

Minutes
22nd Meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
November 29, 2022, Virtual Meeting

Notification and Availability of Meeting Materials

The 22nd meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) was announced to the public through the *Federal Register* and on the [OEAB website](#). Background materials and presentations prepared for this meeting are posted on the OEAB website.

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Vicki Ferrini, Columbia University, Chair
- Peter Girguis, Harvard University
- Kevin Hand, Ocean Worlds Lab, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Eric King, Schmidt Ocean Institute
- Veronique Le Roux, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Justin Manley, Just Innovation Inc.
- David Millar, Fugro USA
- Frank Muller-Karger, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida
- Ellen Prager, Ph. D., President, Earth2Ocean, Inc.
- Clara Smart, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Members in Absentia

- Mark Moline, School of Marine Science and Policy, University of Delaware

Designated Federal Officer for the OEAB

- David Turner, NOAA Ocean Exploration
- Joanne Flanders, NOAA Ocean Exploration (alternate)

NOAA Ocean Exploration Staff in Attendance

- Jeremy Weirich, Director

Observers

A number of individuals from the public, NOAA and other organizations observed the meeting at various points.

1. **Meeting Opening.** Designated Federal Officer (DFO) David Turner opened the meeting on November 29, 2022. This meeting was held virtually.
2. **Chair Opening Remarks.** Chair, Dr. Vicki Ferrini reviewed the [meeting agenda](#) and welcomed the newly appointed members to the Board. She expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to collaborate with both the Board and NOAA.
3. **Review and Approve Minutes From Previous Meeting.** The DFO will submit electronic copies of the minutes to Board members and record their votes via a Google Survey.

4. **Introductions: New Board Members.** Given that six new members had been newly appointed to the Board since Meeting 21 (2/17/2022), each member took the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide a brief summary of their background.
5. **NOAA Ocean Exploration: Operations and Projects.** Jeremy Weirich, NOAA Ocean Exploration’s Director, provided a short overview of the office’s activities. He provided an overview of upcoming fy 2023 expedition season. Several Board members expressed an interest in better understanding the metrics around Outreach, Impact, and the Program’s influence on policy makers. There was discussion about the need for consistent standards for data management, across the ocean exploration community, and the potential role NOAA Ocean Exploration could play in facilitating that outcome. Several members expressed an interest in better understanding the budget process, the budget alignments to outputs (NOPP, OEI, FFO, Operations, etc.), and what the Board’s responsibility and opportunities are in regards to budget. The OEAB Chair closed the session by suggesting the Board host more in-depth working sessions to discuss these topics in greater detail.
6. **Open Discussion Among the Board Members.** The Chair described a vision for how she would like the Board to function; 1) Ensure members are more prepared for working meetings; 2) Encourage more collaboration between Board members and NOAA leaders; 3) Create opportunities for Board Members to provide input into the strategic direction of the body and into developing agendas; and 4) Find ways to strengthen the connections among Board Members themselves.
 - a. Discussed Action Items
 - i. Research appropriate platform for Board Members to communicate, share articles, notices, and relevant artifacts
 1. e.g. Slack, Google Group, etc..
 - ii. Develop a sub-committee structure
 1. Focus on more frequent, less formal, working sessions where Board Members can focus their attentions on specific topics of interest.
 - iii. Consider how the Board might reimagine how formal advice and recommendations are shared with the NOAA Administrator
 - iv. Explore a joint meeting between the OEAB and the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP)
 1. The focus of a joint meeting would be on identifying shared contributions to the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization (NOMECE) Implementation Plan.
 - v. Schedule a more in-depth working session with NOAA Ocean Exploration staff to better understand and discuss the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute’s (OEI) operations.
 - vi. Develop an agenda item, or working session, for Board Members to discuss the state of “Ocean Exploration Today” and how the discipline is evolving.
 - vii. Develop an agenda item, or working session, for Board Members to discuss the relationship between NOAA’s current capabilities and

those that can be provided by other members of the ocean exploration community - with a goal of identifying potential partners.

- viii. Develop an agenda item, or working session, for Board Members to discuss ways that the “Impact of the Program” can be measured and evaluated.
- ix. Develop an agenda item, or working session, for Board Members to discuss the connection between ocean exploration and climate research.
- x. Develop an agenda item, or working session, for Board Members to discuss the connections to the New Blue Economy (e.g. commercializing ocean data, the emerging field of ocean intelligence, and the related markets for that data).

- 7. **Public Comment Period.** No comments were made during the open comment period.
- 8. **Next Meeting.** There was general agreement for an in-person OEAB meeting to be held in late April 2023, however, a specific date was not selected.
- 9. **Meeting Close.** The Designated Federal Officer closed the meeting at approximately 3:05 PM on November 29, 2022.

Dr. Vickie Ferrini, Chair
Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

Vickie Ferrini