

FIO Council Meeting  
Minutes: February 10, 2014  
Hilton, St. Petersburg, Florida

Chair: Wade Jeffrey

Attending Council Members: In person: See Roll Call (attached)

By Phone: Mary Erickson, Shelby Walker NOAA, Richard Dodge

Audience: See Roll Call (attached)

**1. Welcome to FIO Meeting and Council Introductions: Chair Jeffrey & Provost Wilcox:**

- a. Call to order: 9:08 am by Chair Wade Jeffrey. Some new faces at the table, so brief introductions around the table. Chair Jeffrey recognizes Eric Eisenberg as the replacement for Karen Holbrook. Eric Eisenberg is the host representative on the FIO Council. Linea Boheme was also recognized as the replacement for John Chapin. Chair Jeffrey recognized Dick Dodge on the phone.
- b. Floor was given to Provost Wilcox for welcoming remarks: Ralph Wilcox thanked Jyotika for her service while at FIO. Wilcox reminded us that like other units, FIO also faces economic and higher education challenges in the State of Florida. We all need to tell the FIO story to others and focus on underscoring the stakeholders. Opportunities are opening up as we see changes in our legislature, such as the LBR in the legislature to replace the R/V Bellows.

**2. Action Items: Chair Jeffrey:**

**a. Approval of February 10, 2014 Agenda:**

Chair Jeffrey asked for approval of agenda. Shirley Pomponi moved to approve—Jackie Dixon seconded. All ayes. Agenda was approved 2/14/14.

**b. Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2013 meeting at FIT**

Chair Jeffrey asked if there are any discussions on the minutes. Heather Judkins was recognized and advised that she needed to be recognized in the minutes, she was in attendance, but by phone for the meeting. Cam Ngo will add Heather Judkins to the minutes and send out updated minutes. Chair Jeffrey asked approval of August minutes. Courtney Hackney moved to approve—Shirley Pomponi seconded. All ayes. Minutes were approved 2/10/14.

**3. FIO Update: FIO Director, William Hogarth:**

Before the FIO update, Bill advised the council between 9:30-10am, Mary Erickson and Shelby Walker will be calling in from NOAA to provide an update on the RESTORE Act. Kevin Claridge and Gil McRae is also available to answer questions from the State perspective.

**a. General update:**

**i. Board of Visitors Update**

Jeffrey, Hogarth, Wilcox and Board of Visitors (BOV) Evelyn Fields, Larry McKinney, Dennis Nixon met at the Keys Marine Lab, February 7, 2014. This was a follow up to the November 19, 2013 meeting. BOV members were advised of the current \$6 million Legislative Budget Request (LBR)

for replacement of the R/V Bellows. BOV was glad to hear of some progress to address the initial concerns (see letter to BOV-Nov. 19, 2013).

Further discussions led to ways how FIO can “tell the story” and possibly strategies to seek external funding (i.e. Friends of Oceanography). Shirley Pomponi asked what the BOV envisioned/plan were for a “FIO Science/Education position?” Bill Hogarth mentioned this position would possibly be part of FIO as the Center of Excellence, but is still to be evaluated as we have not seen the Treasury Regs.

George Maul asked what’s the definition of “small boat program for FIO” Bill Hogarth advised George Maul that it was the safety and liability policies/aspects of the vessels at KML that the BOV wanted FIO to ensure we’re in compliance.

Mike Crosby, there are small fleet across the member institutions or is currently being operated: Should FIO be in the business to operate small boats? Could it save on costs? What would the costs be?

Bill Hogarth: Each organization should have their own policies in place. The “small boat program” is targeting only KML vessels. He reiterates that the BOV wanted to make sure the staff at KML operating the vessels are meeting the compliance protocols and are covered. This program doesn’t mean we take on the entire FIO member institution fleet.

George Maul asks what considerations have there been for an east coast vessel? Bill Hogarth, there are currently no considerations but we are considering staggering the schedules. Chair Jeffrey chimes in: There has not been many request and demand for east coast vessel. Currently it is not economically viable. No one is opposed to the idea but there’s no organizational coalition on the east coast yet. Jennifer Cherrier and Chair Jeffrey mentioned FIO management would need to review and consider logistical expenses (docking fees and etc.) and should be figured into the daily operations.

Darren Rumbold commented that making vessels available for tours is a great idea-especially a Bellows Farewell. Chair Jeffrey also agrees that public tours will benefit FIO greatly and suggests that FIO needs a better way to keep track of data for vessel usage.

Bill Hogarth has been trying to get Workforce Florida representative and is looking at a Florida Tourism person, who understands Florida. Chair Jeffrey-if any council members know of any names, please send an email to Bill Hogarth.

Mike Crosby: Workshops on AUVs? Bill Hogarth suggests that FIO holds workshops on AUV’s and on other topics as well, hope to get something going this Fall as well.

