

## Minutes of the PacIOOS Governing Council Meeting

April 28, 2011

POST Building, Room 801

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Attendees: Brian Taylor, Phil Wallace, Sean Martin, Enriqueta Tanaka (for Gary North), John Joyner, Brian Lynch, Justin Manley, Yimnang Golbuu, Donna Brown, Chuck Kelly, Rusty Brainard, Don Hess, Todd Barnes, Chris Ostrander, Jesse Souki, Davis Yogi

Observers: Simon Ellis, Murray Ford, Marcie Grabowski

### **9:03am Meeting Call to Order**

Motion: To approve minutes from July 2010 meeting

Chuck Kelly moved the motion. Todd Barnes seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed, unanimous.

### Report from Director

Mr. Ostrander provided a summary of recent activities of PacIOOS and highlighted initiatives focused on:

- Observations
  - New deployments
  - Status of existing systems
  - Upcoming deployments
- Data Management
  - Web development
  - Data integration
  - Product development
- Outreach
  - Newsletter
  - Kiosks
  - PacIOOS video presentation
- Program Management
  - Funding
  - Director activities

Group discussion following the Director's report focused on the importance of using quality data to guide policy and decision-making. Also, the breadth of PacIOOS endeavors was recognized, with advice to narrow the focus of product development activities to a limited number of branded products. The PacIOOS video was well received, and a need for additional educational efforts that focused on the Pacific was identified. Kiosk development (for existing systems) was supported, though exploration of mobile application development was encouraged as a future priority to reach public users.

### Roundtable Discussion on PacIOOS Opportunities

Each Member/Delegate discussed their perspectives on potential collaborations and opportunities to grow PacIOOS. All members provided insight, however, only general comments are summarized below.

Opportunities abound for private sector collaborations (Google Ocean, Virgin Oceanic). Approaching private parties through the University, with high-profile folks from the islands, may benefit ocean observing as a whole, including PacIOOS. Additionally, PacIOOS can take advantage of regulatory requirements (clean water, historic preservation) for monitoring by providing third-party services to permit holders/seekers as well as preemptive monitoring to gauge the impact of development and disasters on resources. DOD is interested in sustainability---PacIOOS provides information critical to offshore and alternative power parties (wave, wind, currents, biology). Furthermore, other federal agencies are interested in the same issues as DOD and have resources to bring to bear (DOT, DOI, DOE).

There is an ongoing need for more collaboration, data dissemination, and observations in the insular Pacific. PIGOOS, SOPAC, SPREP, PACOM (J8) and other partners are potential customers using PacIOOS data as well as partners providing information to our system. PacIOOS has capabilities that are desired elsewhere---collaboration can expand those capabilities and leverage work PacIOOS has done while providing resources to PacIOOS to expand development of services. In addition to agencies, ocean observing is becoming a priority for nations in the region (AUS, NZ, Japan, China, Korea)---PacIOOS needs to engage with the international community.

Marine debris is a major issue for all Pacific Islands. It impacts shipping at sea, it impacts coral reefs and shorelines, and funds are available globally to address it. Tracking and removal of debris, as well as prediction of debris fields is needed. PacIOOS can provide predictions of debris (generally, through surface current modeling) but cannot sufficiently address global/regional marine debris issue within the scaling window of the system. The issue is compelling, but outside our purview.

Carbonate geochemistry is becoming a bigger issue with NOAA. There exists a strategic plan for CO2 monitoring through PMEL and PacIOOS has already partnered with PMEL in the past to expand CO2 systems. Future collaboration on this, especially focused in the Pacific and NWHI, is desirable.

### Presentation from Dr. Mark Merrifield

Dr. Merrifield, the lead for PacIOOS wave and water level observations, presented a summary of the current scientific knowledge with respect to sea level rise in the Pacific.

### Presentation from Director on draft PacIOOS Strategic Plan

Mr. Ostrander reviewed the development of the PacIOOS Strategic Plan and opened the floor for discussion.

### Roundtable Discussion on draft PacIOOS Strategic Plan

The divide in the Governing Council between Members and Delegates was questioned, with most in attendance favoring a discussion with the IOOS Program Office regarding the discontinuing of a 2-tiered policy of membership (exclusion of FAS from full membership on PacIOOS Council). Mr. Ostrander reiterated that PacIOOS has distributed funds to all parts of

the region as equitably as possible, to meet stated priorities, and reinforced that Hawaii has received the bulk of historical funding due to dedicated funding from NOAA for that purpose prior to the recent development of PacIOOS as a distinct regional body. After much discussion, the full Council supports moving towards an inclusive policy of membership for all regions with PacIOOS. Director Ostrander was asked to facilitate this through the IOOS Program Office.

The draft strategic plan is ambitious, and outside the realm of reality given our present state of funding. In order to make it more focused, and powerful, the Council suggested weaving CMSP, ocean acidification, and climate threats throughout all categories and limiting the number of themes to four. Understanding that the remaining four themes have some overlap (ie. Water quality can be a coastal hazard), it was agreed that the thematic divisions were appropriate given our existing funding proposals and the guidance language from the IOOS Program Office on the system mission and priorities.

The draft strategic plan highlights a comment made earlier---that PacIOOS is trying to do too many things for too many people. Comments from multiple individuals echoed this sentiment, and suggestions were made to limit the activities of PacIOOS, particularly in the area of product development, to a few key products/activities that had the highest potential for success, impact, and positive public reception. An alternate viewpoint was presented that reflected the IOOS mission to serve information in multiple focus areas, thus tying the regional associations to activities, product development, and observations across many focus areas.

The draft strategic plan will be refined prior to the next GC meeting and will be augmented by the upcoming (required) gaps analysis of PacIOOS observing assets. The final strategic plan will include priorities, partnerships, measures of success, existing assets, gaps, and a vision of a fully built operational system. This final draft will be released in calendar year 2012. The Council suggests a graphical reformat of the plan to be more accessible to the public, with careful thought given to whom the target audience of the plan is. Past program successes should be highlighted early in the document. The program needs a tag line (presently, 'by observing we learn') and that tag line should be highlighted in publications, websites, and this document.

#### Presentation by Director on Proposal Descope

Mr. Ostrander presented the plan for meeting the requested descope by the IOOS Program Office of the FY11 funding proposal. He reviewed the revised budget, revised milestones, and draft responses to the descope letter from the NOAA IOOS Program Office. The Council did not recommend any changes.

#### Closing Discussion

The Council concluded the meeting with discussion of the next meeting (Jan/Feb 2012) at a location outside of Hawaii (Guam, if funds permit). Members agreed to promote the program locally and to highlight success to their networks over the coming months.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.