

## **Friends of Casco Bay Board Meeting**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019  
Gulf of Maine Research Institute  
Commercial Street, Portland

Present: Malcolm Poole, President, Bud Higgins, Pat Ianni, David Kaufman, Seb Milardo, Tollef Olsen, Derek Pelletier, Joan Benoit Samuelson, and Jack Thomas

Absent: AJ Curran, Peter LeBourdais, Sandy Marsters, Althea Bennett McGirr, Ann Thayer, Lori Thayer

Staff present: Mary Cerullo, Will Everitt, and Cathy Ramsdell

### **Welcome** –*Malcolm Poole, President*

Malcolm noted that the Maine Community Foundation has consistently provided good returns on the three funds we have invested with the organization.

### **A Minute for the Bay**

Seb heard from a lobsterman that he is already catching shedders, which normally are found around July 4<sup>th</sup>. Tollef reported that another lobsterman has seen shedders in the just-molted state: “jellies.” They have no idea why.

Bud said that as a result of a question raised at the Casco Bay Matters event last night, a restaurateur on Peaks Island wants to provide empty shells to buffer the acidity of coastal areas.

### **Introduction of David Kaufman, Board nominee:** *Action Item:* Approved

Malcolm asked everyone to introduce themselves, followed by David introducing himself. All staff and nearly all Board members already knew David from his participation in our Strategic Plan workshops last year. Speaking as to why he is excited to join our Board, he said, “Nothing outside my family means more to me than the water.”

### **Board Consent Package** (minutes and financials): *Action Item:* Approved

Treasurer Jack Thomas that the organization has benefited by giving Will Everitt and the Development team the tools they needed to mobilize and build our membership base (by upgrading our donor database). We have to rely increasingly on the support of our members.

### **Review of Nominating process/ Nomination of Steve Bushey to the Board: un-table, discuss, and recommend**–*Malcolm*

Malcolm stated that he is the sponsor for Steve Bushey, who brings technical competence in stormwater engineering. He is employed by Stantec, a large environmental consulting firm.

Tollef noted that Board members must sign a conflict of interest form and leans toward inclusion of diverse backgrounds. Several other Board members noted that there is a need to diversify the Board, in age, race, sex, and geographic distribution around the Bay.

While talking about the Board’s “On-boarding” guidance document, Malcolm said that it may be best to have broad goals for vetting new Board members, without being too proscriptive. Bud said we should meet informally with people we want to bring closer to us, without indicating that we may be considering them as prospective Board members. Cathy cautioned about bringing couples on the Board

at the same time. As we get to know a couple better, it may be obvious which one of the two may be a better board candidate.

When asked about how large our Board is allowed to be, Cathy explained that our by-laws allow up to 36 Board members; we currently have 15.

It was agreed that selected Board members—Seb, Pat, and Malcolm—will meet with Steve Bushey. Joanie was encouraged to provide information to Malcolm and Cathy about a young couple whom she felt should get to know our work better.

**Community Engagement Committee: A Casco Bay Matters de-brief—*Malcolm sitting in for Sandy Marsters, Committee Chair***

The March 4 meeting was cancelled because of snow, so Malcolm asked for a debrief of our first Casco Bay Matters event, held at the Portland Public Library on March 18.

Seb commented that this kind of event is the best forum for getting out information about our work. Jack noted that the audience was engaged throughout. Bud suggested emphasizing the local impacts of what is happening here in Casco Bay. We should encourage attendees to join us as members, which Cathy will add to her remarks at upcoming events. Derek suggested that we should emphasize how our data get used and include more actions that will be taken. Cathy explained that we hope to update that part each time the presentation is offered, as the situation regarding policy action is evolving quickly.

**FY20 Operating Plan and Budget: Discussion and Vote—*Action Item: Cathy Ramsdell, Executive Director***

Malcolm said eight Directors attended the March 11 workshop on the FY20 operating plan and budget. At that workshop, Board attendees moved unanimously to recommend adoption of the plan with the few revisions that Cathy had made to incorporate suggestions from those present.

There was a motion to adopt the FY20 Operating Plan and Budget as presented. Motion was seconded and unanimously supported.

Cathy thanked Board members for approving this annual work plan and budget and for previously approving moving forward with the campaign *Climate Change and Casco Bay: A Fund for Technology and Protecting the Health of the Bay*. She pointed out that we are actually operating on a ten-year plan, as is the capital campaign, because climate change requires gathering long-term data and response. She noted that other research institutions often fund only short-term research projects for two to three years, insufficient for collecting the data needed to track climate change.

**BayScaping: Staff presentation and discussion – *Mary Cerullo, Associate Director***

Mary premiered a new version of her “neighborhood social” to explain why and how to reduce the need for lawn chemicals. Cathy said Mary will be happy to offer this talk and supporting information to any groups.

**Executive Director Update—*Cathy***

Cathy explained that Ivy was called away to the bedside of a seriously ill friend. Mike Doan was attending a compulsory meeting at the high school for parents of graduating seniors.

Cathy reported on a meeting that she and Ivy had just this morning with the new Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, Gerald Reid. Cathy shared with him some of the history of our work with DEP, sometimes applauding and sometimes opposing agency actions. Ivy provided him

with an overview of the Maine Coastal and Ocean Acidification Partnership and LD 1284 to create a *Science and Policy Council on the Impact of Climate Change on Maine's Marine Species*. Gerry explained the idea for the Governor's Omnibus bill, to establish a permanent Climate Change Council, with six long-term initiatives, including protecting Maine's marine resources.

They also discussed the MS4 general permit draft, a single general permit for all communities that must address nonpoint source discharges from urban landscapes into receiving waters, over the next five years. Ivy has recommended improvements to each of the six drafts to date. She suggested to the Commissioner, who used to be with the State Attorney General's office, to request that an assistant attorney general help the permit writer with legal aspects of the Clean Water Act as he drafts the next iteration.

Cathy reminded the members that the next Casco Bay Matters event is on Monday, March 25, in South Portland at Southern Maine Community College.

Cathy projects the end the fiscal year will close with a small operating surplus of somewhere around \$3,000 before depreciation. a noncash expense.

Our FY20 starts on April 1, 2019. On Thursday, March 28, the staff will tour the National Weather Service office in Gray, then go to lunch. On Friday, starting at 3 PM, we will hold our traditional "FOCB New Year's Eve" at Andy's Old Port Pub on Commercial Street in Portland. All are invited!

Malcolm said he and Cathy are planning a "working social" for the June meeting (the last Board meeting until September), where they will go over talking points for the fundraising campaign.

Will Everitt thanked the Board for authorizing a generous 4% raise for the staff, and Mary thanked Cathy.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.