

**Project Oceanology
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2023 4:00pm**

Attendance:

BOARD MEMBER	ORGANIZATION	OFFICERS	ATTENDANCE *
Joshua Fish	Bozrah		Present
Jennifer Andrews	Columbia		Present
Eleanor Mariani	Community Member		<i>Excused</i>
Kate Biddle	Community Member		Present
Robin Harris	Community Member		Present
Tom Gardiner	Community Member		Present
Lisa Veudreuil	East Lyme		Present
Jason England	Groton	Treasurer	Present
Bill Linski	ISAAC		<i>Absent</i>
David Bednarz	Ledyard		<i>Excused</i>
Kathy Howard	MSMHS	Chair	Present
Jenn Hills-Papetti	New London		<i>Absent</i>
Monica Swyden	Norwich Free Academy		Present
Lisa England	Preston		Present
Laura Runkle	Salem		<i>Absent</i>
Suzanne Scorza	Sprague	Secretary	Present
Nat Trumbull	UConn		Present
Mike O'Connor	Waterford		Present
J. Andrew Ely	Project Oceanology	Ex-officio	Present
PUBLIC			
Lesley de Labry	Project Oceanology		Present
Callie Scheetz	Project Oceanology		Present
Janet Farquar	New London		Present

*17 attended: 13 board members, 1 ex-officio, 3 public

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Kathy Howard, Chair. A quorum was established.
2. Reviewed minutes of August 31, 2023 meeting. **Motion to accept minutes as presented at 4:10 p.m. by Suzanne Scorza, 2nd by Josh Fish. Robin Harris and Monica Swyden abstained. Motion Passed.**
3. Public comments: None.
4. Chair comments: Welcome new and existing members to the 2023/2024 year. Thank you to the board members who were active over the summer to discuss ongoing business matters.

5. Executive Directors Report: Andrew presented an overview of the following:

Budget: Highlighted changes in grant funding, summer camp tuition and annual cost fluctuations including significant increase in both general liability and employee medical insurance and repair and maintenance costs.

Grants: Reviewed recently completed and ongoing grant programs. Noted changes in state funding under interdistrict grant program.

School Year Programs: EL3 has been decommissioned due to rising maintenance costs. EL2 will be joined by M/V Audrey Joy, a leased vessel that can accommodate small group programming (29 persons) and will be utilized where feasible this fall and spring.

Summer Camps: Nearly sold out camp season, highlighted benefits of changes to staffing and use of temporary full-time staff. Discussed recently completed review of camp season and changes for next year to accommodate more day campers and narrowing of age bands in each camp session.

Staff: Noted increase in internship opportunities and benefits for both interns and Project O.

Administration/Logistics: Highlighted new aquarium in seawater lab and priorities for EL3 replacement including finalizing lease of Aubrey Joy, sale of EL3, and establishing a committee for vessel replacement.

Outreach: Project O was highlighted in several media outlets this summer including Channel 8.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Kathy Howard noted that the Executive Committee met on August 21, 2023 to discuss the status of the Enviro-Lab III and short term and long term options for replacement in lieu of repair.
- b. No other committee reports.
- c. There was a brief discussion that there would be a need for members of the board to join committees; with changes in board membership, leadership vacancy exist on the Personnel Committee. The Executive Director will send out a roster of all committees with a description of each committee's responsibilities to all board members early next week. Committee membership will be addressed at the next board meeting in October.

7. The following schedule was established for upcoming board meetings (to be held at 4:00 p.m.):

- a. October 26, 2023
- b. November 16, 2023

c. February 8, 2023 (Tentative)

8. A motion to adjourn was made at 5:09 p.m. by Robin Harris, 2nd by Jason England. Unanimous. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Scorza, Secretary