



Alaska Ocean Observing System  
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**AOS Board Meeting**  
**October 25, 2016**  
**Meeting Summary prepared by Holly Kent**

Board members present: Ed Page (MXAK), Margaret Williams (WWF), Mark Storzer for Jim Kendall (BOEM), Tara Riemer (ASLC), Chris Siddon (ADF&G), Denby Lloyd (NPRB), Paul Webb (USCG), Paula Cullenberg (Alaska Sea Grant), Ed Fogels (ADNR), Dee Williams for Aimee Devaris (USGS), Amy Holman (NOAA Region), Mike Miller (IPCOMM), Theresa Peterson (NPFMC)

Board members present by phone: Cheryl Rosa (USARC), Katrina Hoffman (PWSSC), Phil Mundy for Doug Demaster (NOAA AFSC)

AOS staff present: Molly McCammon, Darcy Dugan, Carol Janzen, Holly Kent

Guests Present: Josie Quintrell (IOOS Association), Rob Bochenek (Axiom Data Science)

**Meeting called to order at 9:15 am**

**Adoption of Agenda:**

**Action Item:** Draft meeting agenda approved unanimously.

*Motion by Lloyd, second by many.*

**Adoption of Board Meeting Summary:**

**Action Item:** March 16 2016 Board Meeting Summary was approved unanimously. *Motion by Fogels, second by Lloyd.*

**March 16, 2016 Board Executive Committee Summary:** presented as informational item.

**UPDATE on IOOS activities by Josie Quintrell, Executive Director of IOOS Association**

Josie gave an overview of the status of the IOOS budget and legislation and goals and priorities for association activities in the coming year.

**UPDATE by Executive Director**

Molly McCammon provided an overview of recent and upcoming AOS activities and participation in state, national and international level initiatives.

National Activities:

- The **IOOS program's fall meeting** was held in Anchorage in September and included a regional association director retreat and field trips to Seward and Homer to highlight AOS assets and partners.
- Molly is a member of the **Consortium for Ocean Leadership and Ocean Research Advisory Panel boards and is National Ocean Service representative on the US-AON** (Arctic Observing Network) committee.

- AOS hosted a climate briefing for the **Council on Foreign Relations Arctic Committee** with several AOS PIs and others **giving short presentations on climate issues facing Alaska's resources.**
- AOS hosted a lunch to share information with **House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff** during their visit to Anchorage.
- Molly organized a science briefing with Northeast Atlantic colleagues in conjunction with the **Arctic Council** meeting in Portland, ME in October. Alaska Congressman Don Young gave opening remarks.

#### Alaska Activities:

- AOS submitted its **certification** application on October 6.
- Implementation of the NOAA 5 year grant FY 16 has begun with new accounting challenges.
- AOS applied for a number of new grants.
- The **Ocean Acidification State of the Science workshop** is coming up November 30 – December 1.
- AOS is working to increase the number of water level observations across the state that will be less costly than the NWLON (National Water Level Observation Network) monitoring stations.
- AOS is co-hosting a **harmful algal bloom (HAB) workshop** with Alaska Sea Grant on December 8-9.
- **Coastal resiliency workshops** have been held in Nome and Unalaska and there is one scheduled for December 7-9 in Kotzebue. AOS is helping to fund these and do some of the work.
- AOS recently submitted a proposal to **ADAC (Arctic Domain Awareness Center).**
- AOS is hosting a NOAA sponsored **climate thresholds workshop** November 10.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **Approval of new board members:**

**Action Item:** Michael Macrander was approved to fill the Shell seat to replace Robert Raye.  
*Motion by Riemer, second by Fogels.*

**Action Item:** Theresa Peterson was approved to fill the NPFMC seat to replace Duncan Fields.

*Motion by Lloyd, second by Holman.*

**Action Item:** The Indigenous People's Council on Marine Mammals was ratified as a member of the AOS board with Mike Miller approved to fill that seat.

*Motion by Lloyd, second by Williams.*

##### **Election of officers:**

A slate of new officers was proposed by the AOS Board Nominating Committee (consisting of Denby Lloyd, Amy Holman and Ed Page) as follows:

Chair – Ed Fogels, AK Department of Natural Resources

Vice Chair – Katrina Hoffman, Prince William Sound Science Center/OSRI

Secretary – Cheryl Rosa, US Arctic Research Commission

Treasurer – Jim Kendall, BOEM

**Action Item:** The slate of officers was unanimously approved for the next two-year term (2016 – 2018).

*Motion by Holman, second by Lloyd.*

**Approval of funding for OA ferry project:**

AOOS has provided about one third of the total costs for this project, originally estimated at \$147k, with Tula Foundation/Hakai Institute paying the remaining two thirds. Engineering and installation costs were significantly underestimated, and an additional \$85-90K is needed. Hakai has committed another \$47K, AK Coastal Rainforest Center has committed \$20K and AOOS is being asked to contribute an additional \$15-20K.

**Action Item:** The board approved up to an additional \$20K for this project, if available from H2300 carry-over funds within NOAA grant NA11NOS0120020 FY11-15.

*Motion by Lloyd, second by Williams.*

**Acceptance of new grant funding:**

Molly provided an overview of six new grant proposals that have either been funded or are likely to be.

**Action Item:** the board authorized staff to expend from these new grants:

- \$15K per year for two years from NOAA Ocean Acidification Program for Alaska OA Network outreach activities;
- \$65K from USGS for Axiom to develop a geospatial portal
- \$250K from National Weather Service for development of alternative water level observations
- \$74,278 from BOEM for Axiom to ingest WRF model and met-ocean data
- Pending approval, \$530K from National Academy of Science’s Gulf Research Program to integrate subsistence data with oil spill scenarios and AIS vessel tracks. (Note, approved by NAS on 11/1/16.)
- Pending approval, \$218K per year for up to 5 years from Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for data management services. (Note, approved by EVOSTC on 11/3/16.)

*Motion by Fogels, second by Lloyd.*

Follow-up actions:

- Ensure that BOEM is involved in NAS project.
- Review process for submitting grants and board approval of their expenditure, and possibly come back to board for revision of Executive Director signature authority.

**Extension of ASLC MOA:**

The current fiscal sponsor agreement with the Alaska SeaLife Center expired on September 30, 2016 and Molly requested that this agreement be extended for one year as AOOS continues to investigate other possible organizational structures.

**Action Item:** The extension was unanimously approved.

*Motion by Fogels, second by Lloyd.*

**Demonstration of new data capabilities by Rob Bochenek, Axiom Data Science:**

Rob described how sharing the AOOS cyber infrastructure with two other IOOS Regional Associations will allow for leveraging of applications, systems and hardware to reduce cost and accelerate development. Use of the Research Workspace has almost doubled in the last year and a half. Rob demonstrated several new data layers on the portal. The upcoming external review of the AOOS data management system was discussed.

**Strategic Planning:**

Shelly Wade of Agnew Beck facilitated a strategic planning session with the board and staff for the second half of the meeting, beginning with a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) Analysis and then identifying broad goals and potential actions:

1. Develop outreach tools for the Board and stakeholders; Implement a communications plan.
2. Following external data review, consider new strategies and partners for data management.
3. Update the build-out plans so they reflect agency buy-in.
4. Consider other organizational structure options.

**Follow-up:**

- Agnew Beck will provide a summary of the board's discussions and an action plan template.
- Staff will identify immediate steps and timelines and then reconvene with the identified interested board members to discuss an action plan for each of the 4 priority actions.
- Monthly progress reports on these will be provided to the board through an item in the Monthly Updates.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.**

**Next meeting: spring 2017 in Juneau.**