

Minutes -- Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

UMass Boston, 4 December 1992

Present:

Eric Adams	MIT
Peter Auster	Nat'l Undersea Resch Center-Avery Point
Ivar Babb	Nat'l Undersea Resch Center-Avery Point
Marilyn Buchholtz ten Brink	USGS-Woods Hole
Michelle Dionne	Wells Reserve
Norm Doelling	MIT
Duncan Fitzgerald	BU
Joseph Larson	UMass/Amherst
Gregory Lough	NMFS-Woods Hole
Daniel Lynch	Dartmouth
Larry Mayer	UMaine
David Stevenson	Maine Dept. Natural Resources
Bruce Tripp	WHOI
Page Valentine	USGS
Bob Wall	Maine Sea Grant College Program
Gordon Wallace	UMass-Boston

The Meeting was called to order by Gordon Wallace at 10:00 AM, with Dan Lynch keeping the minutes.

Old Business

The minutes of the 13 Nov. '92 meeting (UNH) were approved, with the following clarification: that the four workshop themes mentioned therein were not meant to be exclusive.

The budget options introduced at the 13 Nov. '92 meeting (contained in the minutes therefrom) were reintroduced. The 'Bare Bones Workshops' option -- in which dues would partially underwrite the cost of workshops -- was not popular. There was a consensus that workshops should be self-supporting on an individual basis. Discussion of the alternative 'No Workshops' budget centered on the need for and role of the Associate Director, accounting procedures, and fringe benefit rates. Concern was voiced that a workplan should accompany the budget. The need to commit to a 12-month budget and workplan was agreed upon. It was moved (Wallace) and seconded (Tripp) that the 'No Workshops' option be adopted, as follows:

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	
Exec. Dir.	10K
Assoc. Dir.	20K
Travel (20 days)	2K
Office supplies, mail etc.	4K

Total Direct	36K
O/H (10%)	4K

Total Annual Budget	40K

Of the 9 Members present, the vote was 8 in favor, 1 opposed.

It was moved (Wallace) and seconded (Adams) that the Executive Director prepare a Workplan covering the next 12 months. The Members' vote was 9 in favor, none opposed. D. Lynch indicated that such would be mailed shortly along with a dues invoice.

New Business

D. Lynch reported on the 3 Dec. '92 meeting of the CME Working Group. He and Larry Mayer attended representing the Association, and Bob Wall representing the RMRP Board, at the invitation of David Keeley, for a discussion of the draft 3-way Cooperative Agreement (attached). The Working Group is generally very supportive of this agreement and is interested in using the Association more in the coming year. A memo from David Keeley (6 Dec. '92) is attached which summarizes the discussion.

The draft Agreement (attached) was discussed by the Association and comments solicited prior to the 14 Dec. meeting of the RMRP Board, where it will be discussed further. D. Lynch will attend that meeting.

The discussion turned to the Workshop series. Marilyn Buchholtz tenBrink distributed a prospectus (attached) for a Data/Information Systems workshop, as a joint effort with Wendell Brown and Donald Phelps (EPA). There was general support for this workshop. Comments should be sent to Marilyn.

Dan Lynch distributed a prospectus for a Modeling workshop. Some present felt that combining circulation modeling and ecosystem modeling was not a good idea. There was also a discussion of workshop goal -- public outreach versus detailed working session among modelers. There appears to be a need for both. Comment should be sent to Dan.

There is consensus that individual workshops will be championed by individual members, but that the Association will be responsible for preparation and publication of the series.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:00 Noon. Dan Lynch departed and Gordon Wallis recorded the minutes after lunch.

Dave Stevenson distributed and presented a proposal (attached) for a habitat workshop and requested further input. There was some discussion regarding the definition of habitat for purposes of the workshop, especially with respect to which habitats were being addressed. Bob Wall suggested the workshop be more specific regarding the Board's interests, especially with respect to integration with the Board's interest in ecosystem modeling and the approach used to achieve such integration.

It was suggested that proposers of workshops might wish to solicit guidance from the Board in the form of a written inquiry.

Bruce Tripp distributed and presented a description (attached) of a workshop to deal with synthesizing economic and scientific information needs. Comments should be sent to Bruce regarding this workshop.

Discussion of the RFP process for the recent round of proposals for the GOM program was initiated with the concern that the proposals funded represented a broader spectrum of research than the RFP indicated would be entertained. While this perspective was not unanimously enjoyed by all attending, the Board was urged to provide a more definitive statement in the next RFP with respect to the nature and scope of the proposals to be considered.

The rationale for using the existing funded proposals as a "core" upon which future research efforts should be built on was discussed. Limited funding, the need to develop a clear identity of the GOM Program in legislative eyes (to encourage continued funding in the future), and the need to provide a cohesive integrated approach in investigating the GOM ecosystem were stated as the prime criteria. Other areas of research will be funded but to a more limited extent.

In view of the Board's interest in ecosystem level modelling, conduct of a workshop focusing on that topic will most likely be given high priority by the Board and should be held within the next two years.

Bob Wall suggested that a letter from the Association affirming direction of the plan would be useful to the Board. In subsequent discussion it was decided that discussion of any mid-course corrections in the plan be an agenda topic of the next meeting. Such a discussion would in part be based on information provided to the Association members by the Board. Brief written descriptions of the nature and scope of the funded proposals (abstracts or otherwise) would be provided by the Board. One of the topics of discussion will center on how the funded proposals (and the knowledge gained from them) might influence and/or change the nature of future research efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel R. Lynch
10 January 1992

Attachments:

Memo from D. Keeley, 6 Dec. 1992
Draft 3-way Cooperative Agreement
Draft Workshop Prospectus:
 Data/Info Systems
 Modeling
 Habitat
 Resource Economics