

**NOAA Science Advisory Board Teleconference
January 23, 2014**

Presentations for this meeting have been posted on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) website at: <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Meetings/meetings.html>

SAB members in attendance: Mr. Raymond Ban (Chair), Ban and Associates Consulting LLC; Dr. Eric Barron, President, Florida State University; Dr. Michael Donahue, Vice President, Water Resources and Environmental Services, URS Corporation; Dr. Robert Hicks, Professor, College of William and Mary; Dr. Peter Kareiva, Chief Scientist and Director of Science, The Nature Conservancy; Dr. David Lodge, Professor, University of Notre Dame; Dr. Molly Macauley, Vice President for Research and Senior Fellow, Resources for the Future; Ms. Jean May-Brett, STEM Partnership Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Education; Dr. Jerry Schubel, President and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific; Ms. Lynn Scarlett, Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy; Dr. Marshall Shepherd, Professor, Department of Geography & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Georgia; Dr. Robert Winokur, retired, NOAA and Navy; and Dr. Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist, Environmental Systems Research Institute

NOAA senior management and Line Office representatives in attendance: Dr. Kathy Sullivan Acting Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting NOAA Administrator; Dr. David Hermreck, Senior Programs Advisor, National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service; Dr. Paula Davidson, Office of Science and Technology, National Weather Service; Dr. Mary Ericson, National Ocean Service; Dr. Steven Fine, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research;

Staff for the Science Advisory Board in attendance: Dr. Cynthia J. Decker, Executive Director; Mary Anne Whitcomb and Jennifer Bosch

Call to Order

Ray Ban, Ban and Associates and Chair, SAB

Summary

Ray Ban welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. He noted the meeting agenda focused on new members and renewals for the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group and new members for the newest SAB working group, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group (RSPAWG). There is also time on the agenda for any updates from NOAA or Board members.

Proposed New Members and Renewal of Member Terms for the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG)

David Fluharty, University of Washington, and Co-Chair, ESMWG

Summary

David Fluharty reported on behalf of Jo-Ann Leong, Co-Chair, and the members of the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG). The purpose was to request approval of three new members and extension of terms for three existing members. He also reported the new areas for upcoming work by the ESMWG include ecosystem services valuation, continued work on fisheries and open ocean ecosystems, coastal ecosystem processes and climate adaptation and mitigation with respect to the Arctic. Based on those new issues, the ESMWG is proposing as new members: Steve Murawski for fisheries ecosystems, Linda Deegan for coastal ecosystem processes and Michael Castellini for climate change and adaptation. Member renewals include second terms for David Fluharty and Jackie Grebmeier as well as a six-month extension for Michael Beck to finish up the coastal habitat restoration work underway.

The ESMWG requested approval of new members and member term extensions.

Discussion

Jean May-Brett asked if the six-month extension for Michael Beck was after a second term and if that was permitted. She also wanted to know if the ESMWG will come back for a replacement for Dr. Beck at another meeting. Ray Ban stated there is an option for extension of a member's term for up to one year after the end of the second term and Cynthia Decker agreed. David Fluharty said there will be a request at a later meeting for a member to replace Mike Beck. Dr. Decker asked if there would be a request to replace Jake Rice at the same time as Mike Beck and Dr. Fluharty agreed that there would be such a request.

Molly Macauley asked if there are members with expertise in ecosystem services valuation on the working group. David Fluharty responded that current member Vic Adamowicz and recently-appointed member Robert Johnston have such expertise.

Jean May-Brett made a motion to approve new members and term renewal recommendations; Mike Donahue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action 1: The Science Advisory Board took several actions with respect to the membership of the Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG). It approved three proposed new members, approved second terms for two existing members, and extended the second term of one member for six months. The SAB will work with the SAB Office and ESMWG Chairs to notify these individuals.

Proposed Members for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group (RSPA WG)

Jean May-Brett, Louisiana STEM Partnership Coordinator and Member, RSPA WG Selection Committee

Richard Merrick, Chief Scientist, National Marine Fisheries Service

Summary

The purpose of the presentation is to review proposed candidates for the new RSPA WG. There are a number of outstanding candidates; 75% are from academia; 12% from industry; 10% from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and 3% from government. It was decided early in the process while government candidates would be included in the candidate pool, no NOAA candidates would be considered.

Richard Merrick added that he is no longer Chair of the NOAA Executive Oversight Board for the RESTORE Act Science Program; Steven Fine is the new Chair. There are three groups of members that will form the RSPA WG: group one is from Gulf Coast organizations, group two includes *ex-officio* representatives from funding organizations, and group three includes subject matter experts with outstanding credentials in science. It is the group three subject matter experts that are being proposed for approval at this meeting. Ms. May-Brett noted with the fifteen candidates proposed as subject matter experts and the members from groups one and two, the RSPA WG will total 26, a large group.

