receive those recommendations that are needed and necessary. It is so worthwhile to be receiving recommendations from caring, interested and motivated people and he expressed his sincere gratitude every chance he gets.

Budget and Status – The president's budget O'd out Sea Grant again, but congress is making a deal with the House and Senate so I don't see major consequences. I want to thank Brian and Deb for their SRC attendance and I would welcome an opportunity to sit down and speak with each of you regarding new initiatives and ideas and not talk about transition. What new government will bring and what new leadership will bring is yet to be seen, so we have to sit and wait for instructions from the Biden team – which most of that has been released publically. Managers have to look for both outcomes-we have to prepare ourselves for whatever paths we have to go on. So we're preparing for both. What opportunities hold most for us is Climate, so when trying to deal with Climate we need to ask ourselves what will it be like 5 years or 10 years from now – what will the future hold is where we want to focus.

Coastal planning, SG planning, etc. How do we provide that service and information? Realizing that the duration of paper is what's motivating our economy and finance industry that sells them their loans. If we don't state the impact of a loan then we don't get the loan. Budget wise we should be ok, policy wise we should be ok. Doing best we can of what's in NOAA's reach. We now have a bill in congress on the house side for scientific activity that will hopefully one day see the light.

Craig McLean opened the floor for questions:

Brian – Can you talk a little about decade of the ocean and were Sea Grant can help as well as board?

Craig – We're approaching it at different levels – oceanographic programs, down to funding one at a time and want to get back to that for SG. I would look towards seeing a big bill board that says hey America pay attention to oceans! Which will heighten the work that needs to be done through SG. Climate changes – what we need to be prepared for and couple that with different agencies what are you working on and what's important to you? SG is a wonderful integrator and would be looking at coastal resilience and what we can do for climate. I'm going to find a future international component of SG to gain the advances needed to unify coastal community. Other areas are weather service – at each state level.

Jim – Thanks Craig for all your hard work in reminding the country that NOAA functions with scientific integrity.

Craig - NOAA doesn't belong in Commerce – Commerce has very talented hard working people – political appointees – weather service and fish and people are unconcerned with the other part of their department. My recommendation to public administration would be to create more clarity and allow NOAA to take care of NOAA's own house.

Jim – Are you planning to resume plans to pursue policy with the next administration?

Craig – Most definitely and my plan is to routinely get in a cab and go up to the hill to continue having these conversations in order to have a stronger appearance.

Susan White – Craig I really appreciate the authentic nature of this conversation – we've been hearing concerns regarding the impacts of COVID restrictions on salmon, nutrition rates, etc. has NOAA started conversations about this?

Craig – Great question and happy that NOAA has included writing for the coming year to be more about people. We are currently under what's equivalent to an evacuation order – you can work from home and take up to 20 hours a pay period and not be distracted. It's amazing that all the pressure our employees are under that they can still do their jobs – relaxed that and every manager has discretion to monitor their work – do better for ourselves – lack of activity so need to do better – do I really have to live and commute to Silver Spring? We are inclined to define the most productive way to get our jobs done. You don't need to be in labs and can produce quality work working from home but the only disruption is getting the Office of Personnel Management who's rooted in the 50's to agree to this new way of living. We have a lot of women who are role models of how to juggle family, work, etc. so we'd like to lighten their weight and workload so that they are able to continue doing great things, but we're definitely trying to do things differently in the future.

Jon Pennock - Looking at the coming year or two with the transition of things. What we need to do as an office and NOAA with transition plans. Is there a space in between these two with the talented folks on this call now that can help you or Sea Grant and can be filled in important ways?

Craig – Feds are locked in tracks and it’s hard to break out of the norm. So a board like this is helpful in trying to break us out of that norm. So keep doing what you’re doing to help us with this. Kathy Sullivan continues to say we don’t want to move boxes but continue to learn how to work together. So I would like to hear do more of this and less of that from the advisory board.

Brian – What mechanisms are you thinking about in regards to white papers, etc.

