

**WAML Annual Meeting  
September 13-14, 2016  
Taaffe House, Los Altos, CA**

**Members Present:** Steve Weisberg, Billie Swalla, Neil Davies, Karina Nielsen, Dean Wendt, Ted DeWitt, Bob Cowen, Jim Harvey, Bob Richmond, Ruth Gates, Erika McPhee-Shaw, Steve Palumbi, Brian Tissot, Steve Lindley, Chris Scholin, Lisa Busch, John Heidelberg, Jan Hodder, Stuart Sandin, Steve Cardamona, Gary Cherr.

**Guests Present:** Roberta Marinelli, Chad English, Becky Smyth, Deborah Halberstadt, Victor Zykov, Joel Widder (by phone).

**Day 1**

The first day focused on hearing about Pacific initiatives by three organizations that operate at a regional level and discussing ways that the WAML members might be able to leverage or contribute to those efforts. The first speaker was Chad English from the Packard Foundation, the second was Becky Smyth, who is NOAA's west coast initiative coordinator, and the third was Deborah Halberstadt, Executive Director of the California Ocean Protection Council, who spoke about activities of the Pacific Coast Collaborative.

Day 1 concluded with a presentation from Joel Widder of Federal Science Partners, NAMLs liaison to the federal agencies. Joel gave an overview of the federal budget outlook, what to expect from an administration change in DC following the election and what activities WAML/NAML can undertake to ensure a solid science foundation following the transition. Most of the discussion focused on the last item and in particular what kinds of congressional briefings WAML might want to have Joel initiate or help WAML participate in.

**Day 2**

Day 2 included three primary pieces. The first was an introduction to two laboratories: Mendocino College, which is WAML's newest member, and the Schmidt Ocean Institute, which is a ship-based laboratory that operates frequently in the Pacific. The second was a discussion of potential WAML collaborative research initiatives and the third was the WAML business meeting.

There were two potential collaborative research initiatives that were discussed. The first was developing a WAML acidification monitoring network. Roberta Marinelli reported that the acidification monitoring committee that was formed at the last meeting (Roberta Marinelli, Billie Swalla, Erika McPhee-Shaw, Tessa Hill, Karina Nielsen, Brian Gaylord and Steve Weisberg) met over the summer and developed a concept proposal, which is based on establishing a three-part collaboration:

- 1) We ask NSF (through their Field Stations and Marine Labs program) to provide equipment and cover travel costs for training workshops that upgrade and standardize WAML laboratory OA measurement capabilities.

- 2) We ask NOAA to provide (through their ocean observing system) ongoing technical support and data management services to ensure quality of the data streams we are providing.
- 3) WAML labs would provide people to maintain the equipment and submit data to the network hub. Participating WAML labs would get equipment, training, ongoing technical support (a roving expert to help with equipment challenges, opportunities to participate in periodic data validation studies at no cost), but they will not get salary support (neither of these funding vehicles are conducive to that).

People were happy with the concept and Billie Swalla agreed to lead the NSF proposal effort, which is due in December. Steve Weisberg agreed to market NOAA participation in the quality assurance portion of the effort.

The second was a presentation by Neil Davies about developing a NAML genomics workgroup. The group could potentially develop consistent metabarcoding approaches among labs and/or west coast barcoding libraries taking advantage of the taxonomic capabilities at the marine labs. There was agreement that this was worth pursuing and a committee was formed that included Neil Davies as Chair, joined by WAML members John Heidelberg, Bob Richmond, and Steve Palumbi. Several WAML members also nominated the following experts from their laboratories to assist the Committee: Josh Steele - SCCWRP (nominated by Weisberg), Jonathon Stillman - SFSU Romberg Tiburon Center (nominated by Nielsen) and Jon Geller - CSU Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (nominated by Harvey).

### **Business meeting**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Richmond reported that WAML currently has \$41,333.11. He had two people (Brian Tissot & Jim Harvey) audit his treasurer's report. The auditors reported that everything is in order.

Weisberg noted that the budget is healthy and growing, with no clearly defined plans for spending those funds. He asked for input from the membership about the best ways to spend those funds and seven ways were suggested (some based on ways that funds have been spent in the past):

- a) Student travel to scientific meetings
- b) Travel for planning committees to develop our collaborative networks
- c) Funding for initiating our networks
- d) Guest speakers for WAML meetings
- e) Web site investment
- f) Travel for WAML officers to national meetings (previously authorized, but rarely claimed)
- g) Funding for incidental expenses (e.g. food) at our WAML meetings.

There was some level of support for each of these, but Weisberg asked for a vote and the priorities in order were: f (a confirmation of previous authorization), b, d, e, g, c, a.

### **WAML WEB site**

Karina Nielsen identified that we now have a WAML web site ([waml.naml.org](http://waml.naml.org)), which is an extension of the NAML web site. The upside of that model is that we don't have to pay for developing our own site from scratch, but it also limits our structure to one consistent with the NAML site. Karina went on to report that we have been able to populate the site with: a) a listing of the WAML members and their educational offering links, b) a map of the WAML members (showing the enormous footprint in the Pacific Ocean), c) pictures of the WAML laboratories, d) history of WAML (including bylaws, past presidents, etc.) and e) meeting information. She asked for help in developing the next set of content for the site. Weisberg volunteered to help flesh out some of the history.

### **NAML Education Committee Report**

Jan Hodder reported that NAML holds periodic phone meetings to discuss the progress in education. She indicated that they were planning to send out a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of STEM education at marine labs.

### **Election of WAML officers and Board members for 2016-2017**

Weisberg began the discussion by identifying that his term extended through the end of 2017, but there were several officer and Board roles that were open or in need of re-election.

President-elect: Billie Swalla was nominated and elected unanimously.

Treasurer: Bob Richmond agreed to continue in that role and was elected unanimously, though he would not accept the offered role of Treasurer-for-life.

Weisberg indicated that we had open slots for three WAML Board members-at-large. Nominally, they are three year rotations with the intent of only one member needing to be elected each meeting. However, with Neil Davies having completed his three-year term, Roberta Marinelli having departed her position as laboratory director and no election having been held at the last WAML meeting, there were openings for all three slots. Three individuals were nominated and elected unanimously: Brian Tissot, Dean Wendt, and Karina Nielsen.

Four WAML Board members also serve as Board members for NAML. The following four people agreed to serve in that capacity: Weisberg, Swalla, Tissot, and Wendt.

With an elected Board, Weisberg asked them to endorse use of the WAML treasury for two items that had been discussed earlier: a) Defray travel expenses (up to \$700 per person, unless a greater amount approved by the WAML President) for the

genomics committee, and b) Use of the treasury to pay for food at this meeting, rather than collecting for incidental expenses from attendees. The use of funds for both purposes was unanimously approved.