

Motions and Actions from Panel Meeting held February 21-22 ,2007

A **MOTION** to approve the minutes of March 6-7, 2006 as amended to correct the designation of vice-chair from Woeste to Heath, was seconded and unanimously passed.

ACTION: Email traffic related to the announcement of this meeting will be reconstructed and distributed to the panel.

A **MOTION** was made and seconded to table discussion of approving the minutes from the August 2006 meeting. Table minutes from August 2006 for discussion at Fall 2007 meeting

A **MOTION** to approve the report on Final Evaluation Week for the 2006 PATS passed unanimously

ACTION – a Panel Representative (West) will participate in a meeting with the Designated Federal Official and the FACA lawyers.

MOTION: establish an “Overarching Sea Grant Issues Committee” to look at big picture issues under 2 situations: full involvement by panel in evaluation and lesser involvement. The committee will report preliminary findings at the Fall meeting. Motion unanimously passed. The chairman will appoint members.

MOTION – Interested members of the Panel will sit down with Chairman Robinson to develop the charge for this (the Big Issues) committee.

MOTION for Panel (led by West) to sit down with NSGO Director and determine how the Panel can assist the Director passed unanimously.

MOTION – Panel’s draft Response to the NRC Report: Preliminary approval given to the draft proposal, with a change in the name to “Preliminary Report.” The submittal letter (directed to NSGO Director) will be edited over night and brought to a motion for approval in the morning. A final report will be added to agenda of Fall meeting along with RIT report and results of Overarching Committee. Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION to accept substance of letter with these edits and any purely grammatical corrections. Passed unanimously.

ACTION - Report of the Reauthorization Committee accepted without objections.

MOTION to adopt the Membership Committee report passed unanimously.

MOTION to adopt the Nominations Committee (Election of Officers) Report (Since no Fall meeting, terms of these Elections are for 2 years, retroactive to start in November of 2006.)

Robinson as Chair passed unanimously

Stubblefield as Vice-Chair passed unanimously

Weis as Member-at-Large passed unanimously

MOTION to set the Fall 2007 meeting for the first week of October (9/30-10/3) 2007. Passed unanimously.

MOTION to set the 2008 meetings for 3/6-7 and 11/12-14. Passed unanimously.

**National Sea Grant Review Panel Semiannual Winter Meeting
CORE Headquarters, Washington DC
Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

Panel Members Present: Peter Bell, John Byrne, Robert Duce, Manuel Hernandez-Avila, Nathaniel Robinson (Chair), Jeffrey Stephan, William Stubblefield, Judith Weis, John Woeste, Frank Kudrna Jr., Richard West

Panel Members Absent: Robin Alden, Ross Heath, Jerry Schubel, Geraldine Knatz

Ex-Officio Panel Members: Leon Cammen (NSGCP Director), James Murray (NSGO, Designated Federal Official), Paul Anderson (SGA Chair, Maine SG Director, **attended for the period of making a report to the Panel**)

NSGO Staff: Megan Agy, Joe Brown, Dorn Carlson, Jonathan Eigen, Nikola Garber, Sami Grimes, Jamie Krauk, Jacques Oliver, Amy Painter, Melissa Pearson,

Other Attendees

NOAA Legislative Affairs Office: Eric Webster, Director; Paul Bradley, Knauss Sea Grant Fellow

SG Education Network: Sharon Walker

SG Extension Assembly: Jack Thigpen, Chair, North Carolina Sea Grant

Call to Order (Mr. Robinson)

- Opening of Meeting
- Welcome of New Panel Members (Byrne and West)
- Roll Call
- Approval of Meeting Minutes (March 6-7/August 30, 2007)
 - Action on the two meetings was separated
 - A MOTION to approve the minutes of March 6-7, 2006 as amended to correct the designation of vice-chair from Woeste to Heath, was seconded and unanimously passed.
 - Discussion of the conference call meeting held on August 30, 2006 – note that it should be designated as a conference call on the minutes.
 - Some members were unaware this was an official meeting of the panel at the time it transpired, and were unaware it would be designated as the second meeting of the panel. Dr. Cammen clarified that the August meeting was not intended to replace the fall meeting when it was held, but became the 2nd meeting due to unforeseen budget constraints due to the FY07 CR.
 - ACTION: Email traffic related to the announcement of this meeting will be reconstructed and distributed to the panel.
 - A MOTION was made and seconded to table discussion of approving the minutes from the August meeting.

