

NECAN Policy Working Group call 10/27/2016

Present: Beth Turner, Sarah Cooley, Matt Liebman, Aaron Strong, Susie Arnold, Chris Williams, Ralph Johnson, Seth Tuler, Jackie Ball

State updates:

NH (Chris):

- First meeting of the new Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission was last week. The commission elected chairs and decided that the first order of business to take up was OA. Next meeting will be 12/19, will be reaching out to NECAN for presentation. State Sen. David Watters is behind the legislation forming the commission (he is up for re-election this year).

ME (Susie and Aaron):

- MOCA symposium will be held Nov 15 in Augusta. Presentations will be given from remediation projects in the morning, future policy actions in the afternoon. State Rep. Mick Devin will provide update from the ME legislature, Ivy F. will discuss nutrient management in Casco Bay. Aaron, Susie, Esperanza, Ivy and Beth will attend (and others?).

National (Sarah):

- CA has 2 bills related to OA, one for seagrass restoration and one to establish an ongoing commission to inform the legislature on OA. Both were recommended by OAH panel, and have been shaped by the Ocean Foundation and the National Council of Environmental Legislators.
- Sarah is working on a project that is examining how to weave OA into existing environmental legislation and policies. Attempting to organize NGOs into sub-groups so that each can work on part of the issue that intersects with their interests (e.g., Audubon is interested in seagrass restoration because of impacts to birds, but also has potential impacts in OA).
- Aaron and Ivy have also worked with 2 law students to see how to connect OA issues to regulations in ME. **Action item** - Aaron and Sarah will follow up with each other to share information and coordinate their efforts.

CA meeting re. OA criteria:

- Beth, Aaron and Matt all heard from various people who attended that it was a good meeting to get the major parties together and discuss how to develop criteria. The meeting was held under the Chatham House Rules (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule>), so there isn't a lot of specific info coming out yet. [*After the meeting, we discovered that a summary of the meeting is expected shortly after Thanksgiving*]
- EPA is developing their response to the Center for Biological Diversity, expected to be ready in a few months.
- Implications for NECAN hosting a meeting on criteria? We should not get ahead of EPA or state efforts, but should show ourselves as willing to help convene the major parties. It would be most helpful to wait until after the EPA response comes out, and convene a

NECAN-wide meeting to discuss the state of thinking around developing criteria, potential tools, etc. Perhaps an April or May meeting time would be appropriate.

- **Action items** – Beth will look for a time to gather our smaller team on criteria to think about planning for a spring meeting. Matt will circle back with Brian Rappoli at EPA HQ to get his impressions from the CA meeting.

Discussion on providing OA materials targeted to MA:

- Information is being revised to go out when appropriate. Need to wait until after the election and Thanksgiving, so early Dec is probably a good time frame to target. [*note: after the PWG meeting, Ru brought up the fact that NECAN is not a body that lobbies for any particular position, but provides information. So perhaps the materials should not include the specific recommendation to pass the legislation, only the importance of the issue w.r.t. MA resources and economy. Todd is re-drafting the summary*]
- Need to contact MA CZM prior to moving forward. They are specifically called out in the legislation, and we need to be sure we are coordinating with them. Bruce Carlisle recently brought this up in the context of Northeast Regional Ocean Council. Todd Callahan is a potential point of contact for the PWG and NECAN in general. [*note: after the PWG meeting, Beth had a brief phone conversation with Bruce about joining the PWG. He is interested and wants to contribute, although as a state employee, has to recuse himself from lobbying for any particular legislative actions*]
- Individual PWG members may contact State Sen. Karen Spilka, the chairwoman of the committee (or her staffers) for a face-to-face meeting and ask how NECAN can best help.
- **Action item** – Seth will contact Julie S. for her perspective. PWG will need to decide how best to proceed and provide appropriate information without being policy-prescriptive.

Next meetings:

- **Thurs 12/1, 10 AM**
- Thurs 1/12, 10 AM
- Thurs 2/9, 10 AM
- Thurs 3/9, 10 AM
- Thurs 4/6, 10 AM
- Thurs 5/4, 10 AM
- Thurs 6/1, 10 AM