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Subject: minutes 11/08/02

Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

Minutes of Meeting

November 8, 2002

University of Massachusetts, Boston

Present:

Jerry Pesch United States Environmental Protection Agency

Peter Auster University of Connecticut, Avery Point

Linda Mercer Department of Marine Resources, State of Maine

Jeffrey Runge University of New Hampshire

Kevin Friedland National Marine Fisheries Service

Bruce Tripp Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Gordon Wallace University of Massachusetts, Boston

David Keeley Maine State Planning Office

Marilyn ten Brink United States Geological Survey

Jefferson Turner University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Jerry Pesch, with Jerry keeping the minutes. The meeting was hosted by Gordon Wallace.

Highlights of Activities at Member Institutions

J. Pesch opened the meeting asking the representatives to introduce themselves and report recent news from their institutions.

RARGOM Status Report

Gordon Wallace reported on the status of moving RARGOM from Dartmouth to the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Office space has been arranged and all the files have been moved. The remaining funds (about \$7K) are being transferred. The web page and server support are down. (See discussion under web page). The Board voted to support UMass, Boston as the new home for the next year to provide a sense of stability so Gordon can proceed with getting RARGOM back online. Billing will be sent from UMass, Boston as soon as a business plan is in place. To be finalized at the next Board meeting, January 16, 2003 to be hosted by Jeff Runge, University of New Hampshire.

RARGOM in Transition

Role: Over the last two years there has been much discussion about RARGOM's role in supporting regional research in the Gulf of Maine. During this time RARGOM has operated at a financial deficit. This heightened the need to revisit this issue. Genie Braasch's resignation last spring as Executive Director brought the issue to a critical status. To start discussion, Jerry Pesch read a suggested focus for RARGOM sent by Lew Incze. A Maybe it should become a well-organized issues and leaders council that brings grantors, Sea Grant directors, agency leaders together once a year to identify, deliberate issues of funding, coordination, research pushes. The reps could meet once or twice per year to discuss news/set the agenda (a think tank). A compensated chair (one month) and a travel and communications budget, a minimal web page directed at mission with links that don't need too much servicing, small assistant budget, no executive director. Dues could be reduced substantially. Some will be disappointed at this suggestion, but I think the above is DOABLE and USEFUL . . . two important criteria. @

Lew's suggestion was well received. It was agreed that RARGOM would function as a regional forum for discussion of science issues and themes. It would support a network of the science community, funding agencies, and managers. An annual meeting would be science-based, interdisciplinary, and theme/issue centered. At least one RARGOM Board meeting would be held to organize this meeting and set an agenda. A steering committee would run the meeting. This annual meeting will be open, with invitations sent to universities, state/province and federal agencies, and ngo/community groups.

In addition to the above Annual Science Forum meeting and the RARGOM Board meeting to organize it, there is an interest in additional RARGOM Board meetings that would be science/theme based, rotate amongst member sites, and be openly advertised so as to draw broad participation by faculty/staff/students of member institutions. It was agreed to try this idea with at least one such meeting per year.

Business Plan: RARGOM finances are dues based. Before we set the dues for this year, we need to estimate the cost of supporting the A new @ RARGOM. Functions identified for support include:

Chair (currently \$7K)

Web Site support

Staff Assistance

Travel/Honoraria

Annual Meeting Budget (seed money)

Annual membership dues will be based on the bottom-line needs of the above business plan. (See appended suggestion from David Keeley.)

Web Page: Gordon Wallace and Bruce Tripp will work together to get the RARGOM home page back online and updated to 2002. The web page will be hosted by UMass, Boston. The residual RARGOM funds from Dartmouth will be used to get this work started. Suggestions for the web page should be sent to Gordon.

Regional Marine Research Plan: Marilyn ten Brink volunteered to coordinate completion of an updated draft RMRP. Marilyn will consult with Bruce Tripp. Bruce has a scanned copy of the original RMRP. Jerry Pesch will forward to Marilyn the contributed sections received to date.

RARGOM Leadership: Bruce Tripp volunteered to serve as lead for nominations for a new RARGOM Chairperson. The current term of office for Chair is two years. Jerry Pesch has served since June of 2000. He has agreed to continue until the RARGOM Board meeting on Jan 16, 2003. Please submit names in nomination to Bruce.

Next RARGOM Board Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 16, 2003. To be hosted by Jeff Runge at the University of New Hampshire or at an off campus site in Portsmouth, NH. Agenda will be to continue discussions of RARGOM and initiate new plans.

Addendum:

from David Keeley

In terms of the budget I'd suggest:

Chair - \$5,000 (need to clarify expectations before we settle on a

number)

Staff -- \$ 1,500 (@ \$15/hr x 8 hrs/month x 12 months)

Web -- \$ 1,200 (\$25/hr x 4 hrs/month x 12 months) plus UMASS ISP charge

Travel -- \$5,000

Annual Meeting seed funds \$10,000

We can do this all for \$25,000 which would mean cutting the dues in half.

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