Review of Day's Activities/Approval of Agenda. A MOTION to accept the agenda unanimously passed.

Chairman/Executive Committee's Report (Robinson)

- Chairman's Introductory Remarks
 - Express thanks for well wishes during illness, and thanks to the NSGO staff.
 - Panel is moving forward with strategic information gathering on the hill. Information from these sessions will be transmitted back to full Panel via written reports.
- Activities of the Executive Committee
 - Executive committee meets approximately once monthly by conference call
 - The Panel was involved in both sections of the NSGO Director selection process, and are pleased with the outcome
 - Panel was represented at the pre-release of the NRC report
 - Communicated with the NSGO and SGA to determine how to respond to this report, and developed a panel-led process to review/respond to the NRC report.
 - Mr. Robinson represented the Panel at the SGA Fall meeting
 - Executive Committee meet with both NOAA AA and OAR DAA.
- Other items
 - There was no fall meeting due to budget constraints. Will be looking to prevent meeting cancellations in future (looking to alternative sources of funds if necessary), as 2 in-person meetings a year is important to maintaining the synergy and focus of the meeting.
 - The role of Sea Grant is changing / adapting – the Panel as advisors needs to change too. The actual processes by which the panel can and will work are currently being ironed out.
- Panel members mention appreciation for openness of communication / feeling of involvement under current Panel leadership.

Presentation by the NSGCP/NSGO Director (Cammen)

- Dr. Cammen presented a visioning statement for the whole office. Individual staff members did not presents, but where available to answer questions.
- Currently focusing on Sea Grant as a NATIONAL program, and the Directors have bought into this concept.
- In the next 6 months, the processes agreed to in responding to NRC report will create a Sea Grant system for probably the next 10 years. Opportunity to recast the program and change the message to better promote Sea Grant.
- Sea Grant's Role in NOAA and Beyond
 - The SG mission IS part of NOAA's mission. SG fills needs that the rest of NOAA doesn't.
 - Positives: 1) Increased notice of SG activities within NOAA – SG is now invited to the table, 2) The SG infrastructure is ahead of the game and at the forefront of the emphasis on resilient communities, 3) SG is active in Regional planning
 - Negatives: The overall budget limits possibilities and creates a “hunker-down” mentality – folks primary focus is preserving their own program
 - So where is NOAA going? Moving towards a regional and ecosystem approach to management, observation systems and resilient communities.

