



GCOOS Winter Board Telecon - Meeting Notes

Date: 9 February 2026 **Time:** 11:04 AM - 12:29 PM CST

Attendees:

- Kim Yates (Chair)
- Sergio Jaramillo
- Suraida Nanez-James
- Nan Walker
- Sara Graves
- Brian Roberts
- Antonietta Quigg
- Marcus Ogle (Staff)
- Jorge Brenner (Staff)
- Stephan Howden
- Rafael Ramos

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Kim welcomed Sergio, who officially joined the GCOOS Board on December 16, 2025 following Ruth's retirement.
- Sergio provided a brief introduction; all attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

- Kim reviewed the meeting agenda, including bylaw updates and the spring Board and Members meeting draft agenda.
- Suraida motioned to approve the agenda; Nan seconded. Motion passed.

3. Bylaws Update

Sections Discussed:

- Section 4.1 & 4.2:
 - Noted difficulties securing enough Board members in some sectors this year.
 - Suggested implementing minimum/maximum Board member limits per sector to increase flexibility.
 - Current bylaws require term to begin before retirement or departure from the sector they were voted to represent; proposal to allow members that have left that sector within the prior year to serve.
 - Example: Jim Kendall has retired and is ineligible under current bylaws, but is still committed to join.
- Section 4.15:
 - Proposed to adjust actions without a meeting voting requirement from 75% to 66%.
- Section 4.16:
 - Update communications provisions to include modern methods.

Motions and Votes:

- Approval of Section 4.1: Sara motioned, Suraida seconded. Passed.
- Approval of Section 4.2: Brian motioned, Antonietta seconded. Passed. Discussion raised regarding eligibility for retirees; majority agreed on flexibility due to current challenges in candidate availability.
- Approval of Section 4.15: Brian motioned, Nan seconded. Passed.
- Approval of Section 4.16: Nan motioned, Brian seconded. Passed.
- Jim Kendall Membership Vote: Stephan motioned, Brian seconded. Passed.
- Approval of Section 4.11: Brian motioned, Nan seconded. Passed. Amendment to update “telephone or teleconference” to “remote participation.”

4. Spring Meeting Review

- Marcus and Jorge presented an overview of the spring meeting venues.
 - Monday BOD meeting on campus at O&M Building room 613
 - Tuesday open meeting at The University Club in Rudder Tower
 - Tuesday 20th Anniversary Celebration at The Rail Bar in the University Hotel
 - Wednesday BOD Meeting at GERG’s facility in South College Station
- Kim reviewed the draft agenda.

- Monday 12:00-17:00: Board meeting on campus in OMB 613 with lunch provided.
- Tuesday 8:30-20:00: Open meeting + 20th Anniversary Celebration.
 - NOAA update via recorded message due to staffing constraints.
 - Meeting focus will be industry-centric, leveraging proximity to Houston.
 - Two dedicated industry sessions to discuss GCOOS data usage/importance.
 - Addition of an Ecosystem/Environmental session (topics: Fisheries, SAR, HABs, etc.).
 - UGOS Project Closeout and Discussion:
 - Presentation and review of the UGOS project's final outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned.
 - Discussion of next steps and possible future directions, including potential collaborations.
 - Recognition of contributions from participating organizations and individuals.
 - Closing remarks by Worth Nowlin.
 - Student poster session (17:00-18:00).
 - GCOOS 20th Anniversary celebration with open mic and slideshow (18:00-20:00).
- Wednesday (9:30-12:30):
 - Facility tour + closed board meeting to be held at GERG.
- Agenda timeline will be finalized once presenter confirmations are received.

5. Adjournment

- Stephan motioned to adjourn; Rafael seconded.
- Meeting adjourned

Prepared by Marcus Ogle, Associate Director
10 February 2026