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**AOOS Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

Monday, June 6, 2011

Attending in Anchorage: Molly McCammon and Darcy Dugan (AOOS staff) and Ian Dutton (ex officio)

Attending by phone: Doug DeMaster (Treasurer), Ed Page (Secretary), Glenn Sheehan (Acting Chair, Vice Chair)

1. AOOS Executive Director McCammon updated the committee on AOOS budget and funding:

* AOOS was told in April to budget for level funding.
* Using the advice of the Board from the fall, we descoped the $4m a year proposal submitted in October to $1.8m (attached).
* A cooperative agreement was supposed to be in place June 1, but we have still not received final budget numbers. Have heard rumors of $2m cut to regional IOOS. Worst case: $2m cut is spread among 11 regions, resulting in additional $182k reduction to AOOS or $1.62m total; more likely: $1m spread among 11 regions (about $90k reduction to AOOS or $1.71 total)
* My recommendation then is to take reductions out of equipment, carry forward funding from this year (amount depends on how long we go without a new grant and have to pay salaries), and delay hire of new Program Manager position.

2. McCammon updated the committee on recent AOOS activities.

* Programs and projects: The board should be sure to look at McCammon’s monthly updates for information about recent activities. A new wave buoy was recently deployed in Cook Inlet in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Coast Guard, and National Park Service. A new Snotel weather station will be deployed at the McNeil River bear-viewing site in August in order to provide west Cook Inlet wind information for weather and sea forecasts. A new Alaska Harbor Observation Network weather/ocean package will soon be deployed at Kodiak Harbor.
* AOOS was a partner in two proposals recently submitted to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council – one for Long Term Monitoring (with McCammon as the Lead PI) and the other for Herring. Both are still under review.
* McCammon was part of a small group that recently met with Shell representatives to talk about a proposed data sharing agreement.
* AOOS is working with the Cook Inlet RCAC to develop a prototype ERMA-type data application for Cook Inlet that would include ShoreZone imagery.
* Included in the Axiom contract for data services is a partnership project with the ADF&G to develop a process for making state fisheries data more accessible and usable, and in turn, make oceanographic data from multiple sources more useful for state biologists and managers. The initial scoping session was recently held.
* AOOS took the lead in submitting a proposal to NOAA for CMSP data integration services last December. The proposal apparently reviewed well, but funding is uncertain. Partners included The Nature Conservancy, ISER, the Alaska SeaLife Center, and Axiom Consulting.
* McCammon has provided information to NGOs interested in developing a spending plan for potential fines resulting from the Gulf of Mexico spill that might include funding for Arctic research and monitoring.
* McCammon led the search team for a full-time COSEE Alaska director. Robin Dublin, a former ADF&G education director, was offered and accepted the position. She starts June 29.
* All of the IOOS regional associations have been directed to develop a potential 10-year Build-out for a “bare bones” observing system to meet critical user needs. We will have a very skeleton outline done by July 29, and a full plan by October 15.

3. Planning for fall AOOS board meeting

* The last full board meeting was held in September 2010. Since then, there have been several new board members (Cora Campbell for ADF&G, uncertain who for ADNR, Cynthia Suchman for NPRB, James Kendall for BOEMRE), who all need to be brought up to speed about AOOS activities and projects.
* The Executive Committee discussed how to structure the next meeting, and suggested it be held in September and have two purposes: 1) to update the board on the current status/accomplishments of AOOS projects and 2) to review and discuss the draft 10 year buildout for AOOS. It will also be a chance to showcase some new data portal features and applications. McCammon will circulate a Doodle poll to finalize the meeting dates. The Committee recommended that Congressional staff be invited to attend.

4. Process for selecting AOOS Board chair

 Since ADF&G Commissioner Denby Lloyd’s resignation last fall, Vice-chair Glenn Sheehan has served as Acting Chair. The Executive Committee will review the current board membership (which McCammon will send to them) and make some recommendations regarding who might be good chair material. Potential candidates will be contacted in advance of the board meeting so that an election can be held at that time.

5. Executive director evaluation

 The Executive Committee conducted the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director. McCammon reported on her accomplishments related to the 2010 performance objectives and presented draft 2011 performance objectives (both are attached). The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss these. Following executive session, the Committee reported that they are pleased with McCammon’s performance and approve the performance objectives for 2011. They asked that McCammon place increased emphasis on “marketing” AOOS projects and services. Per the terms of her contract, McCammon will receive an automatic salary increase based on the Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI) retroactive to April 1 2011.