

# Meeting Minutes UNOLS Council

Summer Teleconference

13 August 19 – 1400-1600 Eastern

14 August 19 – 1400-1600 Eastern

## Tuesday August 13, 2019

### 1400 Call the Meeting - Craig Lee

### 1405 2020 Ship Scheduling Update – Doug Russell

- *Goal is to get the schedules published in September*
- *Mike Prince - Revelle will be back in service on 15April2020. They will need time to do some shakedown cruises post-delivery and generally available should warranty support be required. Doug Russell – this is recognized, and we are trying to schedule them close to West Coast initially.*

### 1415 Agency Reports (10min each)

- NSF – Bob Houtman
  - *In the process of closing out FY2019 budgets. Internal deadlines to budget/finance office are completed. Just a few opportunities left for FF actions. This is consuming a lot of our activities.*
  - *FY2020 budget – still not known. Public record shos as much as we know. There is a 2yr budget agreement related to debt ceiling, but this has not been translated into a budget for NSF.*
  - *Standing request is at the -10% but hoping that the FY2020 will at least be level.*
  - *Planning a 2 approach scenario – 1) Level and 2) reduced of -10%*
  - *FY2021 budget – follows on from the FY20 request*
- ONR – Rob Sparrock
  - *3 successful inspections – Armstrong, KM, TGT*
  - *Minor reorg w/in ONR to reflect increased focus on support to USMC activities*
  - *Task Force Ocean – established March 2017 – In July 2019 – ONR announced that they will fund 3 projects, 34 grad students and 19 post-docs – some of these projects would involve ship time.*
  - *ONR Scientist at Sea program – bringing scientists onboard naval vessels and submarine training system so the proposals are focused more on the Navy science – less basic, more applied science*
  - *Future of FLIP – subject to funding priorities*
- NOAA – CDR Stephen Barry
  - *Final development of FY20 Fleet Allocation Plan – planning to finalize this week for final approval/signature by next Monday afternoon.*
    - *Over 2700 days in FY20 – increase the fleetwide agency number to where they were in 2016, 2017.*
    - *Numbers were down in FY18 due to the shutdown.*
    - *Shifting ¾ of the fleet’s maintenance periods to Jan/Feb so the have more sailing time.*



- Continuing Fleet capitalization Project –
  - 3 yards for design specs for AGOR-Variant vessel
  - OSV – Class Bravo – 2<sup>nd</sup> new build
- Doug Russell – Do you anticipate much NOAA support for UNOLS type cruises in FY20?
  - At this time – there are not any projects scheduled on UNOLS vessels. The RON BROWN has a full schedule.

**1445 Agency Recommendations Letter (10min each)**

- Agency Recommendations – Bob Houtman/NSF
  - Continuing process to coordinate and think ahead about projected ops of the next year. We share this with the UNOLS organization, so we have a dialogue.
  - Agency Positions – pointed out
  - It is up to the vessel owner to decide whether they operate for a given year.
  - The agencies will not necessarily give lay-up funds
  - Schedule efficiency – Team effort between SSC and agencies
  - Hopeful for level funding but this does not mean they can fund as much as the previous year because costs are always rising.
  - Important to match the science program requirements to the ship. There might be some instances where we cannot get the exact ship that is requested due to scheduling issues. This is more apparent this year w/ REVELLE out. Might have to go to 2 ship ops.
  - Rose Dufour added – this does not take into account use of other vessels – such as NBP – looking at the ALLIANCE too. Comes out of same pot of \$\$ for ship operations.
- Non-Operator Committee Response – Tammi Richardson/USC
  - The Agency Recommendation letter was not very surprising although they did not realize there is the potential for a 1-year extension to the LANGSETH. Bob Houtman – NSF is not in a position to say anything official. The DCL will come out soon. At this point – Langseth is scheduled and planned for retirement in 2020.
  - Non-Op Committee will put together a response to the Agency Letter soon.

**1505 Vessel Facility Updates (10min each)**

- RCRV update – Brian Midson/NSF
  - Whole project funded in this FY.
  - 1 full year of vendor trials, sea trials and sea trials.
  - RV Taani – Delivered - 7/14/21, UNOLS Designation – 7/14/22
  - RV Solution- Delivery – 1/14/22, UNOLS Designation – 1/14/23
  - RV-3 – Delivery – 7/14/22, UNOLS Designation – 7/14/23
- RV Revelle Midlife Refit Update – Mike Prince/ONR
  - Done with Destruction – in the process of putting things back in.
  - More or less on schedule. Hoping to have the work done by 1Jan2020, have 4 months of for startup commissioning, testing, dock-trials and sea-trials prior to the RV REVELLE coming back online in mid-April 2020. Then there will be a few months of re-outfitting, crew training and science verification cruises prior to the vessel being available for science in the fall of 2020.
  - Biggest hiccup – cooling fans for the alternators were turning in the wrong direction
  - Bob Houtman – Any work on Z-drives? Mike Prince - Both will be overhauled. One lower gear box was replaced, the other was rebuilt at the shipyard.
  - Goal to complete all mechanical work by 1 Jan. To give them 4 months to delivery.
- ATLANTIS