- NOAA is tied into the Ocean Research Priorities Plan (ORRP), and all 6 societal themes relate to SG activity. 5 of these are the *primary* goals of SG. Recasting the SG one-pager to reflect this, and using the ORRP to guide regional plans.
- Partnerships are key in resource limited environment.
 - Have made large strides in working with / coordinating with OCRM and CZM at the Headquarters level, reflective of the strong local relationships at many of the state programs.
 - Working to nationalize partnership with FEMA – will start with a pilot program in FEMA Region 6 (which includes LA and TX), in the Denton, TX FEMA office.
- Regional Approach.
 - NOAA is moving to address issues in between local and national scales, and moving to a NOAA regional concept – NOT modeled after other Federal agency regional models. NSGO will make sure the SG program is involved in this effort, though SG will use 11 regions modeled after the Marine Research Program (a finer scale than the broader NOAA regions.)
 - Begun by funding grants to create “Regional” plans – not SG plans for the region, or regional plans for SG, but *truly* regional plans that will involve numerous agencies and groups.
- Ecosystem Approach to Management (EAM)
 - NOAA focus on EAM. Definition:
 - Presented the science needs to support EAM: 1) Ocean Observation System, 2) Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, 3) linking of human activities to incremental change, 4) adaptive approaches to human uses of marine ecosystems
 - SG’s emerging role in EAM: 1) Community Resilience, 2) Regional and Ecosystem Assessments, 3) IOOS / GOOS, 4) Environmental Literacy / Stewardship
- Discussion Items:
 - Panel member mentioned a perceived shift in emphasis from water to land. Dr. Cammen responded that some of this reflects the belief that the primary driver for water related issues is coastal growth and urbanization. However, the Panel should look at the role of SG and SG research.
- NRC Evaluation of Sea Grant’s Program Review Process
 - Major themes
 - Process is generally a good one, programs are improving as a result
 - Emphasis should be more on improvement of all programs rather than on competition among them
 - Evaluation should be a continual process, not focused on a four-year event
 - National office needs to be more involved with programs and evaluation
 - Represents a sea change in the way we operate (not in what we do)
 - As a national program
 - As a focused program
 - As a program with major outcomes
 - As an accountable program
 - As a program that addresses NOAA priorities in addition to local needs

- Implications
 - Reauthorization
 - NSGO staffing
 - Strategic Planning
 - Review Panel role in program evaluation
- Development of new processes for planning and evaluation (Murray)
 - Distributed hand out on RIT process
 - Process originally involved all three parts of SG (Panel, NSGO, SGA), but due to FACA is now NSGO / SGA
 - One team - Response and Integration Team - with overall responsibility. Team consists of 2 members from the NSGO (Jim Murray and Kola Garber) and 2 members from the SGA (Paul Anderson and Jon Kramer)
 - Several working groups – Evaluation, Strategic Planning, NSGO Operations – focus on specific aspects of the process
 - Teams formed in January, have begun deliberations/meetings. Will also be addressing panel recommendations. Schedule: Jan – form teams, Feb – meetings & conference calls. 1st step (by SGA meeting early March) is agreeing upon a Strategic Planning process. Jun – well under way developing National Sea Grant College Program Strategic plan (NOT NSGO plan) Aug – subteams submit reports to RIT, Sep – RIT draft report available before SG week for discussion at SG week. RIT will take comments for a couple of weeks after SG week. RIT will meet one last time as to respond to comments. Nov 1 – final report submitted to NSGO Director.
 - Panel expressed concern that 1) the Panel is separated from the NSGO and SGA in this process, 2) that the Panel will not be involved between now and when report is released just prior to Sea Grant week, 3) that this is too slow a timetable for response.
 - Clarification that an important part of Jim Murray’s role is to provide communication between the RIT and the Panel throughout this process.
- Budget –
 - FY2006 budget of \$54.7M down \$7.2M from FY2005, and below President’s request and both House and Senate marks – funding drop occurred in conference. Core funding in FY2006 was kept virtually intact by 1) reducing NSIs, 2) shifting start dates, 3) eliminating bonus funds (maintained merit). These are all one time fixes.
 - Final FY2007 funding not yet released – process to determine NOAA funds should be finished in next few weeks.
 - President’s request was \$54.8M. This will mean cuts to core.
 - Principles to determine budget spending: 1) Protect core as much as possible, 2) Programs will be given flexibility in how to respond, 3) ongoing commitments will be honored
 - FY08 President Request is \$54.9M
 - NOAA is slated for ~\$100M increase to address Ocean Action Plan issues – SG can compete for this funding.
- Sea Grant Reauthorization
 - Existing legislation is sound

