

SG Extension Assembly  
Conference Call Minutes

(Ex-comm Officers and Guests)

February 12, 2015

3:00 – 4:00 P.M. (EST)

- Roll Call – D. Okimoto
  - Present: Tom Murray, Jesse Schomberg, Marty Main, Katherine Bunting-Howarth, Nancy Balcom, David Hansen, Michael Liffmann and Darren Okimoto.
- Treasurers Report – D. Okimoto
  - Current balance at of 02/12/2015 is \$6048.43.
- NSGO Update – M. Liffmann
  - Two new Knauss fellows at NSGO: Helen Cheng from New Hampshire Sea Grant who will focus on Coastal Community Resilience and Economies and Sarah Bowman from Ohio Sea Grant (via Georgia) who is focusing on natural resources, fisheries and water resources.
  - New National Strategic Initiatives are being considered in coastal resilience and water resources. What the NSIs will encompass is still to be determined. Josh Brown facilitated a conference call on coastal resilience on February 11; water resources conference call will take place on February 13. NSGO is looking for ways for NSIs to have an impact nationally. The emphasis will be on multi-program collaboration. Examples include virtual, legal, regional, etc. networks and communities of practice.
  - Marty asked a question about the timing of the RFPs for these NSIs. Mike's reply: might see something in the next few months for FY2016 funding cycle that starts October 1, 2015. NSGO will have a conversation about this with the Sea Grant Directors at SGA in March.
  - 2014 Annual Report guidance was sent out by Chris Hayes on February 12, 2015. Tom forwarded this to the Assembly since some folks may not have gotten it.
  - NSGO will release aquaculture extension RFP in the next week to the Sea Grant network. \$1.6 million in funding is available and hoping to give 60 days to the network to prepare a proposal. RFP will be similar to the one released in 2013.
  - NSGO is still working on the idea of implementing a Sea Grant-NMFS exchange program. Currently the legal counsels on both sides are reviewing the details. Not sure how many requests NSGO will get. \$25K will be provided per request to cover items such lab supplies, materials, small equipment and travel expenses for the exchange. Sea Grant will pay for Sea Grant folks; NMFS for its employees.
  - The President's budget looks promising for Sea Grant. There is a continuing, and healthy, presence of aquaculture in the budget.
  - Staffing shortage at NSGO: Gene Kim left recently leaving a larger void (Chelsea left earlier and Terry retired). Mike has been assigned to temporarily handle the

aquaculture portfolio until Terry's replacement comes aboard and if the replacement is interested in taking this on. As of January 1, the NSGO has three full time program officers. Chris Hayes is covering the Knauss duties and the NSGO hope to find a replacement soon. The NSGO is hoping to hire new program officers for the Great Lakes and northeast by June 1. In the meantime, the immediate past program officers will continue working with their programs.

-Jesse asked a question to Mike about the status of collecting MOUs between Sea Grant and State Extension programs from the network. Mike has the documents and may ask one of the Knauss fellows to compile it and share it with the network. Tom suggested to Mike that he contact Stephanie at the NSGLC for assistance in abstracting the MOU documents that he has gathered.

- 2015 Assembly Meeting Update and Committee Assistance – N. Balcom/Murray  
Discussion of “New Extension Leader Training” session (Kathy E. Bunting-Howarth)  
-Nancy met with the Hilton hotel and also talked with the university about serving as a registrar. She provided a draft schedule to the Assembly Excomm for review and discussion. Tuesday is a travel day with a welcome reception at the Mystic Aquarium. On Wednesday the afternoon sessions may be offsite at the university or a field trip. There is the option of having joint and/or breakout sessions at the hotel. The task now is to fill in the meeting activities. Need to form an Assembly planning committee.  
-Kathy's idea came from a SGA meeting where new directors were invited to chat about what it takes to be a new director. She thought it would be a good opportunity for Assembly to do something similar. She has been chatting with Rex Caffey on this. Next steps: establish committee to plan activity and open a dialogue and see what the needs are. The group brainstormed the idea of having a panel session with questions submitted from new extension leaders ahead of time. Kathy asked if we should open this session up to the entire Assembly or just have it for a more select audience? Tom replied that it might be a good to open to entire assembly. Mike suggested to have new extension leaders pick themselves for the panel and to also compile a list of FAQs that the panel can address. Tom suggested recruiting folks from different geographic regions to serve on the planning committee for this session and perhaps the broader meeting committee. Kathy will work on recruiting members from the group that Tom identified earlier. Marty agreed to serve on this committee.  
-Tom will put together a planning committee for the Assembly meeting. Tom will send out a note regarding the formation of this planning group. Thank you to Nancy for putting this together!
- SG Academy Update – D. Hansen (invited)  
-35 people signed up for the first session during the first week in March in Annapolis. The participants will be at the Knauss reception in DC. 36 participants signed up for the second session which will be held in Oregon. Dave just held a webinar to inform the participants about the Academy last week. The participants are primarily extension folks. Same folks who helped last time are pitching in again. Dave hired a consultant to spend the first half of Monday talking about personality types and leadership styles; he is currently participating in a national leadership training program and found it useful.

He thought to work this into the first session and especially in the second session. Kathy commented that it would be interesting to know how many program leaders have done this with their staff. Dave asked if funding (\$550) was still available from initial \$1000 commitment made to support Academy—Darren’s answer was yes. Mike was cautiously optimistic that NSGO funding will be available to continue supporting this event in the future.

- S.G.A. Meeting updates and standing committee appointments. Network Update. T. Murray
  - The agenda is set and briefing book is available. 26 out of 34 programs provided extension information.
  - Tom thought that it might be a good opportunity to have the first ad hoc planning committee at SGA since he, Jesse, Kathy, Marty, Darren, Dave, and Nancy will be there. He will look at the agenda and offer a suggested date/time.
  
- Other Business:
  - Darren asked Mike about the status of the IPA extension position to replace him at NSGO. Mike answered that the paperwork is being processed and that there are now two people who expressed interest in the position. It may be that the position may be competed by those interested parties.
  - Kathy is serving as Sea Grant representative on Cooperative Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). She can’t attend the EDEN meeting in Florida on March 2-4, 2015 and is looking for someone to fill in. After discussing options, it was decided that Kathy will forward the EDEN information to Rex to gauge his interest and copy Marty. If Rex is unavailable then Marty will find someone to take Kathy’s spot.