



Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

Dauphin Island Sea Lab

2010 Fall Executive Committee Telephone Conference

September 13, 2010

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. G. Crozier, Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Mr. V. Gordon Moulton, Pres., University of South Alabama, Dr. Robert E. Witt, Pres., University of Alabama, Dr. William Cale, University of North Alabama, Dr. Jay Gogue, Auburn University

Dauphin Island Sea Lab Faculty and Staff: Dr. John Dindo, Dr. John Valentine, Dr. Tina Miller-Way, Mr. David England, Ms. Lori Angelo (recording)

The telephone conference began at 10:00am at which time a quorum was established through a brief roll call. Mr. Moulton welcomed the Executive Committee members and asked for any changes to the November 24, 2009 minutes. Dr. Jay Gogue (Auburn University) made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed, Dr. Witt (University of Alabama) seconded the motion, and minutes were approved. The floor was then open to DISL Executive Director, Dr. George Crozier.

Dr. Crozier began by thanking the committee for their time, and opened the meeting with discussion regarding the 2010 BP Deep Water Horizon oil spill (BPDWH), and subsequent BP Research Initiative Grant of 5M. Dr. Crozier yielded to Dr. John Valentine (DISL), to explain the allocation proceedings to the board. In his report, Dr. Valentine stated that the SEACOOS management model chosen to apportion funds among 22 member institutions was institutional based and provided by Russ Lea, Vice President for Research, University of South Alabama in addition to priorities set forth by BP in hopes that DISL's responsiveness will be recognized should future allocations become available. Dr. Valentine went on to explain in detail the process to invite research participants to the workshop held to initiate work plans by participating institutions. All submitted work plans will be forwarded to the advisory panel constructed by the Hart Institute by October 8, 2010. On October 19th an advisory panel evaluation will begin as required by BP. Dr. Valentine went on to explain that he would be reviewing Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER) guidelines to appropriate the funding of a \$50,000 grant provided by the National Science Foundation to investigators within the consortium member institutions. The \$15,000 allocations are intended to facilitate interest in young investigators throughout the 22 member institutions. Dr. Crozier stated that comments received regarding the overall process were favorable at which time; Dr. Crozier opened the floor for questions. Dr. Moulton's offered congratulatory remarks to Dr. Valentine.

Dr. Crozier continued by reporting on DISL DHP summer program and Estaurium attendance, which experienced cancellations and poor attendance due to the downward trend in tourism caused by the BP DWH oil spill.

Dr. Crozier prefaced the budget review discussion by explaining to the board the series of events that took place in April following the BPDWH oil spill in which Dr. Crozier made the decision to conduct baseline tissue and community samples from previous research sites in and around the Gulf of Mexico. Funding for the undertaking was provided by DISL with the anticipation of a BP reimbursement for expenses incurred. As instructed, a claim for reimbursement was presented to BP via the state of Alabama. Without a paid claim, the budget would experience a 100k deficit; a claim would then be submitted directly to BP. David England, (DISL) reported 350k in claims had been submitted to BP through the State of Alabama of which the initial 100K had been approved; the remainder is pending approval by BP. According to Dr. Crozier, currently, DISL is operating within budget and will continue to do so provided submitted claims are processed. As a result of the sampling effort, DISL has the most complete and largest data set in which to measure the impact of the spill of any institution in the Gulf Coast region. This has prompted a 5M grant funded by the Northern Gulf Institute (NGI), in which the initial work has begun. DISL will meet with NGI fellows in October 2010 to discuss the remainder 5M to be disbursed.

The discussion then turned to the recent difficulty in vessel/vessel operator challenges. Dr. Crozier stated that he is anticipating additional requests as BP grant driven projects are approved and funded for member schools. DISL will examine options available to alleviate lack of vessels.

Dr. Crozier reported on the DISL Mesocosom facility, a project funded by a grant from Senator Richard C. Shelly and constructed in house by DISL. Now in its final phase, tanks will be tested later this week in preparation of becoming fully operational. Dr. Dindo commented on his visit with Senator Richard Shelby at DISL this past week. When asked by the Senator how could he be of service to the MESC/DISL for the remainder of 2010 and 2011, Dr. Dindo responded by stating that Sen. Shelby and others in the senate could become as strong a collation for the gulf states as the states who border the Chesapeake Bay . With BPDWH spill thrusting the northern gulf in the forefront, regional support rather than state by state money generated by appropriations could be used by the Gulf States. Another meeting was scheduled with Sen. Shelby on September 22nd to discuss the issue further.

Moving to agenda action items; Dr. Crozier inquired about a letter from the Alabama Agriculture and Mechanical University (Alabama A & M) requesting entry into the MESC to Executive Board Chairman, President Gordon Moulton, (USA). President Moulton stated that he had not received the letter and suggested that Dr. Crozier draft a letter of invitation from his (Mr. Moulton's), office outlining the MESC membership process. As a matter of board approval, Dr. Witt (UA), moved to proceed with the invitation and approval pending the satisfaction of enrollment terms, Dr. Gogue (AU) seconded the motion.

Mr. Moulton asked Dr. Crozier his thoughts on being awarded the future BP grant money to be distributed. Dr. Crozier explained that by fostering a relationship with the 22 member institutions as a result of the previous workshops, the consortium would be in a better position as a collective group rather than individuals to secure future funding. Dr. Crozier then asked the board to approve the distribution of grant money through the administrative protocol suggested by the SEACOOS Model, of distributing funds quarterly after submitting an invoice accompanied by a progress report. Dr. Crozier

explained that by further demonstrating the management of the 5M in grant money for the purpose of research using the SEACOOS model, the MESC/DISL Consortium would position itself to be a likely candidate to manage and disburse the remainder of the BP funding allocated to the Gulf region.

Dr. Cale (UNA) asked if the member schools principal investigators understood what was reimbursable, to which Dr. Valentine (DISL) replied "Total direct cost and an administrative fee (15%). At that time, Dr. Valentine stressed that there would be no cost extensions associated with the grant money; deadline for final reports would be 12/21/2011. At that, Mr. Moulton called for a motion to approve the administrative protocol, Dr. Witt (UA) motioned, Dr. Cale (UNA), seconded, the motion was approved.

The last action item to be discussed was the approval of the previously submitted FY11 budget. A conversation concerning proration and contingency was discussed. Mr. David England (DISL), explained that the DISL FY2010 budget included a contingency plan based on 10% reduction in revenue and that the same allowances had been included in the FY2011 budget. President Moulton (USA), moved to accept the budget provided there were no increases from FY2010, the motion was made to approve by Dr. Gogue (AU), seconded by Dr. Witt (UA) and approved.

In Closing, Dr. Crozier addressed the board on the subject of his resignation as Executive Director of DISL effective, September of 2011. Dr. Crozier stated that he thought the selection process would need to start in the fall. Dr. Crozier also retracted his previous statement to the board that he would not recommend an internal candidate be considered. Dr. Crozier then asked to be excused from the board discussion concerning the search and proceedings and welcomed the board to continue with the teleconference disconnected from DISL.

President Moulton (USA), then asked the remaining board members to remain on the conference call and thanked everyone for their participation. The conference ended.

Respectfully Submitted; Lori Angelo

Approved :

Date

Dr. George Crozier, Executive Director