- Administration will prepare own bill
- Areas for discussion: 1) administrative cap, 2) matching requirements (1% limit), 3) program evaluation and ranking, 4) international activities.
- NSGO Reorganization
 - The role of the NSGO: bridge national with local, provide leadership and oversight, keep the grant program running
 - Why Reorganize? To better suit the vision for the NSGO role, facilitate enhanced interaction with the Sea Grant Programs, and better deal with limited resources and staff.
 - Presented the old and new (available online) organization charts. Large changes in staffing over this time: Fall 2005 – 23 FTE, Spring 2007 – 16 FTE. Old organization focused on subject area specialists who also did Program Officer (PO) duties. Have recast job descriptions to provide emphasis on PO responsibilities. Compare NSGO staffing to other granting offices within NOAA – have far fewer FTEs per dollars managed.
- Continued in afternoon session

NOAA Legislative Update

(Eric Webster, Director, NOAA Legislative Affairs Office)

- Lots of good news from the NOAA world – important to continue education and outreach efforts on the Hill.
- On the ‘scientific muzzling’ issue: have had hearings, hopefully putting this behind us, coming out with new communication policies that make clear scientists are allowed to speak freely.
- President’s request - \$3.9B in FY08. Got money on top for 1st time in a long time. Other agencies part of American Competitiveness Initiative also got more money. (Energy was a big winner – extra \$1B)
- Top legislative priorities sent forth: 1) Aquaculture, 2) Coral Reef Reauthorization, 3) NMS Reauthorization, 4) Marine Mammal Protection Act Reauthorization, 5) Hydrographic Services Improvement Act.
- Then asked Line Offices to come up with their priorities for Congressional activity. Received back – OAR had very good plan (Spinrad will know more specifics).
- Discussion of SG Reauthorization / time frame – believe should start now on process.
- As related to SG – competitiveness issue is not going away, although this does not necessarily need to be kept in the current rating and ranking format.

Overview: The 2006. PAT and Final Review Process (Woeste)

- John Woeste and Peter Bell attended NSGO Final Evaluation Week
- Distributed report on Panel member participation in the Final Evaluation week.
- Impressed with the dedication NSGO Staff demonstrated to the issues is carrying out the reviews. Affirm that the Staff followed established procedures and guidelines.
- A MOTION to approve the report on Final Evaluation Week for the 2006 PATS passed unanimously

Sea Grant Association's Report: Update on the National Sea Grant Week's Planning Efforts (Paul Anderson, SGA President)

- Thanked Panel for service to the National Sea Grant program
- Will be chairing SGA meeting in a few weeks – Panel (Chair Robinson) on the agenda.
- There are many new Directors, and a few more may be retiring in the near future. Also new board members / leadership at SGA.
- BUDGET
 - Flat funding from FY06, which is a decrease in funding due to rising costs and delayed impact of FY06 cut in funding from. Therefore commensurate decrease in capacity of SG to act.
 - Sent survey asking programs for real impact of budget cut (i.e. how many FTEs, # of research projects not funded, etc.)
 - Still determining outcome of budget on SG week - final decision in March.
- Discussion of SGA participation in RIT process.
 - Hope strategic planning will build on state plans while being couched in terms of NSG and NOAA plans. State plans mesh nicely – challenge is making the link
 - Challenge of how to get stakeholder input into the plan at a national level.
- The canceled SGA visioning retreat will be addressed again at the SGA meeting.
 - Panel indicated support for a leadership retreat involving all aspects of the Sea Grant network (SGA, NSGO, Panel)
- SGA currently working on a plan for a Network Advisory Council to more actively engage and involve the Networks.
- Working to hone the message and image of Sea Grant as ONE Sea Grant network – a national network based on State level assets, a network of programs all contributing through the NSGO to NOAA's mission.
 - Panel members applaud this goal
 - Suggest SGA investigate new Extension subcommittee of NOAA's Science Advisory Board
- SGA also working with the Friends of NOAA coalition.
- Positive relationship between SGA and NSGO – communication is transparent and sincere.
- Panel complimented Mr. Anderson for Maine SG week.