Discussion

Robert Winokur asked if the recommendation was to approve all 15 candidates or if the request is for the SAB to shorten the number of candidates on the list. Richard Merrick said the SAB is welcomed to provide advice on how to narrow down this number; the first step is to determine whether the SAB agrees that all the candidates are qualified. Lynn Scarlett said she thought all of the candidates were qualified but did not know that the SAB was expected to narrow down the number. Michael Donahue agreed that the list of people were well qualified; but had a concern that only a handful are located in the Gulf area. Jean May-Brett said one alternative is for the SAB to approve the 15 but allow the selection committee to reduce to a lower number as needed. Cynthia Decker said the slate of names is part of the public record and the plan was not to narrow down the group. She noted the SAB could agree there would be a larger group for a few years but could reduce the number as members' terms end. Michael Donahue asked if it was possible for some to be held for a second term. Robert Winokur asked if there could be staggered terms; Richard Merrick said the member terms would be staggered.

Ray Ban said the issue is the comfort of populating the working group with 26 members initially which was above what was outlined in the original target for the working group as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR). Having a larger number is not always a negative; everyone in the community is busy and there are often conflicts with meeting dates. If there is a comfort that the working group can be populated with 26 initial members, the SAB should move forward

Ray Ban asked the selection committee members for their thoughts. Richard Merrick had no problem with 15 subject matter experts on the working group; Jean May-Brett agreed.

A motion was made by Eric Barron to waive the TOR membership target number and approve subject matter expert group as presented. Jerry Schubel seconded the motion. Ray Ban said it makes sense to include members based on the need for their expertise. If effectiveness is the goal and these 15 individuals have the expertise required then they are needed for this group. The motion passed unanimously.

Jean May-Brett would like it noted that the selection committee appreciated Jennifer Bosch's work to support them; its work was made much easier due to her efforts. Jean May-Brett asked if the length of initial member terms is determined by the selection committee; Cynthia Decker said the committee does make this determination.

Ray Ban thanked the selection committee and said the SAB looked forward to the RSPA WG's work.

Action 2: The Science Advisory Board agreed to waive the number of subject matter experts (10-12) identified in the terms of reference for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group (RSPA WG). It approved a slate of fifteen members for this working group. The SAB will work with the SAB Office to notify these individuals

NOAA and Member Updates

Jerry Schubel said NOAA had not completed its internal review of the Ocean Exploration review report provided by the SAB and asked if there would be a NOAA response to that review by the next meeting. Cynthia Decker said that was the plan; it was originally due at the November meeting but was delayed due to government shutdown and other factors and will be presented at the April 2014 meeting. Dr. Schubel asked if there was any further information about the establishment of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board. Cynthia Decker said she heard that there was a slate of candidates for membership and once candidates approved then the Board can have first meeting. She does not know the time frame for these final steps. Jerry Schubel asked NOAA to provide these two updates to the Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group.

Action 3: The Science Advisory Board agreed the Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group should be given an update on the status of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board. The SAB Office will work with the OEAWG Liaison on this.

Richard Merrick said he sent an email to the SAB that Eileen Sobeck has been named as the new Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Eileen Sobeck will be attending the April SAB meeting and will have a chance to meet the SAB members at that time.

Marshall Shepherd said he wanted to thank NOAA for the approval of representatives from NOAA who will be attending the American Meteorological Society (AMS) meeting in the next week. Kathy Sullivan said NOAA was happy to be able to send staff; NOAA now has a final

2014 appropriation and the hard work in NOAA and Office of the Secretary resulted in being able to send a larger number of representatives to the AMS meeting.

Kathy Sullivan said there will be more discussion on budgets at the April SAB meeting. The 2014 appropriation is public; it is a bit less than the President's budget request but better than some of the Congressional marks and language that were under consideration. The Administration is completing the 2015 budget request that will be public by April meeting and there can be a discussion about the budget and trends. Dr. Sullivan is pleased about the appointment of Eileen Sobeck as Assistant Administrator of NOAA Fisheries. As of last week, Dr. Sullivan is still nominated for NOAA Administrator, with the nomination out of committee and navigating one senatorial hold.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Ray Ban reminded the SAB that the next meeting is an in-person meeting in Silver Spring on April 15-16; he hopes that the majority of SAB members will be attend the meeting as the members discuss how the SAB will evolve in the future.

Meeting Adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

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