

**SG Extension Assembly Excomm Conference Call
(Assembly Officers and Regional Representatives)
March 22, 2013 – 2:00 P.M. (EST)**

Minutes

Roll Call: *Mike Liffmann, Tom Murray, Darren Okimoto, Dave Hansen, Stephanie Showalter-Otts, Jim Falk, Jack Thigpen, Jen McCann*

Treasurer's Report – D. Hansen

Balance starting in September, 2011: \$4,555.17

Expenses for gift certificates, Wick Award printing: \$471.49

Current balance: \$4074.45

We still owe \$1,000 to support the Sea Grant Academy

NSGO Update – M. Liffmann

Amy Painter's latest report (last week?): Weekly update

House and Senate agreed to FY13 appropriation, \$61.8M, no mention of aquaculture

5.1% reduction applied to \$61.8M

Additional 1.9% cut for non-security spending

Net is \$57.5M

Very likely this will be signed

Likely impact to programs

Aquaculture and Community Adaptation will continue but impacted (\$100k projects) in terms of timing

Other programs not touched are smaller (\$30k- climate adaptation and \$50K – coastal community development)

Probably no special projects funds

Question: Will federal agencies have flexibility to determine how cuts occur within the programs.

Answer: We have authority to be flexible but little ability to be flexible when protecting the core funding. Most of the \$4.6M decrease is from initiatives and reduced travel.

Hopefully this means minimal cuts in FY13. (Note: Subsequently, Leon Cammen circulated email noting that state core programs would face small % cuts)

Question: Maintain funding for Coastal Community Development programs- are they now somewhat a "core" funded activity?

Answer: Trying to treat as core rather than a line item but not successful yet.

Question: The \$30k climate adaptation projects – are they good for FY13?

Answer: These were funded from FY12 funds so they are covered.

FY14 Budget (starting in October)

For planning purposes should consider the new sequestration budget as the new "normal"

Best professional judgment – resilience is next big frontier. This terms needs a definition that we can all agree on

Chris Hayes looking for expertise on performance measures; to quantify meaningfully how SG contributes

Question: When are we going to get "merit" letters from the national office?

Answer: Mid-April

Question: How are programs responding to the concern around carryover funds?

Answer: Great concern on the part of programs. As allocated, but not distributed, funds accumulate it creates a target for cuts. Explanations are good (subcontracts, etc.) but still some programs have very large surpluses. You can reprogram to use previously allocated funds. Guidance: 10% can be re-budgeted/moved without national office approval.

Spring SGA Meeting Update – J. Falk, and others

Next SG Week, St. Petersburg, FL. Sept 7-12, 2014

Sequestration/continuing resolutions. No decisions on approach

Program Mission Committee- SG Growth Initiative (LaDon Swann leading)

Target: \$20 million allocation (through a number of different mechanisms)

Allocation - Advisory Board looking for ways to enhance funding for smaller programs

PRP Review: Generally good discussions by both SG directors and from Leon Cammen, about half of the programs submitted clarification letters to NSGO.

Probably some improvements in PIER to help with future submissions

Directors and Advisory Board review of planning, implementation, and evaluation (PIE) system

Three challenges for SGEA working with SGA:

Work with growth committee

Look at metrics and performance measures

Measuring customer satisfaction

Question about website: NSGO updating its website, should be more useful to programs to access information on accomplishments and impacts across the SG network.

Liffmann notes it is a real struggle to get these things done at the national office with limited resources. Not sure when new site will be unveiled.

Assembly Listserve (deactivate Clemson Listserve; activate VA SG Listserve)

Still haven't deactivated the Clemson listserv- needs to be removed as new one is up

VIMS listserv is set up with Extension leaders, etc. but add Dale Baker and other appropriate contacts- need other names and addresses from national office; send to Tom Murray. Plan to establish a separate listserv (B-list) with assembly addresses and "other friends" of the Assembly.

2013 Assembly/Communicators Meeting – J. Falk

November in Philadelphia

Sent out “save the date” email last week

Hopefully SGEA people will volunteer for the program planning committee (looking to recruit regional representatives). Beth Bisson (Northeast), Darren Okimoto (Pacific) have volunteered already.

Regional Updates

Pacific (Darren): Regional collaboration RFP; invited to meet with NOAA regional reps

Agenda items- regional collaboration with Guam and Hawaii

Question: Can you submit more than one proposal per region?

Answer: Yes, unless there is language specifically prohibiting

Finished new recruitment- architect- seven new tenure track positions (economist, planner, civil engineer, oceanographer, watersheds), working on interdisciplinary projects. Mike Spranger is coming out to do an “academy-like” training

Mid-Atlantic: Doug Lipton accepted position at NMFS as chief economist; departs Sea Grant on June 1.

Bisson: Shared with group that they are planning a Northeast Regional meeting in November 2013 after our Assembly/communicators meeting.

SG Law Center Update

National Advisory Committee: brief conversation about growth committee next steps- likely to be asking for NAC input (partnerships, etc.)

Comment: Possibility of an initiative proposed by Fisheries Extension Network

Wrapping up sustainable working waterfronts network website- launch next Wednesday

Lots of information- reveal during working waterfronts workshop

*Work with fisheries extension about direct marketing guides, partnering with agriculture
SGA will be having elections for representatives to liaison to various networks, including extension.*

‘Fundamentals’ Update

Should be available shortly- for sure for the SG Academy

Comment: Advocacy discussion a very nice addition

Sea Grant Academy Update

41 people signed up- last day to enroll is Friday, March 29

Agenda is finalized and all speakers arranged

NSGAB Liaison

Dale Baker 3-year appointment (max 12 years)

Other

Jack Thigpen: EDEN virtual network, worked with the network during Katrina, etc. Not much recent activity and looking for someone else to take over Jack's role. Anyone with an interest or suggestion contact Jack; could be Extension or a communicator.

Comment: Extension leader probably not best, a link with cooperative extension is good. Possibly Peg Van Patten? Might send to Amy Painter for ideas.

Tom Murray: Short survey of other funding sources circulated by Kathy Bunting-Howarth, how we budget internally. Added a question on carryover. Please encourage people to complete.

Next Call: May 9, 2:00 PM

Adjourn: 3:14pm