Director's Report (continued) (Cammen)

- Discuss 'Big Picture' Issues for Panel Consideration –
- **Declining Emphasis on Research**
 - Declining research portfolio in core programs: 95-96 2/3 of core programs had >45% research funding, with research ~50% of core; 05-06, only 1/3 did, with research ~40% core
 - Overall (NSI and core) also declining (95-96 - ~55%, 05-06 - ~42%)
 - Guidance – 45-65% have to go to competitive research and education. Generally this is mainly research.

- Programs have fixed costs (raises, promotions, etc.) When forced to choose, programs cut competitive funding rather than fire individuals.
- Questions for Panel: 1) is this across the board decrease, are there shifts in emphasis? 2) How can we reverse the decline / are percentage guidelines useful? 3) SG programs have many sources of funding – how should we view the core funding? (i.e. much of the research SG extends is funded by other sources – what is the view on this.
- Model we've been using is integrated research / extension / outreach.
- Panel comments
 - Concern that 10% cut will hit research even harder. Feel Research is a core function of SG that needs to be retained.
 - Should look at what NOAA does for SG, i.e. how alternate sources of NOAA funding contribute to SG activity
 - If SG is catalyzing research at other agencies, should take credit for this. So should be looking at combination of research, extension, education, outreach
- Growing Sea Grant Extension through Partnerships
 - How can we keep integrated SG model intact while providing value to external partners?
 - How can we take advantage of partnerships driven by extension to enhance research as well?
- International Sea Grant
 - What should Sea Grant's role be?
 - Can we accomplish our goals using other sources of funding
 - There ARE international Sea Grant programs. (Korea, Indonesia, etc.)
 - Authorization to do this was removed from legislation. Need to think about how SG should be involved internationally as address reauthorization.
 - Have ability to make large impacts at the global level by working with international programs
- Sea Grant and the Social Sciences
 - We do social science – we do not do an overwhelming amount
 - Where can we provide the most value?
 - Who should we be partnering with to develop our plans?
- Regional Sea Grant
 - Moving forward with this – believe it is a mind set questions.
 - Mary Glackin (NOAA regional coordinator) supportive of SG efforts
 - How can Sea Grant best fit within emerging regional frameworks?
- Growth strategies
 - Regional efforts are the wave of the future - positioning SG to be the leadership in this area.
 - Extension Partnerships
 - Vision of one National network – changing the perception of SG as a collection of State programs.
- Methodology
 - Question – under time, resource and FACA constraints, what should the role and activities of the panel be?

- Need to ensure that Panel operates in a clear and transparent fashion, and operates within the bounds of FACA.
- **ACTION** – a Panel Representative (West) will participate in a meeting with the Designated Federal Official and the FACA lawyers.

Status Report: Implementation of the NRC Recommendations (Kudrna)

- Panel discussed draft Report on the NRC Recommendations, and how Panel will use this document in the context of the NSGO / SGA RIT process
- Suggestion from the panel that, since the report was directed to NOAA, that the NSGO Director get guidance from front office on appropriate response to NRC.
- Reiteration that the NSGO will communicate activities of RIT process to Panel – that the process will involve open dialog.
- **MOTION:** establish an “Overarching Sea Grant Issues Committee” to look at big picture issues under 2 situations: full involvement by panel in evaluation and lesser involvement. The committee will report preliminary findings at the Fall meeting. Motion unanimously passed. The chairman will appoint members.
- **MOTION** – Preliminarily approve the draft proposal, with a change in the name to “Preliminary Report”. The submittal letter (directed to NSGO Director) will be edited over night and brought to a motion for approval in the morning. A final report will be added to agenda of Fall meeting along with RIT report and results of Overarching Committee. Motion unanimously passed.

