



**North Pacific Research Board
Meeting Summary
Spring Board Meeting
April 21-22, 2020**

The North Pacific Research Board held a virtual meeting April 21-22, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was attended by Board members: Forrest Bowers, Bill Britt, Dorothy Childers, John Gauvin, Becca Gisclair, Katrina Hoffman, CDR Jon Kreischer, Doug Mecum, Andy Mezirow (Chair), Mike Miller, Brad Moran, Tara Riemer, Matt Robinson (Vice Chair), Brad Smith, Dee Williams, and Cheryl Rosa as U.S. Arctic Research Commission alternate for David Benton. Panels: Brad Harris (Science Panel Chair) and Ruth Christiansen (Advisory Panel Chair) attended. The meeting was staffed by: Lynn Palensky (Executive Director), Matt Baker, Danielle Dickson, Jo-Ann Mellish, Brendan Smith and Kayla Wagenfehr.

1. Call to Order/Approve Agenda

Andy Mezirow chaired the meeting and called the board to order at 9:00 AM. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 travel restrictions and health concerns, the Board meeting was held virtually via Zoom. It was determined that a quorum was present. This was new Executive Director (ED) Lynn Palensky's first NPRB Board meeting, so each attendee was asked to introduce themselves. As the NPRB Standard Operating Policies and Procedures (SOPPs) require in-person meeting attendance for regular meetings, the first order of business was a vote to waive this requirement to allow the meeting to proceed, given the extraordinary circumstances due to COVID-19. Chair Mezirow and ED announced that because of the meeting format, most if not all votes would be roll-called to ensure votes were heard and recorded.

MOTION: Waive in-person meeting requirement in the SOPPs and allow this meeting to proceed by teleconference.

Action: Motion passed with no objections.

Nominations were solicited for NPRB Chair and Vice Chair positions for the coming year.

MOTION: Nominate Andy Mezirow Board Chair for the coming year.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

MOTION: Nominate Matt Robinson Board Vice Chair for the coming year.

Action: Motion passed with no objections.

In order to accommodate the more challenging all on-line format, the original agenda was abbreviated to include only those items that required immediate action, including: Call to Order, Graduate Student Research Awards, Core Program, Outreach Program, Social Science Working Group, Strategic Planning, and Other Matters. Within these items, attention was focused on decision making needs. The original agenda retained active links to prepared materials that would be postponed until the fall 2020 meeting. The meeting was scheduled to take place in four blocks, from 9am-11am and 1pm-3pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21-22, 2020.

MOTION: Approve spring 2020 meeting agenda as amended by staff.



Action: Motion passed with no objections.

MOTION: Approve fall 2019 meeting summary.

Action: Motion passed with no objections.

Staff reviewed the NPRB Conflict of Interest policy and confirmed that NPRB has received signed Conflict of Interest policy statements from each Board member acknowledging that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policy during the coming year.

Staff reported that several new members began terms on the Science (SP) and Advisory (AP) Panels this spring and provided a summary of their expertise. Three Board members' terms end later in April or in May 2020 and they are not seeking reappointment. Individuals have been nominated to represent Alaska and Washington and their approval by the Secretary of Commerce is pending. Three seats remain vacant – US State Department, US Navy and the State of Oregon.

2. Budget Overview (postponed until fall 2020)

A short budget update was provided by staff on the EIRF fund reinvestment, receiving Grant 9 funds, and timing flexibility to closing out Grant 7. Staff informed the Board that Richard Taylor of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) plans to call in to the fall Board meeting to provide a report. The latest projections provided prior to the COVID-19 pandemic indicated that NPRB is currently receiving its lowest disbursement and annual allocations are expected to increase in the future as NPRB funds are invested in 10-year treasury notes.

3. Graduate Student Research Awards (GSRA)

Seventeen students applied for Graduate Student Research Awards in 2020. The Board considered the nine GSRA proposals recommended by the Science Panel (SP) and the Advisory Panel (AP).

MOTION: Fund GSRA proposals 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1916, and 1921.

AMENDMENT: Fund GSRA proposals 1907, 1909, 1912, 1913, 1916, and 1921.

Action: A roll call vote was taken, and the amended motion passed with no objections.

Staff explained that a working group developed recommendations for evaluating GSRA applications and these will be discussed during the fall 2020 meeting cycle.

