

**SG Extension Assembly Conference Call  
(Excomm Officers and Regional Reps.)**

**December 11, 2014**

**3:00 – 4:00 P.M. (EST)**

**Minutes**

Roll Call – D. Okimoto

-Present: Jim Falk, Tom Murray, Jesse Schomberg, Rex Caffey, Beth Bisson, Katherine Bunting-Howarth, Darren Okimoto, and Jim Fawcett.

-Not available: Marty Main, Stephanie Showalter-Otts, Nancy Balcom and Jennifer McCann.

Treasurers Report – D. Okimoto

- Assembly treasure account balance as of 12/11/14: \$5371.08

-The SCCD Network used \$500 to support costs associated with their annual meeting in early November of 2014 and the Fisheries Network used the \$500 to support a community-based social marketing webinar that they offered to their network.

-Jim Falk: Spoke with Dave Hansen about supporting the Academy training in 2013 with \$1000 from the Assembly: \$400 was used for bus transportation costs in 2013 and there's \$600 left to support the 2015 Academy training.

NSGO Update – M. Liffmann (via J. Falk)

- Gene Kim will be leaving Sea Grant later this month to become the Aquaculture National Program Leader at the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

-A NMFS liaison to Sea Grant will assume Gene's aquaculture and seafood responsibilities. That position is currently being competed and should be filled early in the new year. His Program Officer duties will be taken over by other NSGO staff.

-Site reviews are going well.

-Two new 2015 Knauss fellows coming in to NSGO are Sarah Bowman who will work on fisheries and healthy coastal ecosystems and Helen Cheng who will work on education, sustainable coastal development and hazard resilience.

-NSGO is happy with the FY2015 budget which includes \$4.5 million for aquaculture for a total appropriation of \$67.3 million to Sea Grant.

-At Sea Grant Week, Mike Liffmann announced to the Assembly that he will be stepping down in December of 2015 and asked the Assembly to help identify a candidate to fill his position. Dr. Samuel Chan from Oregon Sea Grant has expressed interest. Sam might be able to start in late summer of 2015 as a one year IPA and overlap with Mike for a few months.

-Regional network: there is some movement abreast in terms of topical thematic areas: Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, Florida, Guam and Hawai'i are developing an MOA to work on tropical island issues. Discussions on how these programs will work together as a non-contiguous region will take place next year after the MOA is established.

### SG Academy Update – J. Falk

-Dave Hansen reported that the first session of the Academy training will take place in Annapolis, MD in March of 2015. 30 people have registered to date and there is a commitment from 40 people total from the extension and communication networks. The date for the second session is not nailed down yet but probably will occur in late October in Oregon. There is a \$600 pledge from Assembly to support this effort.

### SOPA Revisions - J. Schomberg/J. McCann

-Jesse and Jen made minor tweaks to the SOPA document and asked folks to take a look at it.  
-The next round of SOPA will take place in 2016. Both current At-large members will not be present to handle the next SOPA, thus Jim Falk asked Tom to keep this document in his files for the Assembly.  
-Jesse will clean up the documents and send it out to the Excomm for review.

### Elections Update – J. Falk

-December 12, 2014 is the deadline for the Assembly elections. The new incoming Chair-elect is Kathy Bunting-Howarth (NY) and the new At-large member is Marty Main (FL). Both will be assuming their positions beginning in January, 2015.

### 2015 Assembly Meeting Proposal – N. Balcom

-Nancy was not available.  
-Jim Falk reviewed the details of the proposal with the Excomm. Through discussion the group proposed that the best time to hold this conference would be in the first week of December to avoid conflicts with other meetings (e.g., Working Waterfronts, SGA Fall meeting, NE Regional meeting). There was also a discussion about including the educators but concern was raised about the logistics associated with coordinating among three groups; in addition the educators hold their annual meeting at NMEA. Beth made a suggestion that perhaps a representative from each of the different networks could attend the Assembly meeting and share the information with their respective networks.  
-The Excomm supported Nancy's proposal. Jim will follow up with Nancy and also contact Cindy Knapman who leads the Communicators network. Darren will give Cindy a heads up on the proposed early December date for the meeting.