Craig – I choose to convey privately on how we can get around with having you function as a board and have to be cognizant of Federal board requirements. If you have an idea then share it – transitions are times of opportunity and we’re trying to make the most of it. Thanks and I miss everyone and thanks again for the hard work that the board continues to produce...we really appreciate it.

The meeting was then turned over to Brian and Jon Pennock to resume discussions on the two remaining charges to the board.

Jon Pennock – Happy to answer questions – or we can continue discussing the two remaining charges but don’t have to decide on it today – how do we peek people’s interest and it would be nice before February’s meeting as to who will stand up with regards to the two new committees and where we can deal with those issues.

Elizabeth – Who’s interested in talking more about this during our executive committee calls and during the Spring meeting to go over votes.

Jon Pennock – I have a sense as to where those committees are so we can move forward. We’ll prepare background information and move forward from that. Any questions from new members?

Jim – Executive committee – the research for 40% committee - it’s important to have on the committee someone who can be balanced.

Jon Pennock – I’ll communicate with Elizabeth or Brian and we’ll get together and talk about your interest. It’s mentioned in the charge that we have to run that line with Covid so a virtual review will not be the same - but I had a great in person review with Guam so we owe it to Guam and the process to move things forward.

Becky – It’s Explicit in the charge that they would not address data research and products from research product awards – so it’s not in this charge.

Jon Pennock – I thought about it and decided not to put in charge – moving forward we would have to do something specifically around data management.

3:45 – 4:30 –Strategic Directions for Sea Grant – (Brian Helmuth and Jonathan Pennock)

We’ve had this on a number of board meetings – suggested a few weeks ago that it may be better to have some thought now with sooner or later transitions. How you as board members can better lift resilience work? SGA is all on board with resilience but what can we do to help this process. When I have

the opportunity I want to discuss with folks on the Hill which has been positive, but looking at the next few months at the NOAA level as committees form up.

Deb – The transition team was published today and advised folks to take a look at the list because there's clearly opportunities regarding resilience and other issues that we can take advantage of in playing a future role of this agency.

Brian – The primary role we can play now is planning the role that Sea Grant is doing right now.

Jon Pennock – If there are people you know please reach out to them and let them tell you they are interested in discussing right now.

Amber – More official ways that the board can set recommendations for the transition? Biennial Report with cover memo – can we transmit something more formally?

Carole – It's hard right now – there's no support for what's going on right now. So to some degree we'll have to wait until the transition is in effect – so maybe after inauguration. So we have to play it by ear.

Gordon – One suggestion is Nancy Targett who's very well placed in Delaware and interacting with the President elect and unconstrained with having an official role in Sea Grant – would suggest Jon or someone else have a conversation with Nancy who's a wonderful liaison with people within this administration.

Jon Pennock – I was planning on speaking with Nancy as a friend.

Brian – Elizabeth are you in some way involved in National Climate Assessment?

Elizabeth – Only on the USGCRP society and trying to get SG involved with authors and reviewers.

Brian – Short term...is there anything we can do to help with the transition?

Elizabeth – NCA Mike Cooperberg – I would say to watch this space and encourage anyone interested in being an author to sprinkle SG in because there's very important messages to relate.

Jim – Coastal Resiliency – so the next step is selling it and promoting it and so on. This poses an opportunity for the Board to weigh in on advice to position SG – market it – and to get that mark in our re-authorization. Inside Washington lobbyist types to get on board and sell it to or at least think about it.

Jon Pennock – In some way SGA has done that – Concept Paper with initiatives in it.

Jim – We need SG and the national office to think about a supporting role to give them – this is an opportunity for the national office and SGA to think about creative ways to promote this – formal advice not just from the national office but NOAA and Commerce.

4:35pm - Susan Holmes paused the conversations and asked if there were any public comments received. No public comments were received so the meeting resumed.

Brian – Would we work with the commercial grower shorter term or longer term strategy?