4. Core Program

Staff reminded the Board of the projects funded in 2019 and provided a comparison of the number of proposals in competition in 2020 with the number of proposals that were considered at the spring meeting in 2019. The Senior Program Manager then provided a review of the submissions to date and the evaluation process. A total of 17 proposals received two or more external peer reviews in time to be considered by the Science Panel, which concluded with the following distribution: Tier E (0), Tier 1 (6), Tier 2 (8), and Tier 3 (3). The AP starred five proposals and approved a single proposal for a two-star status. The Board heard summaries of all proposals ranked Tier 1 by the SP and heard summaries of Tier 2 proposals by request. The AP Chair read the AP summaries of those proposals starred by the AP.



MOTION: Fund Core Program proposals starred by the AP (1896, 1901, 1895, 1879, and 1897).

AMENDMENT: Add proposal 1898 and remove proposal 1895.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the amendment failed.

AMENDMENT: Add proposal 1898.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the amendment passed with no objections.

AMENDMENT: Add proposal 1902.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the amendment passed with no objections.

AMENDMENT: Remove proposal 1901.

Action: The amendment was withdrawn.

AMENDMENT: Add proposal 1882.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the amendment failed.

MOTION: Fund Core Program Proposals 1895, 1896, 1898, 1901, 1902, 1875, 1979, 1897

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion, as amended, passed with no objections.

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4. Core Program (continued)

The Board Chair explained that in the future, the Board will vote on which proposals will be funded and that decision will be followed by a separate motion to decide to hold proposals over for consideration during the next meeting. No proposals were held over for consideration during this meeting.

6. Communications & Outreach

Review of Outreach Proposals

The Board considered five outreach proposals submitted in response to the 2019 Outreach RFP.

MOTION: Fund proposal 1900.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

MOTION: Fund proposal 1926.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

MOTION: Do not fund proposal 1927.

Action: The motion failed due to lack of a second.

MOTION: Fund proposal 1927.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

MOTION: Fund proposal 1928.



Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

Photo Contest

The Board voted on the top 10 adult and top 3 youth photos submitted in competition for the photo contest and, after tallying the votes of the Board and Panels, the Communications and Outreach Director reported the winners.

2020 Outreach RFP

The Board reviewed the draft 2020 Outreach RFP developed by staff.

Motion: Approve the 2020 Outreach RFP.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

Motion: Incorporate into the 2020 Outreach RFP the allowance of a one-time resubmission of outreach proposals that received support from at least one of the three review groups (COD, SP, AP) and require resubmissions to be submitted within 12 months of the original outreach proposal submission.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

7. Evaluation of NPRB Research (postponed until fall 2020)

9. Social Science Working Group (some aspects postponed until fall 2020)

The Co-Chairs of the working group requested that the Board approve changing the name of this working group to the Human Dimensions Working Group to be more inclusive and better align with the NPRB Science Plan. The Board was also asked to approve the working group tasking language prepared by the working group and as outlined in the board decision memo. The tasking calls for the group to present *a long-term strategy for attracting and funding strong human dimensions research projects and exploring mechanisms to incorporate IK/TK/Co-production partnerships and projects* to the Board at the fall 2020 meeting. The Co-Chairs noted that COVID-19 pandemic may delay the timeline somewhat. The group intends to invite participation by Liza Mack and/or Tom Thornton who are new SP members with relevant expertise.

MOTION: Approve the tasking and recommendations from the working group and change the name of the working group to Human Dimensions.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

10. Strategic Planning (some aspects postponed until fall 2020)

The Chair of the Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) requested that the Board consider the working group's recommendation that the "seamount" funding scenario be adopted as a strategy to allocate funding among NPRB's programs to begin saving money for the new Integrated Ecosystem Research Program that the Board committed to funding during the fall 2019 meeting. Working group members noted the importance of adopting a funding strategy to instill confidence in potential funding partners and believe the "seamount" strategy minimizes disruption to Core Program funding cycles,



reduces financial risks associated with five-year spend-down restrictions, facilitates more consistent management, and most strongly promotes the intended complementary nature of Core, IERP, and LTM scientific work.

MOTION: Approve the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Working Group.

Action: A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with no objections.

13. Other Matters

MOTION: Approve September 22-24, 2020 as the dates for the fall 2020 meeting.

Action: The motion passed with no objections.

Conflict of Interest will be discussed at the fall 2020 meeting. Prior to the meeting, a survey will be sent to Board members asking for feedback on the current COI policy, as asked for by the Board at their Fall 2019 meeting.

The new MOU between NPRB, ASLC, and NOAA has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Doug explained that the same individuals who handle the MOU are also currently dealing with implementing the CARES Act.

Outgoing Board members John Gauvin, Dorothy Childers, and Gerry Merrigan were recognized for their long-standing service and dedication to NPRB. Each departing member made a few closing remarks. Each will receive an engraved plaque to thank them for their service.

MOTION: Adjourn meeting.

Action: The motion passed with no objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.