



GCOOS Regional Association Board of Directors Virtual Meeting, August 7, 2024

Participants

Board Members: Dave Driver, Sara Graves, Emily Hall, Pat Hogan, Kirsten Larsen, Bill Lingsch, Suraida Nanez-James, Ruth Perry, Antonietta Quigg, Rafael Ramos, Brian Roberts, Joe Swaykos, Jan van Smirren, Nan Walker, Tom Wissing, Kim Yates

Other: Matthew Bars, Jorge Brenner, Felimon Gayanilo, Chris Simoniello, Nadine Slimak, Cassie Stanish, Jennifer Vreeland

Welcome: Kirsten Larsen, GCOOS Board Chair, welcomed participants. Introductions were made, and the agenda was adopted by a quorum of the Board of Directors. A brief overview of the days' activities was made.

GCOOS Howard Scholarship Recipients: Board members were introduced to the two GCOOS Howard Scholarship recipients, Cassie Stanish and Matthew Bars, by Chris Simoniello. Both recently completed their freshman year of college as mechanical engineering students at the Florida Institute of Technology and the University of Central Florida, respectively. Each provided an overview of their experiences and shared their career goals with participants. Cassie is interested in sustainable fisheries and food security issues. Matthew is pursuing a career in ocean sciences that incorporates robotics. He will be pursuing entry into the Florida Institute of Oceanography's Peerside program next year. Both expressed their willingness to help GCOOS refine expectations for the next cohort of fellows, and to present at the 8 November 2024 members meeting.

Vice Chair Nominations: Larsen opened the floor to anyone interested in serving as the next GCOOS Board Vice Chair. A motion was made by Kim Yates to nominate Suraida Nanez-James. Following a brief discussion about expectations of the position and agreement by Nanez-James, Joe Swaykos second the motion and all voted in favor.

Changes to the Board: Three new Board members have terms beginning at the Fall 2024 meeting. Brian Roberts, Executive Director, LUMCON; Emily Hall, SOCAN Coordinator, Mote Marine Laboratory; and Rafael Ramos, Senior Oceanographer/Ocean Engineer, Woods Hole Group, will begin their terms in November. Long-time GCOOS Board members and former Chairs Joe Swaykos and Bill Lingsch will be retiring. Swaykos encouraged the new members to look introspectively and ask how they can contribute to be impactful and move the program forward. Lingsch will be available to support GCOOS activities, especially UG2 hurricane efforts. Alyssa Dausman will also be stepping down but will continue her work as Senior Vice President and Chief Scientist at The Water Institute.

Update from the Executive Director: Jorge Brenner, GCOOS Executive Director, provided an update on GCOOS funding. This included core IOOS funding and anticipated money from both the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) opportunities. IRA funding is for five years and officially began August 1, 2024. BIL funding is for three years and will start in February 2025. Funds support replacement and recapitalization, including radars (TAMU/GERG, USM, Fugro, RATES and FSU) and gliders (TAMU/GERG, USF, USM, MML; see slides). The IOOS office also recently approved hurricane supplemental funds in the amount of ~\$236K to replace SCCF and MML equipment damaged during Hurricane Ian.

GCOOS Fall Meeting: Dates for the GCOOS Fall meeting were confirmed: the board meeting will take place November 4th and the virtual members meeting on November 8th, both from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. ET. Kim Yates solicited ideas for the members meeting agenda. Suggestions included: update from the Executive Director including status of IRA funding; IOOS Program Office updates; HFR update; GCOOS anniversary engagement with members (soliciting ideas and sharing what is already planned); UGOS project update; updates from members; status of MHW project(s); Saildrone and glider hurricane intensity measurement activities (possibly invite AOML or PMEL Saildrone representative); invite Steven Moray-FSU COOPS who is working with Steve DiMarco (Felimon Gayanilo suggestion); consider doing a GCOOS 20 Year Impact presentation—if not for the fall meeting then for the 2025 Spring Meeting; consider lightning talks (coastal programs, ESD, invasive species map viewer (Tom Wissing suggestion), GCAN update, Hurricane Idalia work (Rafael), HABS (Emily), offshore wind development –Hecate Energy (Tom); extend invitation to RWE to talk about future plans with hydrogen, carbon sequestration, and activities other than wind (Ruth); hypoxia (Howden-USM 2 ASVs monitoring over past 2 yrs); update on Everything Beaches (Nan); marketing our materials and resources (Suraida); ESD plans under IRA funding (Chris); Resilience and rising SL-connection to GCOOS WL project (Bill); MBON update (Tom); status of GCOOS modeling efforts (Pat); insurance crisis and role for GCOOS (Stephan); and encourage people to contribute to the Matt Howard scholarship (Sara).

ACTIONS: 1) Determine agenda items and speakers-identify invited vs. lightning talks; and 2) Set a short Board teleconference for the week after the November members meeting.

For the closed November meeting, Tom requested an update on where we are with the 5-yr plan and possibly determine a self-grading process to evaluate and inform the next 5-yr certification process. Are we moving in the right direction? What are stakeholder perceptions about where we are? Do currently funded projects reflect GCOOS SP priorities? The SP will need to be updated soon—are revisions needed or are the focus areas and cross-cutting themes still relevant? Board members requested clarification on what the five-year plan is and how it relates to the Strategic Plan.

Plans for 2025 GCOOS 20 Yr Anniversary: Kim Yates provided a summary of the GCOOS 20 Yr Anniversary planning team calls. In addition to Yates, the team includes Jorge Brenner, Susan Fox, Megan Howson, Kirsten Larsen, Ruth Perry, Chris Simoniello, Nadine Slimak and Jen Vreeland. The next two meetings will be August 9th and 27th. One idea is to have a theme for the anniversary campaign (e.g., Ecological Thresholds) or monthly themes with stories that highlight historical content and the growth and evolution of GCOOS. The budget for anniversary activities was discussed. Approximately \$50K is

budgeted for the Spring meeting--\$40K for participant costs and an additional \$10K to conduct activities at different venues. LUMCON and the PACIT community in LA, and SCCF in Florida were mentioned as possible sites for anniversary activities. A challenge identified is the high cost of getting people to these locations. Decisions about a special logo will need to be made soon because the OEC meeting will kick off anniversary activities in December 2024. The board was reminded to coordinate any activities, especially the spring meeting, around other events taking place. Specifically mentioned were the GOMA, SECOORA and IOOS Association meetings. Nadine asked if GCOOS wants to solicit sponsorship for any activities from our partners and if IOOS will support any anniversary-related activities. Joe suggested reaching out to Carl Gouldman and possibly Zdenka Willis, now at MTS. The board will need to discuss sponsorship.

A motion was made by Swaykos to close the meeting; Graves second, all in favor.