Provost Wilcox: Point here is FIO must be more than 2 vessels and Keys Marine Lab (KML). Mike Crosby volunteered some of his staff to help with the workshops. Ian MacDonald commented the lack of the ROVs is critical to the Gulf but is against FIO purchasing an ROV and operating it.

## ii. Personnel

Bill Hogarth: Nancy Thompson officially retired from NOAA and is now on FIO's payroll. She keeps her same schedule. Chief Engineer on the Weatherbird II is still vacant-having some difficulties recruiting for this type of position. BOV agrees that this is a very difficult position to recruit for. We are looking at a Vessels Services Coordinator for the port support. This is currently in central Tampa HR for review.

**iii. Budget**

FIO's still operating in the black. However we still need more days to continue on this trend.

**iv. FIO Vessels:**

Both vessels were in the shipyard this January 2014. FIO hired a naval architect to review the Weatherbird engines. We expect replacement of the engines to take place in early July. We are also surveying the Bellows and keeping a closer eye on the vessel.

**v. Subsidized Ship Days**

FY 13/14 Awarded 47 SUS days to 7 different institutions. All SUS days were on the R/V Bellows. Reminder that the FY 14/15 RFP for SUS days for consideration is due February 28, 2014.

**vi. RESTORE Act**

NOAA's Mary Erickson and Shelby Walker presented an update on the RESTORE Act from the Federal perspective. (See presentation in appendix) Discussions: Ian MacDonald, is there a balance between coast and ocean systems? Is there an intent to cover both areas? Shelby Walker: There are geographical bounds. NOAA can go out to international waters. There is no hard balance between coastal and ocean. They are open to feedback on both. George Maul: Interested in estuaries and collaborations on national estuaries. Shelby Walker: They are open to anyone who applies to the program and encourages collaborations. Michael Crosby: Advisory body? How does that integrate with the existing Advisory Board? Of the total funds available, is there an approximate percentage that will be used extramural verses internal? Shelby Walker: Advisory subset of the current board will work directly with the group. All the funds will be part of a competitive, peer review process. They are once again encouraging collaborations.

State's perspective: Kevin Claridge- They are continuing to work with counties to organize projects submitted online and cleaning up the data. There is a lot of focus on bucket 2, they've been working with the council on project planning. Gil McRae-Kevin Claridge made a good point, the council is putting the framework together to assess the 'buckets' under the RESTORE Act to avoid duplications. NFWF first round of funding has been agreed up on and proposals are available on their website. NAS has also been funded and are holding public meetings to receive comments on funding projects.

**b. Legislative Updates:**

**i. Legislative Budget request:**

There is a total of \$2 million dollars requested. \$1.5M non-recurring to upgrade existing infrastructure at KML, purchase advanced scientific equipment, upgrade safety equipment for vessels, and a \$500,000 recurring to increase available subsidized shiptime (days on WBII), study aboard Florida summer/winter courses and other marine education programs.

**ii. R/V Bellows Replacement Process**

The Board of Governors (BOG) approved our request for \$6 million dollars to replace the R/V Bellows.

**iii. Oceans Day is April 9, 2015**

- Rob is helping with the coordination, so please get with Rob if you have any questions.

FIO, Mote will host SAML at the KML, May 21-23, 2014

**iv. GRI update:**

Bill Hogarth provided a brief update on the GRI. RFP-LOI's have gone out. RFP II will be coming out soon. Individual PI's RFP is expected to be announced in October timeframe. GoMRI will fund the four Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant college programs to conduct outreach and education. Blue Ocean film festival will be coming to the St. Pete area in November 2014.

RESTORE Act: Shirley Pomponi asked about status of the establishment of FIO as the Center of Excellence. Bill Hogarth replied that he's been informed that "he'll be happy" and the confusions have been ironed out.

**c. White Paper discussions:**

**i. Aquaculture:**

Bill Hogarth presented Don Kent's memorandum to the council on his ideas white paper on Aquaculture. Don Kent and Kevan Main have been in conversation about the white paper but no product is available. Don Kent was not present at council meeting due to prior commitments but hopes to have a draft by the next council meeting.