- *moving forward with the shipyard process. RFP period extended to first week of Sep. Award end of Sep. In yard early to mid-June 2020.*
- **THOMPSON lessons learned -updates – Doug Russell**
  - *Still working on the power issues. REVELLE and ATLANTIS – will go AC to AC so this should avoid the problem that the THOMPSON has with its AC-DC plant.*
  - *Caterpillar valve problems - Caterpillar thinks this is bc they used non-ultra low sulfur content fuel (non-ULSD). The crankcase ventilation system installed was improper given that the ship could not burn ULSD exclusively. UW is in process of updating the crank case ventilation to exhaust up through the stack to atmosphere to fix the problem.*
  - *SIO has already incorporated changes to avoid this issue.*
- **Plans to retire the RVs Oceanus and Endeavor – Rose Dufour/NSF**
  - *Oceanus – end of 2020 – all future requests for 2021 on OCEANUS will not be considered.*
  - *Transition from delivery sea trials, science trials – won't happen for 18 months from that schedule. Ready for science comes when UNOLS designation is achieved after successfully completing post-delivery shakedown and science verification trials.*
  - *Resolution would follow the next year*
  - *Endeavor would go out of service at end of 2021, Resolution will come on 18 months later.*
  - *Still need to decide how to dispose of OCEANUS & ENDEAVOR.*
- **HOV Alvin Upgrade – Brian Midson/NSF**
  - *Fully funded this out of FY2018 plus-up*
  - *Variable ballast system is very long lead time. Design and testing procedures have been approved, next month, forging will begin. This takes up to a year. 6 spheres in total.*
  - *Hope to have a robust SVC protocol. But understand it will be competing with other programs that need global ships.*
  - *It will be coming off the ATLANTIS prior to EXPORTS cruise to help with schedule.*
    - *Might use this time to do another shore-based training*
  - *MP – backing up strong desire to do very thorough sea trials with HOV Alvin.*

**1545 UNOLS Annual Meeting**

- **Dates: 21-22 November 2019**
- **Keynote Speaker**

**IDEAS:**

- *ADML John White – Task Force Ocean*
- *Ginger Armburst – UW - speak to Molecular revolution and where this might lead us. But need to make sure she can keep this broad enough.*
- *Rose Dufour recommended consideration of seeing a speaker from AK native communities who could talk to research in their areas and the impacts and how it is have affected their community. Contacts: Gaye Sheffield, Doug DeMaster, Jackie Grebmeier, Carin Ashjian, Lee Cooper, Sue Moore to get ideas on who.*

**Speaker must:**

- *Be a good speaker*
- *Be able to keep it broad enough*
- *Fold in the science's relevance to UNOLS*

*Find a Keynote Speaker for the Annual Meeting – Craig Smith lead.*

**Wednesday August 14, 2019**



1400 **Call Day 2 of the meeting to Order** – Craig Lee/UW APL

1405 **Nominating Committee Update & Ballot Vote** – Debbie Steinberg/VIMS

- *Looked at the composition of the Council by discipline and also geographically*
- *Ballot was unanimously approved by Council*

1410 **Seismic Workshop outcome and the future of the RV *Langseth*** - John Orcutt/SIO & Bob Houtman/NSF

- *Bob Houtman – NSF appreciated the active dialogue that was brought out by workshop. Lots of broad options came out. NSF has had extensive internal discussion on ways ahead that they could support. There is a DCL that is going through the clearance process. The DCL may and will provide some update on that particular bullet.*
- *Jim Swift – FIC – following this matter with great interest. The FIC has not discussed having a general purpose oceanographic vessel with seismic capabilities into the fleet but will do so.*

