

**Southern Association of Marine Laboratories**  
**Minutes Spring Meeting 2012**  
**Florida Gulf Coast University**  
**Host: Aswani Voley**  
**Dates: 10-11 May 2012**

SAML members present:

Nancy Rabalais, LUMCON, Joe Boyer FIU, Wes Tunnel Harte Res Inst, Erick Lacy Medical University of South Carolina, Marine Biomedicine and Environmental Sciences, Sue Ebanks Savannah St Univ, Sandra Gilchrist New College, Gil McRae FWRI, Jeff Lotts GCRL, Eric Milbrandt Sannibel-Captiva Foundation, Jim Morris USC Belle Baruch, Bob Poldosky College of Charleston Grice Marine Lab, Jyotika Virmani FIO, Lou Burnett Grice Marine Lab, Shirley Pomponi FAU HBOI, Quinton White Jacksonville Univ, Jim Sanders Skidaway, Ray Highsmith UM, Kumar Mahadevan Mote ML, Aswani Voley FGCU, Mike Parsons FGCU, Dave Eggleston NC State Univ.

**SAML Laboratory Updates**

**SAML/NAML Issue I: Building a better website** N. Rabalais et al.

The need for NAML and SAML websites is obvious to SAML. N Rabalais as President of SAML and President Elect of NAML and L Burnett President Elect of SAML began the initiative to improve both. One option is to have our own communications and web site. There are advantages to improved web sites for both organizations. The NAML should link to SAML, but SAML should be responsible for SAML content.

The majority of NAML dues now go to governmental affairs, which is a valuable service. Alan Kurizian NAML Treasurer is unable to get the help of MBL as needed to maintain the NAML website and list of organizations. We recommended to NAML that a private firm is necessary to manage the NAML site. Maintaining the site for SAML is our business. We need to ask NAML to take lead for standardized format. SAML willing to help with initial setup finances. SAML will develop its own site and maintain it.

**Action Item:** N Rabalais and L Burnett to approach NAML with the need to improve the NAML web site and to provide options. DONE

**Action Item:** Dave Eggleston will acquire a SAML web site URL. DONE

**Action Item:** Lou Burnett will seek input from SAML members as to what is needed on the SAML web site and contact a consulting firm to help in this venture. L. Burnett is committed to making the transition of the NAML treasury and web site to the consulting firm that is chosen. IN PROGRESS

**Approval of Minutes of Spring 2011 Business Meeting.** Sylvia Galloway provided these minutes prior to the Spring 2012 meeting. APPROVED by consensus.

### **Treasurer's Report, Kumar Mahadevan**

The treasury and books will be forwarded to Dave Eggleston, new Treasurer. Thanks to Kumar and Donna for long-time support of SAML finances.

**Action Item:** Dave Eggleston will ask Donna to provide a 5-year summary of finances for the ad hoc finance committee and for budget development. DONE

**Action Item:** Lou Burnett will develop a budget with the help of the Executive Committee, Bob Van Dolah, Rick Devoe and Dave Eggleston. DONE

**Action Item:** Kumar Treasurer's report by Donna. First page is 2011 calendar year. To April 12 is second to date. Audit committee has approved with signature. Jim Sanders and Audit Committee (incl. Awani Voley and Quinton White) find expenses and revenue are about equal; the books look clean, and signed off. Signed report goes to Treasurer. Treasurer's Report and Audit Report APPROVED by consensus.

**Nominating Committee report** (composed of Shirley Pomponi, Lou Burnett and Jim Morris). Need 2013-2015 (replacement for Jim Morris) and 2013-2014 (to fill Joe Boyer vacancy). Nominees are 3-yr term Aswani Voley, 2-yr, John Rummel. No further nominees from floor. APPROVED by consensus.

**Future meeting locations:** Spring 2013 Atlantic Coast, and Spring 2014 Gulf coast venue. Members present approved a proposal from Quinton White to host the Spring 2013 meeting at Jacksonville University.

The potential for a Florida Keys meeting in Spring 2014 was discussed. There are several options with multiple labs involved, including FIO, FL Wildlife Fisheries, Mote's Keys Marine Lab, NOAA. Flying in to Key West is reasonable and there are labs associated with Mote Marine Lab and NOAA Sanctuaries.

Jim Sanders will follow up with John Wells VIMS and Roger Harvey ODU for a potential Spring 2014 meeting back on the Atlantic coast.

An additional Gulf coast venue is New Orleans with a field trip to LUMCON in Cocodrie, LA, possibly freshwater diversions, Jean Lafitte Historical Park, boat trips into the marsh.

### **Other Meeting Updates**

Plans for NAML winter 2013 meeting in Washington DC were presented by N. Rabalais. The Oldacker Group is instrumental in setting the agenda, which is focused on Public Policy

### **New Business**

**Recognition of service to SAML:** Wes Tunnell has been nominated for NAML Emeritus member; Kumar Mahadevan Mote Marine Lab and Matt Gilligan Savannah State University are retiring and stepping down as SAML representatives.

**Why not greater participation** in our annual meetings. Great experience, good networking. Come to NAML meetings but not SAML meetings. How we can better engage our membership. How make relevant to our members. Reach out to those not actively engaged. Exec Comm can take this on to make sure all delegates have an alternate. Shirley and Lou and Nancy will update.

**Associate Membership:** Some do not want to join NAML, restricted funds. Other Associates are federal labs. S Pomponi suggested a plan was necessary for engaging our inactive and would initiate. ONGOING

SAML/NAML Issue II: **FSML Workshop: Outcomes** Jim Sanders (lead) with A. Volety & S. Ebanks

External Issue I: **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Consortium Projects**

C-IMAGE (USF, Steve Murawski, PI) Effects of Macondo Oil Spill on Coastal Ecosystems  
(LUMCON, Nancy Rabalais, PI) Ecosystem Impacts of Oil and Gas Inputs to the Gulf  
(UMiss/NIUST, Ray Highsmith, PI)

External Issue II: **Restoration Policy, Planning, & Implementation**

NRDA plans related to the Macondo Oil Spill

- Gil McRae, Director, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Everglades  
Restoration

- Mike Parsons, FGCU, Coastal Watershed Institute

Prepared from notes of S. Pomponi and N. Rabalais in absence of Secretary, Sylvia Galloway.