

SAML Business Meeting Minutes 2003

Secretary's Report:

Received report submitted by Steve Jordan and as revised by the SAML board. Jim moved to accept, and Wes 2nd, accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report:

Report submitted by Kumar Mahadevan; cash balance of \$63,737.75. Report approved.

Nominating Committee:

Committee requested nominees; three positions open, board member at large, secretary, president-elect.

- Sylvia Galloway temporarily volunteered to assume secretary.
- Lou Burnett was nominated by Bob Van Dolah for Board Member at Large; Checked on issue of quorum and resolved that the quorum was met, greater than 1/3 of membership. Open floor for nominations for bmal...no other nominations, 2nd by George, nomination by acclamation. Secretary nominations from the floor, Sylvia nominated and seconded, and approved. President-elect, nomination of Mike Orbach by Jim Sanders, 2nd by Kumar Mahadevan, elected by acclamation.

Membership:

Gaining new members, and have lost a couple. New members: SE Environmental Research Center and the Smithsonian Marine Station. Motion to accept by George and 2nd by Wes T. Lost Labs: U of Tx Mar Sci Instit; Tx Parks; Tx Marine lab at Seabrook; several NMFS labs SEFSC.

President's report:

1. SAML handbook and brochure are available.
2. SAML members responsibility to change their information on the NAML website.
3. Bob reviewed the action items list attached to the Secretary's report.
 - List of delinquent labs; Bob sent letter to labs indicating that they would be dropped; will remove labs if dues are not paid up to date by June. NMFS SEFSC labs may remain under the umbrella of the Center SAML membership; some individual labs may participate individually.
 - Update Business and Financial Admin. Info on the NAML website: can edit all information related to business manager and educator etc. Jim S. volunteered to remind all SAML members to update their information via the NAML webpage; he will update the access database also.
 - Several items were completed and are listed at the end of the Secretary's report.

President-Elect's report:

Will be checking on the database information. NAML meeting will be in our region. Jim is interested to see if the membership is still interested in keeping one meeting with NAML and one meeting in the spring.

Meeting Updates:

SAML 2004 spring meeting site is confirmed to be at Galveston, NMFS Laboratory.

SAML 2005 spring meeting not identified yet.

NAML fall meeting Oct 15-17, 2003.

NAML Meeting report, Madilyn Fletcher

Annual board meeting was in March in Washington DC. The board meeting was in the morning and the national staffers meeting was in the afternoon; trying to reinforce image as honest broker of marine information; dynamic forum presented (organized by Margaret Davidson) theme, coastal ocean observations; series of speakers including organizational and research aspects, as well as users of the data and economic impacts. Check the NAML website for the PowerPoint presentations. Only 8 staffers showed. Joined with other coastal state organizations for the reception, so NAML didn't get much visibility. Next morning a joint forum with other coastal organizations...NAML not really included in the planning for this, but in the end served to represent marine science in the working groups. NAML business meeting discussed what they needed to do to make an impact; question of lobbying led to consensus on the need for funding for infrastructure; decided that maybe rather than a direct approach, put emphasis on other activities/programs that build infrastructure pushing for enhancement in the marine arena. In debriefing discussion, they decided to take an immediate action by making the NAML website searchable and to identify hot-topics that could be listed on the NAML webpage and link to appropriate laboratories within NAML.

NAML Discussion: Staffers are most interested in their own delegation and highly focused presentations are desirable; might want to return to evening receptions for garnering more interest across the board. Need to have issues to focus on that all members can relate to.

SAML meeting time discussion: weekends vs. weekdays; keep the experiment of weekdays for next meeting. Early April works best for Roger Zimmerman.

SAML meeting attendance discussion: Bob asked how can we improve the percentage of attendees; is there anything we can do to help defray costs for some? Kumar doesn't believe the cost is an issue, rather conflicting schedules. He suggested that SAML request that a representative for the director attend these meetings. Roger suggested that hot-topics need to be focused on, things that are important to the Labs. Suggestion that some of the Congressional committee members could present interesting information on new legislation. Developing a plan to implement Ocean Policy as it affects the Laboratories...i.e. respond to the US Comm recommendations, suggesting how implementation may be made, especially as it impacts the SAML member laboratories.

New Business:

The question of how to spend some of the SAML funds to enhance SAML activities will be discussed further during wrap-up.

Kumar Motion, as incentive to attract membership attendance provide free housing for attending directors at the next SAML meeting, 2nd Dan Baden; motion approved by acclamation. [Sidebar: there will be no registration fee.]