Carole – It's already happening and SG is doing the same thing but there has to be some conversation that SG is not only pushing upcoming competitions. The catfish and shellfish industry is powerful in so many ways in congress and elsewhere.

Jim – SG has not done so well is putting together their “ask over” these first few years – 50 billion industry going to hill – aquaculture program has done best in this industry – getting involved at the national level is critical for success in the long run.

Elizabeth – FACA – We need to be careful as to whom they’re advising or NOAA is in violation of FACA – only the board can provide advice to SG and NOAA – the only way we can legally do that is making a subcommittee of the board.

Brian – thanks I want to be cognizant of the areas of priority that we should be talking about?

Jon – We certainly has had some discussion on aquaculture and training and been talking about that in terms of aquaculture but could go beyond that as the broader side of our education – what’s the message we want to provide – it’s just not one size fits all – so it’s good we think along those lines as well.

Brian – Living shorelines bill – no discussion of JEDI in there at all.

Kris – Wanted to comment on interest in workforce development with marine trades, ect. There’s no since in having an aquaculture industry if we don’t have trade people to keep things going.

Jon – Any other ideas that someone likes to throw out?

Letise – Talked about timing of the Biennial Report – thought that mid-January/end January may be tight – so getting in early may be key- Biden connections in Delaware – living shorelines has strong connections – there are so many opportunities that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris brings to this administration – conservation policies and other things – so we should think of ways to get close to the Vice President and supporting her agenda might be a good idea. She also has a strong presence in the natural infrastructure as well.

Peter – A couple of years ago when the biennial report came out Judy and I spent a couple of days running around congress – 7 senators offices and highlighted the aquaculture that SG was participating in and each person thought it was a great report so I would say that we were quite successful.

Elizabeth – The board can go to the Hill to share the report with the hill – but partaking in other visits is not in line with FACA rules.

Jim – Talked about the right time but since we got a really nice new report to congress to use it as a mechanism to support SG. Would the executive committee be meeting about when to go to congress and the hill to support that because this is a good time to take advantage of that? People that are really good spokesman for SG would be good for SG- working with SGA might be able to narrow down timing of that also.

Brian – Letise and others has far more experience than he does regarding the timing of this. But to the point of looking for opportunities and how to support that is really good ideas.

Jim – We’ve got a great product and should be doing all we can to support that.

Paulinus – What was said about workforce development – the need for training to help in processing shell fish would be great for workforce development.

Fredrika – Spoke to Letise and Deb about timing and when to begin their virtual hill visits in mid-January - her office will be getting training on those visits in December and whether that's an opportunity for the board to listen in and participate on those would be great.

Elizabeth – Spending SG dollars for those virtual visits is up for questioning with Jon Eigen. So I would hold off until I've spoken with him first.

Jim- We should use the report to congress and use the board to participate in virtual meeting vs. in person meetings.

Engle – We can go to the hill at any time and if they choose to mention SG then so be it. We can pay a mutual visit to someone and speak about subjects of interest.

Jon - Fred if you are able to extend an invite I think most of the board would like to participate in those. We said early on that it makes sense to wait a while and its driving us to the sense of getting this delivered to the hill and use that document to open the door for other things we want to talk about.

Judy – So we really need to focus on getting it completed ASAP so that it's ready to go when needed.

Brian – How is it officially delivered to congress?

Elizabeth – Officially sent by email and we put something in the email and have attached as a pdf to all Congressional Analysis groups. But because of what's going on now we don't want to send it someplace and create red flags. We get a list and email to them and then set up meetings from there. This is new so if they want to help that's good. Elizabeth then told Fred that if there is a list then they can work from that as well. Elizabeth sends email with note to please see attached.

Brian – Once that's done you can send to members of congress, ect.

Elizabeth – Yes...and we have a good list that we can send it to.

Susan – Reminded Brian of timing?

Fred – Some uncertainty about joining the training but will ask Darren about it and let you know what he says.

Brian – We're at the end of our time and asked if anyone has any other questions. Thanks everyone for their participation and stated that he will come up with a time in February for our next discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm