

SG Extension Assembly Excomm Conference Call
February 19, 2014
4:00 – 5:00 P.M. (EDT)
Meeting minutes

In Attendance: J. Falk – Chair, T. Murray – Chair-elect, D. Okimoto – Secretary/Treasurer, J. McCann – At-large, J. Schomberg – At-large, M. Liffmann, NSGO

1. Welcome new Excomm Officers:

- D. Okimoto – Secretary/Treasurer (3 years)

-Jim: Duties include keep track of notes and minutes and oversee funds (revenues and expenses).

-Darren: Why is the treasurer position three years in length? Possible answer has to do with staggering position over current and incoming chair.

- J. Schomberg – At-Large (2 years)

-Jim: Duties include managing the Wick Award and Superior Outreach Award as well as handling the process in obtaining the nominations; also take on periodic leadership assignments that develop (short term committees)

2. Treasurer's Report

-Jim: Current balance as of February 2014 is \$6,135.78. Reviewed treasury balanceback to Sept. 2011. Didn't have a lot of expenses over that period until recently. Have a surplus from PHL meeting and generated surplus of \$6K and split that in half with communicators (\$3K each). Assembly treasury account maintained by SGA (Devaney Cheramie, FO at MS-AL). Jim will work with Darren on how to handle this over the next six months.

3. 2013 Assembly/Communicators Meeting Wrap-up: <http://easternpaseagrant.org/sgea>

Jim: Everything wrapped up at this time. A little over 1/3 of folks responded to the post-meeting evaluation and provided feedback on the meeting. Generally positive comments and suggestions on future meetings, etc. One thing brought up in last excomm conference call in December is that educators would like to join the Assembly meeting with the Communicators. Excomm can discuss with educators at SG week to find out if this is viable. Educators meet at other national meetings on an annual basis so we'll see how this evolves.

4. NSGO Update – M. Liffmann

-Two new Knauss fellows at NSGO: Elizabeth Bevan, in PhD program at Al-Birmingham, Coastal Communities Specialist dealing with resilient communities and economies focus area; Tammy Newcomer Johnson, completed PhD program at the University of Maryland, Natural Resource Specialist dealing with healthy coastal ecosystems and fisheries focus areas.

-Program updates:

1. Full week on annual local program reviews took place last week. Internal NSGO exercise where program officers sit around and give a series of presentations on local programs

to each other to bring other NSGO folks up to speed about the network. Folks from the Sea Grant network are invited to participate. This is an internal exercise--no reports forthcoming from this exercise and not to be used in any evaluations of local programs.

2. Budget information: Sea Grant Advisory Board will have virtual meeting-Mike can provide more information. Total budget of \$67.2 million for Sea Grant with \$4.5 million of that for aquaculture research. \$5 million of the total is set aside for resilience research (economic, social and the like topics) and extension participation is encouraged. Question from Jim: Is this an earmark or made available by Leon?
- \$1 million available for the Grand Challenge—similar to that effort by the EPA.
Approach: If one has a great idea and can complete within the parameters of the idea for the million dollars. Nutrient loading topic and rest goes to the local programs. 5% for NSGO. Sea Grant Academy support could come from this pool of funding—being pushed by Mike.
-Question from Jen: When will Grand Challenge RFP come out? Mike: Not sure.
-Question from Jim: Will social science supplement happen again? Mike-Yes it will happen. -Question from Jen: SG is supposed to integrate research and extension. Is there discussion or encouragement of outreach as a part of these research proposal opportunities? Mike: depends on program. Some programs allow extension faculty to complete while others do not. Need to check with your own directors. Idea has to be couched in terms of research.
3. Four years ago NSGO had site reviews. Have another round starting later this year. Guidance being developed by Sammi Grimes. Most likely follow the same procedure as last time. Simply a pass/fail type of assessment. Require a briefing book with 4-5 participants on the site review team.
4. 2013 annual report guidance will be released shortly by NSGO through PIER to local programs. Due June 2 or 3 in 2014. Mike: A few months back Jim Falk created a “fury around the world” when he asked if the impacts/accomplishments from all programs could be made public. NSGO will make them public and be posted on website. Local programs are reviewing the information now. Jim was asked to serve on the alpha testing of new PIER. Wealth of information from all programs was available and will be made available soon. Mike: Beta test will take place in March and will be good to go after that.
5. In March NSGO will hold another webinar on writing impact statements. Share with folks in your programs.
6. Terry Smith retired in early January 2014. Terry will be replaced by NMFS by recruiting individual within their ranks and assigned to NSGO. Mike hoping to have influence on recruiting process. May take a year from now. Tom: get Doug Lipton back. In the meantime, Laura Oremland will be filling in for Terry for now.

-Question from Jim: Anything about (program) allocation? Mike: Leon is set on doing something to balance needs of smaller programs but not sure what it will look like. LaDon followed up with a letter from the SGA that they had rejected that plan. Other folks from the network were in favor.

5. SG Week 2014 (September 7 – 12) – Clearwater Beach, FL

-Jim: Make sure this is on everyone's calendar. Different program and process this year with 15 working sessions. Registration opens on April 1. There is time for Assembly to meet (see below). Have to see how the other things shake out before settling on a date and time. Jim will reach out over the next few months to folks to help plan Assembly business meeting.

- <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/seagrant/agenda.html>
- Extension Assembly – Mon. 9/8/14 (8:30 – 5:00) and Tues. 9/9/14 (8:30 – Noon)
- Awards
- Other

6. Sea Grant Climate Network – Follow-up from Assembly Meeting in PHL

-Jim: at Assembly meeting Jesse brought up idea of climate network as a standing committee of the Assembly as the sustainable communities and fisheries networks. Jim found out that Assembly already agreed to it and reported this back to Jesse. So climate network is the third official committee of the Assembly. Jim is highlighting information on three committees in briefing book for the SGA. Interest by NOAA in climate change and fisheries as well as regional labs—Mike L. asked Jim and Tom to follow up with a call to discuss further.

7. Salary Survey Review (N. Balcom Report)

-Jim: Nancy sent out follow up survey and 22 people responded to survey. Overwhelming response was that it was not used but would contribute information. Usefulness has declined over time. Will put on hiatus for the time being and may do every few years to get a handle on new hires, etc.

8. Hall of Honor (J. Fawcett Committee)

-Jim Fawcett is willing to take on the task of investigating this further. Concerns voiced from our discussion at PHL meeting: Is this too much of a competition or merit-based? This is more of a recognition for outstanding service to the SG extension network. Jim Falk will put together some folks to explore further.

9. Assembly Liaison to Fisheries Extension Network Council

-Jim: had conversations with Eric Chapman. Eric wanted to have a liaison to this group from the Assembly. Jim put out the offer to serve in this capacity to Assembly excomm and will reach out to the broader network if needed.

-Jen: may have a fisheries extension agent who may be interested

-Jim: wants someone from Assembly who could provide that link.

-Jen: Frequency of meeting? Jim: Quarterly conference calls? Jen is willing to volunteer for this.

10. Sea Grant Academy Update

-Jim: submitted letter for NSGO funding support to Leon. Next one scheduled in 2015. Competitive funding may be made available to programs to support training. FL SG has managed the funding from the NSGO for SG Academy in the past when M. Spranger coordinated it.

-D. Hansen Review Committee: review concept of academy, change in structure? Open to new audiences? Come up with a white paper review on the academy. J. Schomberg agreed to work with Dave.

11. Sea Grant Extension Funding Committee (K. Bunting-Howarth)

-Jim: Kathy is chairing a committee to look at how Sea Grant extension programs secure funding from various sources and to review policies on generating income and on "spending rates".

12. Assembly By-Law Amendment: 2/3 vote of Assembly needed to pass amendment (n=22)

-Jim: Passed by 2/3 majority vote. Jim has distributed the newly amended by-laws to the Assembly members.

13. Other:

-Jim: Jack Thigpen sent an email message about a replacement for him on the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). Jack has served as the SG liaison to the group for a few years. Not a lot of activity has occurred over time. Hold an annual meeting.

-Mike L.: This is one of the few network activities that we do with land grant folks. Think about how we can be more active. Get more folks from the SG extension network involved (e.g., Lauren Land or Tracie Sempier) and identify a POC from the Assembly or SG network. Land Grant gets funding from USDA to do EDEN like activities.

-Tom: Assembly website still managed by Oregon Sea Grant?

-Jim: Yes. Need to update information. Will follow up with D. Hansen and ask if they can update the information.

-Mike: suggested having one program manage it and possibly pay a stipend for a student to manage information.

-Jim: will explore this with Dave too. Want to include more information on past Wick Award winners on the website as well as other updates.

-Tom: SGA website in same situation.

-Jim: (to Mike) get a link to NSGO site?

-Mike: no problem.

-Tom: put out an RFP to the network on hosting the Assembly website.

-Jim: will talk with Dave about this.

No further items to discuss the Excomm adjourned at 5:10 p.m. (EDT).