

**Minutes**  
**Friends of Casco Bay Board of Directors**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2018**  
**Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Portland, Maine**

**Board members in attendance:** Dan Brazeau, President, Sandy Marsters, Bud Higgins, Pat Ianni, Althea Bennett McGirr, Derek Pelletier, Tollef Olson, Malcolm Poole, Joan Benoit Samuelson, Ann Thayer, Jack Thomas

**Board members absent:** Kim Charmatz, AJ Curran, Jim Dusch, Peter LeBourdais, Seb Milardo, Barry Sheff, Lori Thayer, Peter Van Alstine

**Staff in attendance:** Mary Cerullo, Mike Doan, Will Everitt, Ivy Frignoca, Cathy Ramsdell

**Calendar of Events** Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

Jan 23 Tues	Volunteer Appreciation and Members Annual Meeting (snow date Jan 24), DiMillo's
Feb 13 Tues	Strategic Planning 5-7:30, Friends School
Feb 20 Tues	Community Engagement Committee meeting, 4:00-5:00 pm
Feb 20 Tues	Board meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm
Mar 5 Mon	or Mar 6 Tues Operating Plan Workshop. Details to follow
Mar 14 Wed	Strategic Planning Steering Meeting
Mar 20 Tues	Community Engagement Committee meeting, 4:00-5:00 pm
Mar 20 Tues	Board meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm

**Summary**

- Cathy Ramsdell provided a summary of the recent passage of Portland's pesticides ordinance and discussed approaches for the next steps in our efforts to curb the use of lawn chemicals: ordinances regulating fertilizer.
- Ivy Frignoca discussed several bills that she is following this legislative session, the Trump Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Drilling Plan, and the MS4 (municipal stormwater) permit status.
- Mike Doan presented the latest (and last) Casco Bay Health Index using data collected by our Citizen Stewards. He collated data from the past five years and over the entire 26 years of their Water Quality Monitoring. The current health status of sites is very similar to the historical status.
- Mike analyzed data from the first year of our Continuous Monitoring Station. Of particular concern is the data on Coastal Acidification that shows that for much of the year, levels of Omega aragonite (calcium carbonate saturation state) were below 1.5, the level that is critical for clams and other shellfish to be able to build their shells.

**A Minute for the Bay**

Dan Brazeau went to Portland Head Light after the blizzard. Amazing!  
Jack Thomas wondered how our green carbs made out in this very cold weather.

**Review, Reflection and Approval of Minutes**

*Action item:* Approved

Dan noted Malcolm's notes from Strategic Planning and three letters from Ivy on legislative issues.

**Financial report**—Malcolm Poole, Treasurer

The financial report has one minor typo: gift from individuals should read \$287k year to date, not \$276k. A surprise recent gift of over \$27,000 takes the sting out of the forecast for end of the year and bodes well for being in a better position for the beginning of our next fiscal year.

**Community Engagement Committee**—*Sandy Marsters, Chair*

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration & Members Annual Meeting: bring friends, family, and colleagues!  
Forward the latest email about the event to your friends.

**Annual Meeting:** Cathy will welcome and then Dan, Malcolm, and Pat Ianni will conduct the annual meeting. Slate of Board members has to be voted on by membership.

**Volunteer Appreciation:** Sarah Lyman will present milestone awards for 9 Citizens Stewards volunteers. Cathy later will present Friend of Casco Bay Award to Rick Frantz & Jennifer Fox, for their environmental and community support. The last time the Friend of Casco Bay was presented was in 2011 to the Bennett Family. It is given only when we identify a candidate who has done a lot for the Bay above and beyond their normal work.

**Presentation:** Mike and Ivy will do presentations on our WQM program evolution, and explain what new Citizen initiatives we are launching, where we are headed, and how volunteers can get involved.

**Color & Clarit:** to collect data about the color and clarity of water, using a secci disk and a phone app that uses the Florel-Ule scale, which enters the data into an international database. Color can be indicative of productivity and excess nutrient loading.

**ON Casco Bay: Observing Network:** this will be introduced through a Casco Bay Matters/Champions event that will showcase our most important issue – nitrogen:

*Lecture:* our work on nitrogen, concerns, algal blooms, coastal acidification, and what we/you can do about it.

*Champion event:* This will provide talking points and an opportunity to practice.

*Water Reporter app:* We will demonstrate an app that will help us record and share information on what we and our members are observing around the Bay regarding algal blooms and other anomalies in the water.

Ramifications of new tax law on charitable giving were discussed.

Cathy expects to see some impact at the end of this year, but likely to see most impact in giving practices in two years, at end of 2019, particularly from the middle class.

Website feedback is welcome. Send any feedback of any glitches or comments to Sarah Lyman. A few pages still are under construction, but the new website is nearly complete.

### **Strategic Planning Update — Malcolm Poole**

Malcolm asked members to review notes of the last meeting by end of next week.

