Assembly of SGEPL Executive Committee
Conference Call (9/18/02)

In attendance: Brian Miller (Chair); Jay Rasmussen (Chair Elect); Jim Falk (Secretary/Treasurer); Bob Bacon (Past Chair) and Jim Murray (OSG)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Miller at about 2:00 (EST)

First order of business was to discuss the progress of the various Assembly committees:

Growth Committee – The committee is making good progress. This committee has joined with the communicators and will work jointly to produce the outreach growth plan. Dale Baker (Chair-NY), and the committee, has identified seven potential outreach growth areas for Sea Grant and concept papers (1-2 pages) are being developed on each of the areas. The communicators will take a leadership role in writing a concept paper on one of the seven issue areas (not sure which one). The seven areas identified are: (1) Climate Extension, (2) Ports, (3) Environmental Literacy, (4) Seafood Science and Safety, (5) Coastal Community Development/ Smart Growth, (6) Fisheries Extension/Management, and (7) Ocean Observation Outreach.

Dale and his committee are stressing that this outreach growth report is not intended to re-write the theme team concepts or re-prioritize any national outreach efforts that are underway. It will be tied to the theme teams and one of the key goals will be to help implement some of the vital elements of the regional and national extension report that was prepared a couple of years ago. An overview statement will be prepared and clearly convey this message.

Climate Change Committee – (Chair, Mike Spranger - FL) – This committee met in Silver Spring, MD a couple of weeks ago. Jim Murray set up meetings with other NOAA offices involved in climate issues (NWS, OAR, and Regional Assessment Group). Jim noted that there are a lot of "turf concerns" in NOAA regarding climate change and that Sea Grant needs to be sensitive to them. He indicated that Sea Grant was well-received since our mission in this area is to complement existing activity in NOAA. Jim reminded the group that there s a Climate Prediction Assessment Workshop (sponsored by NOAA) being held on October 28 – 30 in Alexandria, VA. He indicated that Mike would be participating and he invited other Sea Grant folks who had an interest to attend.

Jim reported that last year there was a $125 million climate service initiative within the NWS. One of NWS goals was to develop a Weather Extension Service and place 40 extension people in regional offices. Evidently it did not progress since the ultimate tie to decisionmakers was weak. In the FY 05 budget they are re-doing the initiative and SG may be in a position to contribute extension capabilities to help reach decisionmakers. NOAA is still very interested in a major climate initiative and we may be able to position ourselves as key players in the FY 05 initiative.

Jim also reported that there was some concern from certain SGA members that the Assembly was getting out in front of the climate initiative without SGA approval. Brian Miller indicated that this proactive movement was initiated by the SGA at a meeting earlier in the year. SGA challenged the Assembly to produce a "white paper" and the Assembly is responding accordingly. Brian noted that the "white paper" that will be produced will only be distributed to the SGA for their review, comments, and approval.

Fisheries Extension Enhancement – Jim Murray reported on the current thinking with regards to the FEE initiative. He noted that there is still much debate and discussion ongoing and he will keep everyone posted. He met last week with Emory Anderson in Silver Spring, MD to discuss how Sea Grant plans to meet the congressional mandate.

He noted that there are 2 conflicting statements in the congressional language with regards to the FEE initiative. (1) congress wants it to be competitive ($3 million – 5-year annual recurring funds) and (2) congress wants people hired to have a presence in coastal states to address fisheries issues.

Jim indicated that he will have further discussions on the FEE in the coming weeks and will get a draft concept paper out to the Assembly within the next few weeks for review and comment.

Jim will contact Jay Rasmussen when its time to get the ad hoc FEE committee together to "flesh out" the details of the new fisheries enhancement initiative. The Assembly Executive Committee agreed to maintain the composition of the current FEE committee to maintain consistency and continuity, if those that were appointed are willing to continue serving in that capacity.

Impact Committee – Doug Lipton (Chair-MD) has reported no progress to date. Jim Falk who is member of committee will contact Doug and see if he is still committed to serving as chair and see when he might schedule a meeting. The impact committee report is due by SG Week 2003 in April.

Assembly Web Page Committee – Jay Rasmussen (Chair). The page is up and running. In addition to current information, a number of historical documents have been added to the site as well. Job well-done by Jay.

Awards Committee – Ralph Rayburn (Chair). No report. The awards committee seems to have things under control.

Fundamental Book Executive Summary – Action on this is in Jim Murray's court; no progress to report.

MAS Salary Survey – Jim Falk reported that he is gearing up to send survey out to the Assembly after the first of the year. The salary survey is now conducted every two years and it is hoped that the response will again be as good as it was in 2001 (26 programs responded last time).

Election of New Executive Committee Members – The Assembly by-laws note that elections for officers to the Assembly Executive Committee will occur in November via e-mail. The only position up for election this year is Chair Elect. Bob Bacon volunteered to serve as chair of the nominating committee and Jim Falk volunteered to assist him. Bob has contact Rick Wallace (AL) to serve with the committee and he has agreed. A conference call will be held in October and at least two individuals will be nominated to vie for the Chair Elect position.

SG Week 2003 – Jay Rasmussen indicated that he has recruited a program committee, chaired by Jeff Gunderson (MN) to develop a program for our ASGPEL meeting at Sea Grant Week in Galveston. As soon as the committee has a tentative program they will circulate it to the Assembly for their comments and input.

With no other business to discuss, the conference call concluded at about 3:10 p.m. EST.

The next Executive Committee conference call is scheduled for November 21, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. EST.

If you have any issues you would like the Executive Committee to discuss or explore, on your behalf, contact any member of the committee listed below.

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Submitted by: James M. Falk, ASGEPL Secretary/Treasurer 9/26/2002