

PWG meeting notes

2/5/18

Present: Beth Turner, Ivy Frignoca, Kelly Canesi, Chris Williams, Todd Capson, Todd Callaghan, Presseda Vella

NECAN updates (Kelly): Kelly has been working to set up regular NECAN Steering Committee meetings, a regular quarterly NECAN newsletter, and NECAN webinars for the next few months. If you have content for the newsletter, or know someone who would be a good speaker for the series, please let us know. Kelly has also been involved in developing the [OA Information Exchange](#) online collaborative website. This will be a platform for people to exchange information, set up virtual work groups, and collaborate. There are regional teams as well as topical teams (policy, science, education/outreach). The site is in beta testing now, and will be officially [unveiled](#) at the Ocean Sciences meeting next week.

MA Commission: Priscilla and Hauke e-mailed the group that the MA bills are still moving through committee in MA. Todd circulated a newsletter piece about the bills, which is now linked on the [PWG website](#).

RI Commission: (Conor via e-mail): The RI commission has not reconvened in the new year.

NH Commission (Chris): The N.H. Coastal Marine Natural Resources and the Environment (CoMNaRE) Commission [report on OA is available](#). The commission is now deciding where to focus their activities in the next year - possibly nutrients, contaminants, marine debris, blue carbon. The next meeting of the commission is March 6. Meetings will continue indefinitely, as it is a permanent commission.

ME (Ivy): The Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership (MOCA) held their winter meeting on Dec 18 at the Bigelow Lab. This was a highly technical meeting with science updates. One emerging finding is that several groups monitoring in Casco Bay (UNH, Bigelow, Friends of Casco Bay) have all seen omega values <1.5 for significant portions of time. This is preliminary and still being worked up with regard to how it compares to offshore monitoring and whether a white paper or other publication is warranted. Ivy will pursue this on the next MOCA steering committee call and report back to the PWG. MOCA is also trying to support a joint cruise for participants to sample Casco Bay together near their continuous monitoring stations to facilitate cross-comparisons of their data.

Re. nutrients, every waste permit around Casco bay requires N monitoring. Both Portland and S. Portland will be required to reduce their N load. The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership has a Nutrient Council that provides a forum for municipal stormwater managers, wastewater plant operators, academics and NGOs to discuss nutrient issues in a non-adversarial way. The conversation has moved from wondering whether nutrients have an impact to recognizing that nuisance blooms and HAB events are symptomatic of nutrient issues, and thinking about how best to control nutrients.

National (via e-mail from Sarah): Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the “Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2017” which is a Senate companion to the House version (HR 2553). Cosponsors of the Senate bill were fellow Oceans Caucus Sens. Cantwell (D-WA), Whitehouse (D-RI), Collins (R-ME) and Peters (D-MI). Even though both bills may languish in committee, having a senate companion introduced is actually a step forward in the grand scheme of things. In addition, the federal appropriations season is getting under way; the President’s budget is expected to be released on Feb. 12. The Ocean

Conservancy is likely to offer an informational webinar/phone call as we did last year. **Sarah** will circulate information on that when available.

NECAN/NROC monitoring workshop report available (Beth): The report from our monitoring workshop is [now available](#) on the NECAN website. EPA guidelines for OCA monitoring are finalized. **Beth** will contact Jason Gearar to find out if they are available online. NECAN is also involved in Citizen Science workshops to roll out the guidelines. There will be workshops in ME, MA and CT, probably in the April timeframe.

RGGI (Todd): There is currently no information on OA at the RGGI website. It seems that this would be a good linkage to make. The status of RGGI in the various states is not clear – which states are signed on to RGGI now, which are under legislative review? **Todd** will find out some information from the [RGGI website](#) and think about how to link OCA info into their web presence, and a good contact person for that.

[Post-meeting reports from Ralph, Juliana and Chris indicated that RI, CT and NH were still in RGGI, see <http://nhpr.org/post/state-legislators-steer-rggi-toward-more-energy-efficiency-funding#stream/0>. There are also efforts in state legislatures to implement a carbon tax, see <http://nepr.net/post/can-carbon-price-really-catch#stream/0>, http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/20180205_lawmakers_renew_carbon_tax_proposal/, <http://www.nhbr.com/January-19-2018/NH-House-votes-to-boost-RGGI-fund-for-residential-programs/> as well as a similar story in the Providence Journal, forwarded by Ralph. The NH legislature will be taking up RGGI this session.]

Options short paper: Last meeting, we talked about an information synthesis product from NECAN around management and policy options that could help to bring different examples together. This seems like a good product for the PWG. **Beth** will follow up with **Sarah** to see how her poster might be boiled down to a short informational piece for the NECAN PWG to circulate.

Beth will circulate a doodle poll for an April meeting.