

NEOSEC Governing Council Meeting Notes

University of Connecticut Marine Science Center, Groton CT
December 3, 2009

2010 Governing Council Schedule

Wednesday January 6, fundraising/grant-writing retreat, Boston (all day)
Friday May 21, Governing Council meeting, Narragansett (all day)
Wednesday September 15, Governing Council call (9:30 to 10:30am)
Thursday November 11, Governing Council meeting, UNH (evening prior to the OL Summit)
Wednesday December 8, Governing Council call (9:30 to 10:30am)

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Attendees

Aislinn Doyle, Maritime Studies Program of Williams College/Mystic Seaport (MSP)
Anne Smircina, Stellwagen National Marine Sanctuary (NMR)
Anne Thessen, Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)
Billy Spitzer, New England Aquarium (NEAq)
Cassie Durette, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)
Catherine Cramer, Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE)
Diana Payne, Connecticut Sea Grant
Erik Zettler, Sea Education Association (SEA)
Gail Scowcroft, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (URI)
Ivar Babb, University of Connecticut/National Undersea Research Program (NURP)
James Carlton, MSP
Joan Muller, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR)
Katie Cubina, Sea Research Foundation (SRF)
Katie Kirk, New Bedford Oceanarium
Kelly Matis, SRF
Kerry Lagueux, NEAq
Lauren Rader, Project Oceanology
Mark Wiley, New Hampshire Sea Grant
Martha Bell, Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI)
Maryann Scholl, URI
Nora Mattern, MSP
Pam DiBona, NEAq
Perrin Chick, Seacoast Science Center (SSC)
Rob Reynolds, Zephyr Education Foundation
Suzy Ryan, Census of Marine Life Gulf of Maine Area (COML)
Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine Coastal Program.

Collaborations with new members

After a welcome from Diana Payne, Perrin launched the first of two sessions for members to present information about their institutions. The first group included SRF, Zephyr Education Foundation, MBL/Encyclopedia of Life, and MSP; the second group was comprised of MERI, NERACOOS, WBNERR, and SEA. Following each set of presentations, Perrin asked everyone to “take time to consider the networking possibilities” by finishing these three statements for themselves:

- During the presentations, this idea flashed into my head...
- I love what this group is doing, and will take it back to my organization...
- With enough resources, we could work together on this project...

Attendees then shared some ideas with the larger group. In addition to inspiration for cross-institution sharing, several ideas relevant to the larger collaborative came up:

- Gail asked if we can produce a booklet/compendium describing all of our member institutions. Erik agreed that a little blurb for each on the member page would be a good idea – the group thought a pdf on our website would serve multiple purposes.
- Pam suggested a staff exchange program among our member institutions. Billy points out that there are a lot of new collaborations possible with the diversity of membership we have at this point – research, education, and university programs...
- Perrin suggested that we could collaborate on a college/career tour for at-risk teens in our programs, renting a van to bring several kids on a NE circuit.
- Aislinn points out that her students are always looking for internships, and thought there might be a clearinghouse to which we can all send students.
- Rob mentioned the Massachusetts Ocean Technology Network, a marine-industry association which covers most of NE, not just MA; can we partner with them on projects?
- Rob asked if there are lessons to be learned from youth sports, especially their successful pipelines for advancing participation.
- Gail suggested that NERACOOS might be able to offer more applied and education-oriented info to NEOSEC, which prompted Billy to suggest that we include a content portion of every governing council meeting, perhaps a 30-minute professional development session per meeting.

Ocean Literacy Summit Committee

The OL Summit Planning Committee includes: Mark Wiley, Kate Yeomans, Pam DiBona, Kelly Matis, Kerry Lagueur, Lauren Rader, Maryann Scholl, Perrin Chick, Suzy Ryan, Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Gail Scowcroft, Stephanie Scherr, Jayshree Oberoi, Diana Payne, Pat Harcourt, Bob Chen, Erik Zettler, Jen Ferre.

Summit Planning Update

Mark Wiley reported on progress regarding plans for the 2010 Ocean Literacy (OL) Summit, to be held November 12 2010, with OL Principle 5 as the theme: The ocean supports great diversity of life & ecosystems. (For more about past Summits, go to <http://neosec.org/OLSummits.htm>). Some details:

- University of New Hampshire is hosting the event. Durham is a small town with one hotel, B&Bs, and restaurants, and is a stop on Amtrak’s Downeaster. Mark is investigating the Sheraton Portsmouth as a backup option.
- The Summit Planning Committee has distributed a [survey](#) to poll past attendees regarding their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in a multi-day event.