Report from the Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Program Leaders

(Jack Thigpen, NC Sea Grant, ASGEPL Chair)

- Provided bullets on bylaws – what Assembly is, mechanism for Extension to have a voice.
- Recently adjusted calendar so Assembly Chairs on same Calendar as SGA
- 2006 activities: Assembly meeting in PR, Fisheries Extension Enhancement meeting, Beltway Brown Bag on LA Travelift action / FEMA-SG partnership.
- EDEN (Extension Disaster Education Network) – met with them and have a draft MOU to partner. Example – LA person shared between EDEN and SG
- 2007 SG week planning underway. If it doesn't occur have a contingency plan for meeting.
- 2008 SG Extension Assembly meeting hosted by Pete Granger, Washington State. Would hope for representation at the meeting by the NSGRP
- Though Extension often portrayed as technology transfer, it is more than that - really 2 way communication between scientists, stakeholders, communities, etc.
- Oftentimes extension specialists are the ones who have the contacts for any grassroots movement. If there is any way they can help out, please contact the Assembly.
- Panel suggest extension community reach out to new SAB Outreach Committee to provide case examples of what SG Extension does for NOAA's mission
- FK – SAB Outreach Committee may be looking for case examples of how SG extension may be more proudly used throughout NOAA

Sea Grant's Education Agenda: Report from the SGEN

(Sharon Walker, Professor Emeritus, University of Southern Mississippi for the SGEN Chair)

- Message focus: where is SGEN in promoting Marine Literacy
- Education Center taken out by Katrina. It was 34000 sqft, hoping to add 79,000sqft aquarium. Are trying to get new money to rebuild. Are now in 3500 sqft house.
- SG network, COSEE network and others sent a lot of resources after Katrina.
- SGEN is part of 1966 Legislation. Education is part of the triumvirate of research, extension, and education. Highlight this because it appears that education usually gets cut when money is tight.
- Central mission – for everyone to understand the influence of the oceans and watersheds on humans, and vice versa
- Discussion of pamphlet on how to use Marine Literacy concepts to meet curriculum requirements.
- SGEN priorities and opportunities:
 - Professional development programs for educators
 - Curriculum development based on sound science
 - Collaborations with informal facilities
 - Research and education opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students
 - Technology-based science education
 - Assessment and evaluation
 - Inclusion of underserved/underrepresented groups
 - Fostering collaborations and partnerships
- Within SGEN do cross over the line with extension
- Challenges include:
 - NOT having Needed fiscal resources (as a minimum want 1.0 FTE dedicated to education per SG program)
 - NOT having An education mandate within NOAA (exceptions: Sea Grant, Sanctuaries, and Reserves) Need education ACROSS NOAA, not just in these excepted areas
 - NOT having a coordinated public awareness campaign
 - NOT having significant marine and aquatic sciences within the National Science Education Standards
 - NOT having mandates in research proposals for broader societal impacts
- Future Priorities / Actions (with increased and sustained funding)
- No simple solution, but careful, proactive education and outreach strategies can accomplish this.
- Discussion of positive changes to the NOAA Office of Education – Dr. Walker is actively integrated SG into this office.

**National Sea Grant Review Panel Semiannual Winter Meeting
CORE Headquarters, Washington DC
Thursday, February 22, 2007**

Panel Members Present: Peter Bell, John Byrne, Robert Duce, Manuel Hernandez-Avila, Nathaniel Robinson (Chair), Jeffrey Stephan, Judith Weis, John Woeste, Frank Kudrna Jr., Richard West

Panel Members Absent: Robin Alden, Ross Heath, Jerry Schubel, Geraldine Knatz, William Stubblefield

Ex-Officio Panel Members: Leon Cammen (NSGCP Director), James Murray (NSGO, Designated Federal Official)

NSGO Staff: Megan Agy, Joe Brown, Jonathan Eigen, Nikola Garber, Sami Grimes, Jamie Krauk, Melissa Pearson

Other Attendees

NOAA Administrator's Office: Scott Rayder (Chief of Staff), Greg Pendleton (Knauss Sea Grant Fellow)

NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research: Rick Spinrad (Deputy Assistant Administrator)

Call to Order (Nat Robinson, Chairman of the Board)

- Review of Day's Activities. Topics raised to address as time permits: submittal letter for NRC response report, appointments to Overarching Committee

Report of the Reauthorization Committee (Woeste)

Report of the Reauthorization Committee accepted without objections.

