

ARVOC
November 24, 2009
Teleconference –Condensed Report
Executive Summary

The operating climate for ARVOC has changed significantly since December 2008. Overall the outlook for marine science has greatly improved. This is, in part, reflected by outbriefs of scientists who generally express satisfaction with the support they receive and with the state of equipment on the vessels. However, we do have to face the problem of the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer's eventual replacement or rebuild. Given the extended time needed to either replace the NBP or conduct a major overhaul, now is the time to think about different options and different scenarios to assure that we do not again find ourselves in the situation we faced in December. We will develop a stronger working relationship with UNOLS to explore possibilities for collaborative ship support and we need to assist both RPSC and NSF in helping them meet the challenges of maintaining a vibrant marine research program. (John Anderson, Chair)

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ACTIONS:

Action: John will contact Scott Borg for his input/advice; ARVOC Chair/RPSC will schedule a spring meeting with the NBP retrofit or vessel replacement being the main topic of discussion.

Action: Dan will investigate what is happening with the Icebreaker POLAR STERN as they are in a similar situation as the R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer re: life of vessel, etc. Dan will update ARVOC on his findings.

Agenda

ARVOC

11:00-11:30

John Anderson

- I. Introductions and recognize new member, Sharon Stammerjohn; Note: upcoming solicitation/elections for members with expiring terms
 - ▶ Brief overview of today's agenda
 - ▶ AICC update

Welcomed all; reviewed today's agenda, and introduced Sharon Stammerjohn, newly elected member. New member will be elected by the ARVOC committee prior to the next ARVOC meeting.

Three invited guests joining the teleconference are:

Jon Alberts, UNOLS Executive Secretary
Renee Crain, Arctic Division/ NSF

Robin Muench, Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) Chair

11:30 – 12:30 **Alexandra Isern**

II NSF Update:

- ▶ Personnel changes

Recent NSF personnel changes include:

Dr. Mike Montopoli was recalled to active duty by the Navy; Dr. Mike Van Woert, Dr. Alex Isern, Mr. Will Colston, Mr. Brian Stone, Mr. Marti Canipe

- ▶ NSF budget (Slides presented/discussed)

FY10 Budget Request to Congress, Summary tables by account and an Office of Polar Programs Funding

- ▶ Recent Committee of Visitors (COV) meetings

Committee of Visitors (COV) recently met at NSF.

- ▶ Issues of Concern

Six months ago, NSF contracted a highly recommended maritime group to look at Palmer Station re-supply options. Plans are for a February 25-26, 2010 workshop t *Re-Supply and Science Support Evaluation of Palmer Station*

12:30 – 1:30 **Bob Farrell/Dan Herlihy/Bob Kluckhohn**

III Vessel Status Update:

- ▶ LMG charter status

The R/V Laurence M. Gould charter is being extended for ten years.

- ▶ RPSC and AGUNSA staffing updates

Changes within Agunsa were necessary but that RPSC can be assured of their commitment and that service will remain the same or better.

Marine cruise coordinators are now aligned under the science planning group (reporting to Dr. Steven Kottmeier).

Dan Herlihy, Marine Manager, provided other staffing information.

- ▶ Review recent vessel equipment purchases, repairs and/or replacements-information/ input provided by Tech Supervisors-Hein/ Norris/Felix

List of *Improvements and Capital Equipment Purchases- Marine Operations 2009* provided to members.

- ▶ Vessel Schedules- two vessel operations in 2010/11 season, schedule status and plans

The vessel schedules are published simultaneously on UNOLS site.

The Puerto Montt standby period allowed cost control during the time the NBP was at the Oxsean pier;

- ▶ FleetBroadband install on vessels – information provided by Scott

Walker

Fleet broadband capable of basic email connection will not be on-line until sometime late in 2010. The antenna is installed and cable is run, but simcards need updating before the system can be brought on line and test.

- ▶ Palmer Station Pier status update

Changes to how the vessel ties up at the Palmer Station pier and the results from the dive inspection last year, plans are to continue use of the pier over the next number of years without having to modify or reconstruct.

1:30 – 2:30 ARVOC members- open discussion

IV Review of December 2008 meeting topics/updates

Alex noted that the only choice may be to renew the NBP charter for another five years and continue or start redesign plans.

ARVOC can provide RPSC/NSF their thoughts on where to go, how to get there and what to do. Your input/arguments can be very useful in future status of the NBP, per Alex. ARVOC, as advisory committee to RPSC, can provide vital information and support in research vessel planning/operations.

<http://www.usap.gov/conferencesCommitteesAndWorkshops/userCommittees/sctnARVOC.cfm>

► Consideration of NBP charter extension to carry beyond 2012 end date

If the NBP is to be replaced, a decision to move in that direction needs to be made now.

2:30 – 3:00 Other

V: Next meeting date

The next ARVOC meeting date and location are to be determined based upon John's discussion with Scott Borg re: new vessel versus renovation; etc. ARVOC members, RPSC, NSF will be kept informed.