

Summary Record
Hydrographic Services Review Panel
October 15, 2007
Public Telephone Conference

Introduction – Monday, October 15, 2007

On the call of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Captain Steven R. Barnum, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and after public notice in the Federal Register (Volume 72, No. 187, Page 54901 dated September 17, 2007), the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting was convened by Mr. J. Scott Rainey, HSRP Chair, on October 15, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, via public telephone conference. Voting members on line included: Mr. Jonathan Dasler, Ms. Elaine Dickinson, Captain Andrew McGovern, Mr. J. Scott Rainey, Mr. Tom Skinner, Mr. Matt Wellslager, Admiral Richard West, and Mr. Larry Whiting. The following report summarizes the deliberations of that meeting. Questions or comments can be addressed to the Director, Office of Coast Survey (OCS), 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3, N/CS, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or email: Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov. A list of the participating HSRP members and other attendees is provided in Appendix 1.

Welcoming Remarks:

Mr. J. Scott Rainey, HSRP Chair, welcomed all panel members and the public to the HSRP Conference Call meeting. He stated that the purpose of the call was to conduct deliberations and subsequently vote on a proposed recommendation to provide NOAA guidance regarding the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). He read the proposed IOOS recommendation and stated that initial crafting of the recommendation had been done by a smaller group of HSRP members and their deliberations and discussions focused primarily on the periodicity of a Regional Association (RA) review process. The proposal, read for-the-record, follows:

“The Hydrographic Services Review Panel [HSRP] supports NOAA’s vision that the IOOS be developed and maintained as an operational system driven by user needs. Therefore, the HSRP recommends the greater inclusion of mariners and other navigational data users in the planning and decision-making process of IOOS Regional Associations [RAs]. The current level of such user engagement varies from regional to region. The HSRP recommends that NOAA formalize a process to ensure that RAs consistently involve mariners and other navigational data users in the design and development of regional ocean observing systems by requiring each RA to significantly include such users on the RA’s governing and advisory boards. The HSRP further recommends NOAA implement an annual review process for RA’s that includes an evaluation of the level of user

participation. As the national program office and source of public funds for IOOS, NOAA is the appropriate federal agency to establish consistent governing regulations for the regional observing systems that are a part of IOOS.”

Mr. Whiting suggested that the Panel accept the recommendation almost as read but that the Panel should eliminate the words, “annual review.” He suggested that NOAA could implement the review process.

Mr. Skinner mentioned that one of the public attendees on the conference call, Ms. Josie Quintrell, was able to offer some background information on this matter. Ms. Quintrell, Director, National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing (NFRA), stated that she is working with eleven RA's who are forming a support system for IOOS. These RAs strongly support the proposed language contained in the HSRP recommendation and they support the involvement of users in a meaningful way within the RAs. She stated that she recently spoke with a mid-Atlantic RA who reported strong representation from the hydrographic community. She discussed her opinion on how NOAA is envisioning that they'll review the RAs, likely through a contract review process, purportedly on a 3-5 year basis. Annual reviews would occur to determine financial support for each RA. This process would require each RA to submit a proposal and annual budget, but meaningful reviews require a longer time frame. She also shared that the recommendation language above might be effectual within the NOAA contracting process.

Admiral West proposed the Panel not remove the word “review” but remove the word “annual” only. He suggested that the Federal office could decide the periodicity, and that the Panel could revisit this issue at a later time should changes be required.

Mr. Rainey clarified the proposed wording change: “.implement a review process,” and, hearing no opposition, a vote was taken and the recommendation was approved unanimously. Mr. Rainey told the Panel that Mr. Skinner would represent the HSRP at an upcoming IOOS meeting and he'd hand-carry a formal letter containing the recommendation just passed. Mr. Skinner stated it wouldn't be a formal presentation but that he'd be on hand for questions and would distribute the HSRP recommendation. Ms. Quintrell stated that she would try and get Mr. Skinner time on the agenda at the NFRA's October 2007 meeting.

New Business

Mr. Rainey mentioned his work in progress for the upcoming testimony for the Congressional Subcommittee on the reauthorization of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act.

Public Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m. Eastern Time.

November 2007

To receive an audio version of the meeting, please email:
Hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov.

Appendix I Attendees

Voting HSRP Members

Jon Dasler	Director of Hydrographic Services, David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Elaine L. Dickinson	Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)
Captain Andrew McGovern	Sandy Hook Pilot's Association
J. Scott Rainey, HSRP Chair	Principal, Rainey Harbor Group
Tom Skinner	Senior Project Manager, Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies, Inc.
Matthew Wellslager	Program Coordinator, South Carolina Geodetic Survey
Rear Admiral Richard West, USN (Ret.) (via conference call)	President and CEO, Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE)
Larry Whiting	Hydrographer, Terra Surveys LLC

Staff

Danielle Stuby	National Geodetic Survey
Virginia Dentler	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
Barbara Hess	Office of Coast Survey

Others/Public

Mr. Michael Aslaksen	NOAA, National Geodetic Survey
Ms. Josie Quintrell	National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing
Ms. Patricia Mutschler	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (<i>Committee on the Marine Transportation System</i>)
Mr. James Weakley	Lake Carriers' Association (HSRP Member-select--1/01/08)
Mr. Edmund Welch	Independent Consultant for Maritime and Ocean Policy (HSRP Member-select—1/01/08)