Presentation from the NOAA Administrator's Office

(Mr. Scott C. Rayder, Chief of Staff, representing VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., NOAA Administrator)

- Introduce Greg Pendleton (Knauss SG Fellow). Office has had a fellow for 5 years – the quality of fellows is a great reflection on Sea Grant
- Optimistic about SG - organization that can put a lot of resources on the problem in a hurry
- Budget
 - Positive trend in President's request. Only organization in DOC with increased FY08 request. DOC FY08 press release leads with NOAA and Environmental stewardship.
 - FY07CR funds NOAA at FY06 enacted (\$3.9B). 3rd year at this level – concerned that this has been flat in light of inflation (COLA increases are not automatically inserted into NOAA base, so paying raises each year is equivalent to starting a new program)

- FY07 spending plan still under development.
- Reasons for Optimism:
 - NOAA crucial to nation's competitiveness
 - Increasing need to preserve ocean and coastal resources
 - Severe weather
 - Understanding climate change to manage resources better
 - NOAA environmental information key to millions of decisions (on the weather side alone touches 1/3 of GDP each day)
- Ocean Action Plan – of potential interest to SG: IOOS, Aquaculture, Limited Access Privilege Programs
- Legislative Priorities for 100th Congress
 1. NOAA Organic Act . Concern if admin drops the bill – what will new Congress do it. Concern that someone will try to stick “Independent” in front
 2. National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007
 3. Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation amendments Act of 2007
 4. Cooperative Conservation of Marine, Estuarine, Coastal, and Riverine Habitats Act of 2007
 - SG is “News you can use” – feels a unique niche and meets a critical needs. Sea Grants integrated approach is quite frankly what NOAA is trying to do at the Agency level.
- The Way Forward – Challenges and Opportunities for SG
 - Unique capabilities of Sea Grant
 - Value of Sea Grant to NOAA
 - Advancing the “One NOAA” vision
- Summary:
 - NOAA services critical to nation – SG plays a role in this
 - FY08 good (not great) – funds highest priorities
 - Support from constituencies in Congress is critical – Friends of NOAA coalition making a difference
 - May 07 stakeholder meeting on FY10 budget process. FY09 budget will go to DOC by June, on to OMB in September
 - SG well represented on the SAB
 - SES themes – going toward regionalized approach (see SG as major player in regionalization), Integrated Ecosystem assessments, integrated water resource services, hazard resilient coastal communities.
 - Trying to build a Corporate identity.

Report of the Membership Committee (Weis)

- Committee of Weis (Chair), Bell and Woeste
- Over last few years weeded through numerous resumes, passed along 6 names.
- Concerns about composition of Panel:
 - Panel needs at least 8 marine scientists. Traditionally dominated by physical scientists. SG activities dominated by biological sciences. Should keep this in mind going forward.
 - Lack of general diversity on the panel.
- **MOTION** to adopt the Membership Committee report passed unanimously.

- Clarification on length of service
 - Have right to serve 2 four year turns.
 - Can serve until replaced
 - Members always retain right to resign
 - Have put a slate of names forward – will replace long standing members as new members are available.

Nominations (Election of Officers) (Kudrna)

- Since no Fall meeting, terms of these Elections are for 2 years, retroactive to start in November of 2006.
- In selecting nominees looked at 3 criteria: 1) panel experience, 2) willingness and commitment to work with all panel members, 3) time availability to serve in this capacity
- Nominees: Robinson - 2nd term as Chair, Bill Stubblefield – Vice Chair, Judy Weis – 2nd term as member-at-large.
- **MOTION to elect Robinson Chair passed unanimously**
- **MOTION to elect Stubblefield Vice-Chair passed unanimously**
- **MOTION to elect Weis Member-at-Large passed unanimously**
- Discussion of issue related to length of time served by members of the Executive Committee, need to involve newer Panel members in activities of the Panel.