### SG Law Center Update – S. Otts

-No update.

### Network Advisory Council Update – S. Otts

-Jim Falk gave the update on behalf of Stephanie. The NAC has been trying to create better communications channels between the various networks and find a better way to communicate with the SGA. The group examined and revised operating principles and guidelines to make the lines of communication clearer. Stephanie handled the leadership for this and will step down shortly. The NAC wanted to recruit someone who has demonstrated leadership for one of these networks and would lead the NAC. Nancy Balcom has agreed to serve as the NAC chair and will

start next March 2015. Jim Falk told Tom that the Assembly chair is automatically part of this network.

### SG Regional Updates – Regional reps.

-Great Lakes: The Great lakes network is planning to hold a bi-national stakeholder workshop utilizing strategic network analysis on the transportation of crude oil. Talks are being held with the Johnson Foundation about their sponsoring it at their Wingspread facility in Wisconsin. It's a wicked issue that needs to be addressed and there is a cascade of impacts that need to be examined and discussed as there are issues related to displaced cargo, environmental risks and communities safety—to name a few. Meanwhile, the Network is assessing community education needs.

-The Great Lakes group is also working with the Coastal Storms Program (CSP). There are two 0.5 FTE positions for CSP (in MN and WI-SG). On top of the mini-grants program, the CSP is providing \$40K to each Sea Grant program over two years to conduct projects with partnering organizations on hazards resilience.

-Wisconsin Sea Grant is close to filling its Extension Program Leader position.

-Kathy announced that New York Sea grant is recruiting for a Great Lakes Coastal Processes specialist, a seafood technology specialist and soon to be a research program leader.

-Northeast: Beth mentioned that Maine Sea Grant's research calls will go out in the first week of January. The northeast regional meeting is scheduled for end of October in Kennebunkport, Maine. The focus of the regional meeting will be on extending and leveraging the results of the northeast Sea Grant consortium investments (\$25K a year for 2 years) to fund a few research projects as a region. The group hasn't figured out how to do extension and communications activities around these projects yet.

-Mid-Atlantic: Tom mentioned that the regional waterman show will be held at the end of January (Maryland Sea Grant is taking the lead on developing the seminar program). There's also been a barotrauma project that is being funded by NMFS including North Carolina and New Jersey Sea Grant Extension. North Carolina Sea Grant is hiring an aquaculture extension specialist. Virginia Sea Grant is holding its Sea Grant college status award ceremony next week and its partner symposium later in January of 2015.

-Gulf Coast: Rex mentioned a regional collaboration through LaDon Swan to restore funding for hydrologic restoration outreach in gulf. LSU and FL are advertising for seafood technology specialists. Louisiana Sea Grant's research calls are going out now and it has an ongoing conversation with MS-AL Sea Grant on a fisheries congress in May of 2015.

-Pacific: Jim Fawcett mentioned that USC Sea Grant started projects there were funded for doing regional work (e.g., pollution in marinas in Southern California and Washington. USC Sea Grant is also doing climate change adaptation work and hired a new communicator (Holly Rindge).

-Shauna Oh is leaving California Sea Grant to serve as the Executive Director of UC Davis' new Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute. CA Sea Grant will be sending out an announcement as

soon as possible for a replacement; the new Associate Director will also have duties as a full time Extension Director.

-Darren mentioned that Hawaii Sea Grant just finished its program site review. He suggested involving extension faculty in program site review as a means to inform them of the process but also participate and respond to questions if needed. Darren Lerner is the new Hawaii Sea Grant Director.

### Other

-Jim Fawcett: The research coordinators asked Stephanie for some guidance on the topic of advocacy. She put together some bullet points for them. Jim Fawcett mentioned that the guidance was not about telling researchers that they can't say anything. Stephanie and Jim are having ongoing discussions with the research coordinators about this.

### Gavel Passing to Tom Murray

-Jim Falk's term as Assembly chair will end at the end of the year. Thank you very much Jim Falk for your service!

-Tom will take over as Assembly chair starting January 1, 2015. Tom proposed sticking with the same bimonthly conference call schedule that Jim Falk used.

-Jim suggested that he could discuss the transition with Tom at the SGA spring meeting in DC.