



Bi-Monthly SG Extension Assembly Executive Committee Conference Call

April 9, 2015 3:00 pm (EDT)

Call-in Number: (866)842-5779

Conference Code: 4284584162

Minutes

Roll Call/Treasurer's Report

-Tom Murray, Katherine Bunting-Howarth, Jesse Schomberg, Marty Main, Nancy Balcom, Michael Liffmann, Darren Okimoto

-Assembly account balance as of April 9, 2015 is \$5,798.43

Assembly Meeting Planning (Balcom/Murray)

-Tom: sent out a survey monkey on April 8, 2015 to the network to seek input on ideas for topics of the upcoming Assembly/Communicator's meeting. He received 14 responses so far and will send out the data on the summary statistics for review.

-Nancy: Cindy Knapman is anxious to have a discussion about the joint conference. Will start working with her communicator on the meeting website.

-Tom: will send out doodle poll for a combined call with the communicators sometime in May.

Wick Award Process (KEBH/Main)

-Marty: wanted to learn about the formal process for submitting nominations and the timeline for the Wick Award.

-KEBH: worked with Ann Faulds on the procedure. This year Jesse and Marty will be running the competition. She advised them to:

1. Count back from the date for making the plaque award.
2. Start the call for nominations sometime in June.
3. Update the dates on the nomination form.
4. Give the Assembly representatives a couple of months to put together their nominations.
5. Identify non-conflicted people (not part of the Sea Grant network) to review the nominations from the regions. Get a good mix of folks from across the network. Ranking criteria are built into the award itself. Give the review team about a month to review the nominations. Hold a conference call with the reviewers to go over the results.
6. After the review is completed, fill in the ranking sheets and share the results with the Assembly Excomm.
7. Work with the individual Sea Grant program to get the winners to the meeting.
8. Figure out who will have the plaque made and who will do the presentation at the meeting.
9. There are two tracks for Wick nominees: administration and programming. One award for each track.

Kathy sent out the nomination forms about a few weeks ago; Jesse just forwarded it to Marty. She also mentioned that the Superior outreach award is given out at Sea Grant Week.

Tom: mentioned that we should post information about the policy and procedures for the Assembly awards on our website.



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Website updates (Murray)

- Darren will take the lead on updating information on the website and working with Dave Hansen and Pat Kight on this.
- Darren will check with Dave to find out if Pat Kight will be attending the Assembly/Communicator's meeting and formally present her with a token of our appreciation for her work on the Assembly website.
- The Assembly Excomm had a brief discussion about the direction of the website and decided at this time to keep the website as is with updated information.

NSGO Update (Liffmann)

- Mike had a fruitful meeting with Craig McLean, NOAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, about the direction of the NSGO.
- Mike: Leon has retired and stepped down pretty quickly. Kola is filling in as Acting Director until a new Director is found. No specific time table for the NSGO Director hire. NSGO hired a replacement for Kathryn McDonald; Robin Garcia is the new Communication Specialist. Chelsea Berg left last fall and was replaced in February by Julia Galkiewicz. She manages the Knauss Fellowship program and works with the Sea Grant Educators Network. On Monday, April 13, Terry Smith's replacement, Jim Berkson will start his position at the NSGO. Jim is a NMFS employee formerly based in Florida with a background in population dynamics. He will serve as a liaison between NMFS and Sea Grant, oversee the NMFS-Sea Grant fellowship program and aquaculture portfolio, and create more opportunities for both our programs to work more closely together. NSGO is hoping to recruit more program officers to help the three that are currently in that role and also Mike's replacement as Extension Leader using the IPA process. The plan is to put out the announcement and recruit this spring and, ideally, bring the person in late summer/fall to shadow Mike before he departs in January 2016.
- Mike remarked that bringing in experience from the network would be very helpful and important to have in the NSGO.
- In the next few days Mike and others at the NSGO will be working with Kola on how to best address multiple requests from the network for funding for conferences and other projects including the National Working Waterfronts conference, oil shipments in the Great Lakes, networks' meetings, etc.
- Marty: suggested leaving one open ended suggestion for regional projects that involve multiple states.
- Mike: answered that the competition will be open-ended and involve the network. There will be no bounds/limits on ideas. Will need to have a June 30 submission to get awards out by October 1.

Other business

- Marty: last year he attended the mid-Atlantic regional meeting and found it valuable. He encouraged the South Atlantic group to do a similar meeting. Susan Lovelace at South Carolina Sea Grant hosted the meeting. The meeting was valuable for multiple reasons and building personal relations. He encouraged similar meetings elsewhere. An outcome is more coordination will take place among these Sea Grant programs in community resilience and shellfish projects. A similar meeting will take place in the Gulf states in October.
- Marty: One other thing that he shared was the Sea Grant oil spill specialists associated with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) as an effective model for implementing in other regions. The Gulf Coast Sea Grant programs (FL, LA, TX and MS-AI) hired four full-time oil spill science outreach specialists to share GoMRI-supported research results with Gulf of Mexico stakeholders. The extension specialists meet every week and identify materials to develop for workshops and community outreach; all have different expertise. It's a cool model to think about implementing anywhere. The brand new hires with



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little extension experience were sent to participate in the Academy training. Chuck Wilson, former LA Sea Grant Director, is serving as the Chief Scientific Officer for GoMRI.

-Tom: proposed that we take a look at the survey results which will then inform the conference call with the Communicators network in May about the upcoming joint meeting.

-Tom: Next Assembly Excomm call is Thursday June 11 at 3 pm.