Presentation from the Assistant Administrator, NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (Dr. Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.)

- Prime goal: enhancing connectivity and making this visible.
- Priority of OAR: Demonstrate preeminence in research, value to society, culture of transparency
- Budget Issues
 - Discussion of FY07 CR.
 - Believe NOAA in a position to demonstrate how resources from FY06 earmarks can align more closely with NOAA goals / mission.
 - Ocean Action Plan (OAP)– important plan, and the Administration put new money towards it - \$123M to NOAA, of which \$60M is for Enhanced Ocean Science and Research, and \$20M of this if for near term priorities.
 - Think SG can align strategies to the priorities in the OAP
 - Believe 110th congress will try to demonstrate can work differently – can move quickly, may try to move budget. Therefore NOAA must prepared
- Discussion of Review Processes
 - NOAA is vulnerable in terms of assessment of research
 - Need greater consistency, uniformity among research review
 - Thinking about standardizing review of labs and programs
 - As move forward with broad scale review, want to make sure this is closely coupled with what happens at SG
 - Looking at programs to receive an OMB A123 review - considering SG
- Regional efforts

- Not trying to get EPA or Coast Guard model, but want to make sure that different parts of NOAA are coordinated in given areas.
- Makes sense for operations, a little different in research terms – research does not necessarily happen on regional scale – much of NOAA research has broad – sometimes global – implications.
- Believe SG’s direct connection at the local level is extraordinary tool for NOAA Regional approach – looking to determine how NOAA can best take advantage of this network.
- Discussion
 - Question - how does OAR decide what the research directions should be (assume it is a mix of applied and fundamental research)
 - Reponse - All mission oriented – similar to approach at ONR. Define mission requirements (4 main Goals: Ecosystems, Climate, Weather & Water, Transportation). Determine the needs, then translate these into research objects – decide on actions at the program level. Tried to identify time frames – generally 0-2year, 3-5year, etc. Compared to NSF tend to have less involvement in basic research, so fewer activities in the 10-20 year time frame. As a consequence NOAA runs the risk of losing tolerance for risk in research portfolio - this is a real concern. Trying to build risk tolerance back in, though this is difficult in an era of high accountability.
 - Question – Can the panel help OAR define / market the capacity of SG to address OAP priority needs?
 - Response – short answer, the NSGO Director’s responsibility for incorporation of SG is to figure out what the managers want to do with these investments

Consideration: A Panel 2-year Meeting Calendar (Robinson)

- MOTION to set the Fall 2007 meeting for the first week of October (9/30-10/3) 2007. Passed unanimously.
- MOTION to set the 2008 meetings for 3/6-7 and 11/12-14. Passed unanimously.

Other Business/Summary/Wrap-up

- NRC Recommendation Cover letter
 - Discussion of minor edits to NRC Recommendation Cover letter: 1) Direct letter just to Leon, 2) refer to Report as Preliminary Comments, 3) Change language to reflect that the NSGO Director has not committed to continuing the *same* PAT process
 - MOTION to accept substance of letter with these edits and any purely grammatical corrections. Passed unanimously.
- New “Global Issues Committee”
 - Discussion of role of this committee – to actually look at the big issues, or to develop a process for doing so
 - MOTION for Panel (led by West) to sit down with NSGO Director and determine how the Panel can assist the Director passed unanimously.
 - MOTION – interested members of the Panel should sit down with Chairman Robinson to develop a charge for this (the Big Issues) committee.
 - Once charge developed, Chair Robinson will appoint members

- August Meeting Minutes
 - Dissension about whether Panel realized prior to the meeting that this was an official meeting
 - **ACTION** – table minutes from August 2006 for discussion at Fall 2007 meeting
- Thanks to Rear Adm. West and CORE for hosting the meeting
- Compliments to the NSGO Staff for arranging the meeting, particular Joe Brown.
- **MOTION TO ADJURN** passed unanimously

DRAFT