Future meeting dates:

Feb 13, at Friends School

March 3, wrap up meeting

After, a group of 13 people will make sense of the raw data

April 17, Review draft

May 17, Final draft of plan

### **Executive Director Update — Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director**

- Portland passed its Pesticides Ordinance last week, which bans synthetic pesticides on public and private property. The ordinance will go into effect on July 1, 2018. Now cities on either end of the Casco Bay bridge have strong, forward-thinking ordinances to restrict pesticides.
- Cathy plans to meet with some members of the Sustainability & Transportation Committee at some point, to discuss ways to move forward with a fertilizer ordinance. We may decide to approach South Portland first.
- We are moving forward on securing a new pumpout boat, with federal funding through DEP. Price tag at the boat yard is \$171k (there will be a few additional costs after the yard costs, such things as logo decals, etc) of which 90% will be paid for by federal pumpout funding through the state. We hope for delivery in the spring, but the yard is backed up due to hurricanes in other parts of the country. We are considering some targeted fundraising to make up the remainder of the cost, and after we launch the new boat, we may receive some income from selling the old boat. New boat was designed and is being built in Warwick, RI. At some point this calendar year, we will have the launch ceremony.

- Monday, March 5 or Tuesday, March 6: Operating Plan Workshop. Cathy will offer a tutorial on how to read our financials, we'll break for a light supper, then review the draft of the operating plan and the budget to support it. She hopes to bring the Operating Plan to the March Board meeting for review, discussion, and approval.
- We are starting to have conversations about designing a capital campaign. We will work with Community Engagement and Executive Committees after more strategic planning.
- In November and December, operating revenues increased by \$305,000. An unexpected \$27,000 annuity gift today will allow us to come closer to break even before depreciation (a noncash expense).
- Cathy, Dan, Will, Ivy, and Mary met with many of the 34 groups of the Environmental Priorities Coalition, to assist with strategic planning, at a workshop last Friday. It was a data walk cataloguing environmental changes in Maine over 15 years to discuss, *Where is EPC going? How to amass more influence and achieve more political wins?*

#### **Casco Baykeeper Update** — *Ivy Frignoca, Casco Baykeeper*

- The 128<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature is in its second session, with fewer bills than the first session. There are a number of bills important to our mission (see testimony) including a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) bill and two water bonds.
  - There are now 13 states that are part of RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> Budget Trading Program; our governor supports this bill. It was voted out of committee unanimously as *Ought to Pass*.
  - The two water bonds: \$50 million to address billion dollar backlog of upgrades of water treatment facilities; \$5 million to support reducing nonpoint source pollution to tributaries that flow into lakes, rivers and marine coastal waters. Passage of these bonds will be an uphill battle.
  - Ivy is tracking an update to the Impaired Waters List. Once a waterbody is listed, action has to happen to improve it. She is tracking another bill to update water quality standards.
  - We support a bill to set up a Marine Debris Study Commission to compile what is known about marine debris, identify gaps for further research, and identify policy actions. If passed, the six-month commission would report back to the next Legislature.
  - We support a bill to set up a Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission to look statewide at coastal risks and hazards due to climate change. (We submitted testimony last session. The bill is still in committee.)
- Ivy and Mary are staffing our exhibit at the EPC Legislative breakfast this Thursday. It is usually well attended and is a good opportunity to educate legislators.
- Ivy will meet with the New EPA Regional Administrator Alexandra Dunn, who was appointed in November. Ivy invited Scott Firmin of the Portland Water District and Nancy Gallinaro, Portland's water resources manager. The EPA Administrator is known to support municipalities. Ivy will explain about our science and work with approach, and she hopes to discuss funding for treatment facilities, Integrated Planning, and stormwater remediation.
- Opposition to Offshore Drilling is being led by Waterkeeper Alliance, which is trying to coordinate people at the national level. Here in Maine, a coalition of organizations, including FOCB, Surfrider, and NRCM, will attend the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management listening session on Monday, January 22, from 2-7 p.m., at the Augusta Civic Center. BOEM is not taking testimony on offshore drilling, so our coalition will have a room set up where people can record and submit testimony. We will all wear blue shirts and will not hold any rallies or protests. There will be a press conference.
- MS4 permit renewal process had its final stakeholder meeting before the official draft is prepared and released. Our advocacy has played a strong role in strengthening the permit.

**Water Quality in Casco Bay – Challenges, Challenged Areas, and Where We're Headed**—*Mike Doan, Research Associate*

- Mike previewed the most recently updated 2017 Health index that uses Citizens Stewards water quality data. Mike compared a rolling average of data from past five years and all the data collected over time. The findings of healthy and challenged areas have remained remarkably consistent. We will continue to sample at 14 historic water quality sampling sites every two weeks from May-October using the data sonde and continue this data set. We will also examine particularly challenged areas, the Harraseeket River and Portland Harbor.
- A year in the life of the Continuous Monitoring Station (CMS): our “cage of science” uses a data sonde and PCO<sub>2</sub> sensor to collect data hourly year-round. This continuous data collection enables us to see both daily and seasonal swings. Mike said we already have some exciting data despite a steep learning curve on how to manage and interpret data from this past year. Mike showed several graphs that highlighted data collected from January-December, for temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO) chlorophyll fluorescence, salinity, and pH.

Mike presented some of the preliminary results – data graphs – from the CMS.

As a final comment, Bud Higgins reflected that Friends of Casco Bay has seen a lot of change over the past two years. He is excited to see that staff is excited and committed to these new initiatives and program work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.