**ii. Surface Runoff:**

Presentation by Jennifer Cherrier. Discussed what the focus of the white paper should be. Darren Rumbold-should the paper consider what happens when the runoff water hits the "tides"? George Maul-what about land use practices? Chair Jeffrey-As an FIO product, this paper should frame the discussions from an oceanographic perspective. Ian MacDonald suggests maybe a different "title" for this white paper. Shirley Pomponi-maybe this should be a workshop? What's the end goal, some recommendations should be made to move forward with these white papers so that it captures the correct audience. Bill Hogarth, would like to look at some sort of online publication for FIO that would include these white papers. Provost Wilcox-the role of good science is having publication responsibilities, is good science being conducted and are we utilizing the public policy responsibly? Richard Stevens noted it's good for FIO as long

as FIO can stay neutral. Shirley Pomponi mentioned Consortium for Ocean Leadership's (COL) vision is something FIO should look at, as the organization has a strong advocacy on the ocean's issues. Not sure if FIO should be inspired to be like "COL" a knowledge portal for everyone to go to. Gil McRae: There's also a Florida Ocean Coastal Council (FOCC) which exists but is not funded. It seems to be a bigger issue and that we should do some administrative due diligence before moving forward. Courtney Hackney: FIO has so many experts and we should be able to create a white paper pretty quickly. If legislature asks, we should be able to produce, maybe use this as a tool to educate our legislature. George Maul: Is this in other AISOs? Provost Wilcox: the only other AISO is UF-the Press; Richard Stevens: Not all AISO's are established the same way. They had to establish their own mission. Richard Stevens's re-emphasis that FIO should stay neutral and objective. Bill Hogarth, suggests that we take review topics that concerns Florida and go from there. Gil McRae motion to move and create the white papers and see what happens. Mike Crosby, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. There's an interest to start draft of the papers and bring back to council for review. 1 –abstains (G.Maul), 1 opposed (I.MacDonald). There was clarification: This motion applies to both papers in discussions.

**d. Standing Committee Appointments:**

No appointment records on all current committee. Current members will remain appointed for another year. We will record the appointments dates as of this meeting. Graham motioned to do a blanket nomination.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Executive Committee</li> <li>ii. Ship Advisory</li> <li>iii. Nominating</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. New Members</li> <li>v. By-Laws</li> <li>vi. Education</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**Executive:** Jackie Dixon replaces Karen Holbrook as the Host representative on the Executive Committee.

**Ship Advisory:** Gil McRae steps down and is replaced by Richard Snyder.

**New Members:** Nothing to report.

**By-Laws:** Bill Hogarth noted that the By-laws committee needs to review paragraphs in the Standing Committees and Workgroups section V of the By-laws.

Gil McRae-Motion moved to recommend to the full committee what the implications of the paragraph and get back to the full council what the impacts are in our business.

Discussions: Jennifer Cherrier-the president should be the one to appoint the committee member.

Provost Wilcox: Nominations should go back to the president for appointments. Roughly 6 years the president has to appoint or reappoint member to the FIO council. Courtney Hackney: At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year-we should ask for nominations. Gil McRae: Amend motion: By-laws requests must be made in writing to chair within 30 days with 2/3 votes-By-laws removing the 6 year limitations replacing it with the President of each institutions will reaffirm the nomination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year term every 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Jennifer Cherrier: 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, 1 abstain (Crosby-Chair of By-laws) Language of bylaws committee will discussed at the next committee meeting.

**Education:** Summer Aboard course kicks off May 14-June 20, 2014. This year UNF, USFSP, UWF, FAU and FGCU are participating. Courtney Hackney Thank USF for making the video-please take a copy. This year, we are able to add UWF to the program. There were a lot of positive feedbacks and have found that students who got the most were students who had already finished Chemistry/Biology courses. This year's goal is to have students from each institution in the program. Courtney Hackney suggested we look at creating an upper level undergrad/grad program as well as a program for teachers from K-12.

Bill Hogarth and Nancy Thompson will meet with USF's education person on 2/11/14 to further come up with ideas for new programs and will report at the next council of any potential ideas.

**e. Working Lunch**

**f. Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) update: Kevin Claridge**

DEP isn't seeing funding in the horizon in the coming year. No new information from GOMA.

**g. Presentation: Larry Langebrake on "Important Environmental Challenges, Information Management and Innovation"**

**h. New Business**

- i. Send Council members LBR's.
- ii. Doodle some summer dates
- iii. Possible next year's FIO meeting to consider KML.
- iv. Mike Crosby: Bill Hogarth should reexamine the organization for the future. Lots of good things coming up for FIO.
- v. Encourage FIO to review Strategic Plan and how FIO management fits into it. Bill Hogarth: We will continue to review the strategic plan and the center of excellence and our operations, how they all fit with each other.

**i. Old Business**

Wade Jeffrey: FIO as the Center of Excellence RESTORE Act should find ways to maximize its funding, possibly some set aside to fund shiptime and other programs that supports students and faculty. Shirley Pomponi suggests a smaller workgroup should be created to take a closer look at the Center of Excellence guidelines (when available) to ensure compliance. Bill Hogarth agrees, would like executive committee workgroup to review the guidelines, make recommendations, disseminate information to the council then bring forth to the full committee for discussions.

**Action Item: Shirley Pomponi**

**Provide a copy of the BOV presentation, list of BOV members/contacts and recommendations made by BOV to the FIO Council.**

Gil McRae- motion to adjourn meeting

Meeting adjourned 2:24pm