Summit Program Discussion

The Committee determined that 1-hour breakout sessions are reasonable, based on evaluations from 2008 stating that 45 minutes was too short. To accommodate more involved workshops and topics, the committee is considering a double-length session as well.

Mark asked Suzy and Gail, as Census of Marine Life representatives, to explore opportunities with that network for sponsorship, the Friday evening event, and a keynote speaker who can highlight how our region has been instrumental in the COML effort that wraps up next year.

Mark asked for volunteers to serve on a program subcommittee to determine the agenda, session and workshop topics, and presenters.

Ocean Literacy Outreach Committee

Current Committee members include: Aislinn Doyle, Cassie Durette, Catherine Cramer, Erik Zettler, Lauren Rader, Mark Wiley, Maryann Scholl, Perrin Chick, Pam DiBona, Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Anne Smircina, Carla Companion, Diana Payne, Beth Bisson, Christy Herren, Jen Ferre.

Committee Chair Theresa Torrent-Ellis updated everyone on the Ocean7 campaign, which has resulted in a “stunning” [banner](#) now displayed in seven member institutions and brought to several events. The banner sends people to <http://ocean7.org> – which needs some work, and Pam asked the Committee for help. The Committee suggested that we should dedicate our efforts to combining all of our various online platforms (wikis, blog, two websites, a ning site...) to make something that’s multidimensional and useful to multiple audiences. Catherine Cramer presented a mock-up for a new Wordpress website that pulls all of the pieces together.

The group authorized the Committee to move forward with this new scenario, pending funding.

Budget overview & discussion

NEOSEC began in 2005 as a project of [COSEE New England](#). To date, COSEE New England funds and other occasional contributions have kept the collaborative working.

During the course of a discussion regarding current and pending funding, attendees reviewed the benefits of belonging to NEOSEC, including cooperative fundraising, joint outreach and education efforts – at the same time we are judicious about what we take on, to make sure we’re successful. We also don’t want to compete with anyone for funds, but support each other. The group discussed several funding options, such as sliding-scale membership dues, a “give-or-get” model for contributions, soliciting advertisements and sponsors for our online presence, and charging a higher (but not prohibitive) registration fee for the OL Summit.

Meanwhile, we have solicited (with some success) funds for joint efforts:

- Pam described a newly funded project under NOAA’s Informal Education grant program. Six NEOSEC member institutions (MERI, SSC, NEAq, URI’s Alton Jones Camp, WBNERR, Project Oceanology) are participating in Year One of this three-year grant to bring citizen science to summer camp programs for ages 14 and up. The project includes training for camp counselors, campers conducting summertime intertidal sampling with partner scientists, and two Fall information exchanges: a Teen Summit for the campers and the OL Summit for the counselors and NEOSEC representatives. At least two additional institutions will be invited to take part in each of the following two years of the grant. [Contact Pam](#) for more information.

- Perrin described a pending NASA New Investigator Program (NIP) grant that includes paying for the May 2012 Governing Council meeting. She has proposed that she and the PI will present a new multimedia product to the Council, and the group will serve as a sort of focus group to evaluate the product. Kerry Lagueux said that he talks to many scientists who struggle to identify an outreach component for their proposed research projects – and suggested that NEOSEC has a ready-made setup for providing E&O support and a testing venue.
- Cassie Durette announced that NERACOOS has funds to work collaboratively with NEOSEC to develop outreach that links ocean observing efforts to Ocean Literacy. NERACOOS is a relatively young organization in our region (established November 2008) focusing on using observing data to address ocean and coastal ecosystem health, maritime safety and security, ocean energy, and coastal hazards resiliency. A NEOSEC-NERACOOS Subcommittee – Perrin, Suzy, Catherine, Diana, Cassie – will circulate a proposal to the ExComm, with a recommendation to the Governing Council for approval by Feb 1.

The Executive Committee plus any others who would like to join them will meet in January for a fundraising/writing retreat. In the meantime, Pam will distribute a membership survey which includes the question, “how much could you give or get toward NEOSEC’s work?”