

**Project Oceanology
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2023 4:00pm**

Attendance:

BOARD MEMBER	ORGANIZATION	OFFICERS	ATTENDANCE *
Joshua Fish	Bozrah		Present
Jennifer Andrews	Columbia		Present
Eleanor Mariani	Community Mbr		<i>Excused</i>
Kate Biddle	Community Mbr		Present
Robin Harris	Community Mbr		Present
Tom Gardiner	Community Mbr		<i>Absent</i>
Lisa Veudreuil	East Lyme		Present
Jason England	Groton	Treasurer	Present
Bill Linski	ISAAC		<i>Absent</i>
David Bednarz	Ledyard		Present
Kathy Howard	MSMHS	Chair	Present
Jenn Hills-Papetti	New London		Present
Monica Swyden	NFA		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 O	Ex-officio	Present
PUBLIC			
Lesley de Labry	Project O		Present
Callie Scheetz	Project O		Present

*17 attended: 14 board members, 1 ex-officio, 2 public

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Kathy Howard, Chair. A quorum was established.
2. Reviewed minutes of October 26, 2023 meeting. Kathy Howard noted that Jason England needed to be added to the list of members of the Vessel Search Committee (under 6.e). **Motion to accept minutes as amended at 4:06 p.m. by Lisa Veudreuil, 2nd by Lisa England. Unanimous.**
3. Public comments: None
4. Chairman's remarks to the Board: We may need to schedule another meeting before February.
5. Executive Director's report - Q & A
 - a. Andrew noted that Doherty, Beals, and Banks, P. C. has completed a draft IRS

Form 990 for FY22. The Form 990 and Financial Statements will be completed for formal presentation to the Board during our February meeting. Mystic Financial Group to attend the February meeting to present the status of our investment accounts LPL Financial Investment Account balances total \$961.4K as of November 14, 2023

- b. Grant activities: AXA-XL Grant, \$23.2K: Kelp in the Classroom is up and running. Tanks and associated equipment including grow lights and chillers have been set up in school classrooms and this week kelp seed is being distributed to Thames River Magnet and Teachers Memorial 5th grade classrooms.
 - c. School year programs: Quahog Bowl 2024 is tentatively scheduled to take place at UConn Avery Point on February 3, 2024. UCONN will be handling the Quahog bowl money- 12 teams for the bowl. \$100 per team for entry fee.
 - d. Summer camp enrollment will open registration for camps on December 11, 2023.
 - e. Staff: Thanks to Callie for connecting climate, communities and coasts. Neostat training for the staff.
 - f. EL3 has been sold. Project Oceanology was able to retain the liferafts and science gear including the A Frame, davits, and associated gear for future use.
 - g. Sea water lab rack system has undergone warranty repairs by Something Fishy, Inc. The company is exploring ways to replace the tanks that were not manufactured to specifications expected. The necessary work will be undertaken by Something Fishy to replace the tanks.
 - h. Liability insurance policy updates are complete to accommodate our current vessel operations. Marine Employer Liability (MEL) insurance is in place for work on boats that we contract with. Enviro-Lab III is removed from our policy.
 - i. Outreach: Met with Dan Mott, Executive Director of the [Ocean Project](#) based in Providence, RI to discuss opportunities for students to engage in ocean advocacy.
 - j. UCONN received \$1.25M from Revolution Wind for fisheries research and the impacts of wind farms on regional fish stocks.
6. Presentation of FY25 Membership Fees for Board approval: Shared with the board and approved.
7. Committee Membership and Reports:
- a. Executive Committee n/a
 - b. Personnel Committee – n/a
 - c. Programs Committee – n/a
 - d. Budget Committee – Tom Gardiner chair.
 - i. Discussed membership materials
 - ii. possible capital campaign launch
 - iii. Community investment fund grant to design new vessels
 - iv. Discussed fundraising to fund the EL4 design.
 - e. Vessel Search Committee – Search efforts are ongoing.
8. A motion to meet in executive session for business matters was made at 4:55 by Lisa England/Suzanne Scorza second. Executive session ended at 5:10 with no motions to be filed.

9. Confirm meeting dates: After discussion the next meeting was moved from February 8 to February 1, 2024:

- a. February 1, 2024
- b. March 7, 2024 (Tentative)

10. A motion to adjourn was made at 5:14 p.m. by Kate Biddle, 2nd by Jason England. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Scorza, Secretary