1430 **UNOLS Updates (10min each)**

- Update/Discussion on policies regarding science parties moving onboard – Doug Russell
- *Debbie Steinberg – as a user, it is great for the PIs to be able to move on or at least eat onboard when they are mob'ing. She does not want to create a proposal that makes it more limited. Would like to leave it to the operators*
- *Craig Lee – The vessel support – when they feed them while loading – is greatly appreciated. We could recommend that the PIs budget appropriately. For out of home port – are the PIs being billed full amount?*
- *Anita Lopez – Would like operators to continuing to have flexibility to the ship operators to make their policies. There are some operational aspects that we would like to provide the services when we can and not to when we can't. Each institution has their own way of managing their process and we have to manage this in the pre=cruise planning. Food is factored into the overall day rate.*
- *Jim Swift – PIs need guidance to include support for their teams along the lines of the WHOI policy – a conservative policy. Strongly recommend that we try to find a way to provide lunch in port. Guidance rather than*
- *Rose Dufour – Caught in the middle – Sensitive to both sides. Urge that the Council suggest we have a standard policy for the global ships as no one will be surprised or asking for supplements.*
- *Develop a general policy to include : Doug Russell Lead*
  - *Budget for most conservative (move on the day before departure and off the day after arriving)*
  - *Vessel can provide lunch for those working onboard*
  - *The ship can provide more when the circumstances allow it (e.g. in foreign ports, let folks move onboard sooner).*
- *Rose Dufour – there would be a lot of nuances on how this might get rolled out. Other agencies might have issues if they are charged the full rate and not given access.*
- UNOLS Charter Review – progress report – Alice Doyle
- *Council agreed with the approach to standardize sections.*
- *Debbie Steinberg – If possible, make everything as discoverable as possible*
- *Is there a way to make the documents more discoverable? E.g. – way to find phrases in the PDF.*



- *Update the Charter- Alice Doyle Lead*
- UNOLS Goals: Fleet Utilization Project – Craig Lee/UW APL
- MERAS update –
  - Module II Video Project – Rose Dufour/NSF
  - *Done by the end of September*
  - *Meeting weekly*
  - *Want to have operators have link available before – Module I, Module II.*
  - *Hope to develop some talking points for when they show the video – MERAS – follow-on.*
  - *Have a translation or caption for folks from foreign countries can follow along.*
  - *Videos – both will be available online.*
    - RAINN proposal – Brandi Murphy/UNOLS office
  - *UNOLS has a proposal from RAINN and will discuss this with the MERAS committee this week.*
  - *Stephan Barry/NOAA – There have been a lot of changes NOAA wide to our HR component that is responsible for such issues. Internal OMAO initiatives that are ahead of the curve. RAINN is not getting as much activity as the past bc of the bigger changes NOAA-wide.*
    - Vessel Pregnancy Policies – Brandi Murphy/UNOLS office
  - *Are we looking to standardize this across the fleet?*
  - *Debbie Steinberg – I feel this is more about – Does each ship have a policy? Is it being communicated well? Is it discoverable?*
  - *Mark Brezinski – He hears that folks would like to have access to the information – readily available and easy to find.*
  - *Debbie Steinberg – the UNOLS office put some guidelines a few years but seeing these results it is clear that we need to send out another reminder and have more reinforcement.*
  - *Send out a reminder to the Operators that they need to have a pregnancy policy and the ability to handle nursing mothers and that these should be discoverable. – UNOLS Office Lead*
- 2019 Fleet Improvement Plan – Jim Swift/SIO
  - *Council should provide feedback to the FIC before 1 September with the goal of distributing the FIP by 15 Sep.- Jim Swift and Alice Doyle - Leads*

**1450 Trusted CI update – John Haverlack/UAF**

- *Jim Swift – The info you are requesting can be useful to folks who are interested in hacking. What are you doing to make sure this info does not get in the wrong hands?*
- *John Haverlack - In Checklist documentation, there is a procedure on how to do this. We will be sure to use encrypted methods, primarily UNOLS drive.*

**1505 Committee Activities and Issues requiring Council Attention – Committee Chairs and Council members will have the opportunity to raise any issues requiring Council attention - formal reports/slides are not required (5min each)**

- Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC) – Jim Swift/SIO
  - *Active group on Global SMRs*
  - *Tracking the mid-life refit*
  - *Queried the UNOLS office on access to the PCARs of recently outfitted vessels*
  - *Following the RCRVs*
  - *Discussions on FOY – might be nearing the end*



- Research Vessel Operators' Committee (RVOC) – Tom Glennon/URI  
- *Moving chair dates to start/end in the spring after this fall's Annual Meeting.*
- Research Vessel Technical Enhancement Committee (RVTEC) – Lee Ellett/SIO
- Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee (MSROC) – John Orcutt/SIO
- Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) – Doug Russell for Sam Laney/WHOI
- Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR) – Luc Lenain/SIO
- Deep Submergence Science Committee (DeSSC) – Anna-Louise Reysenbach/PSU

1540 Opportunity for Additional Reports and Discussion

1400 Adjourn

