

Minutes
Internal Advisory Committee Meeting
National Center for Caribbean Coral Reef Research
February 7, 2005

Members present: Peter Swart (Chair) (PS), John McManus (JM), Jay Blaire (JB), Joseph Serafy (JS), Michael Schmale (MS), Robert Ginsburg (RG), Peter Glynn (PG), Tyler Smith (TS), B. Chin (recording secretary).

Meeting started 9:15 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

The members approved minutes of IAC meeting of January 7, 2005.

2. NCORE Symposium

The members discussed the upcoming coral reef symposium and recommended:

- Increasing the announcements,
- Extending the deadline for abstracts to Thursday, 02/10/05 and settling the program by Friday, 02/11/05,
- Contacting persons directly to encourage them to participate,
- PS recommended using the SLAB seminar room instead of the auditorium.

RG enquired what the committee wanted to accomplish from the symposium. The members then discussed the purpose of the symposium and agreed that the main purposes were:

- Bringing people together to subscribe to NCORE and encourage interaction,
- Information and inventory: to expose what is being worked on ,
- To identify overlaps between the various groups (in order to create programs within the different groups) and new initiatives.

RG said that it was important to clarify and communicate the purposes of the symposium and to emphasize that the organizers wished to encourage discussions, to identify new initiatives.

The members agreed and JM agreed to send out an email to this effect.

The members agreed that presentations would be grouped according to theme and that there would be a discussion period after each group. The members agreed that persons at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) should be invited also.

JB agreed to confirm the administration's financial contribution to the symposium.

3. Coral Curriculum

PS advised that he met with Douglas Crawford, the MBF academic committee chair to discuss the idea of a coral reef program with a suggested range of courses, based on divisions reorganized according to themes. Both divisions' academic requirements would have to be reviewed and modified. Further discussions were needed.

4. Centennial Celebration - Carnegie Institute Marine Biology Laboratory

RG advised the meeting of his involvement in planning the Carnegie Institution's Marine Biological Laboratory centennial celebration. The organizing committee has proposed a 3 day celebration, October 13-15, 2005, in Key West.

Day 1 and 2: Sessions on the accomplishments of the laboratory including the historical background. Public forum about the Dry Tortugas in the evenings.

Day 3: Trip to the Dry Tortugas by ferry, snorkeling, visit to Fort Jefferson.

RG advised that the Carnegie Institute may commit \$50,000.00.

RG asked what role RSMAS could play in this and suggested that RSMAS undertake the logistics for the celebration.

PG enquired if this would be something that NCORE would do.

JM advised that NCORE would be willing to post promotional announcements on its website and that he would discuss with Chris Langdon what administrative help the NCORE could offer, provided the school commits to the project. JM then moved a resolution to endorse Prof. Ginsburg's proposal that RSMAS play a role in organizing the centennial celebration. Motion was unanimously carried.

5. Any Other Business

PS requested that the minutes be posted on the NCORE website.

Meeting ended at 10:20am.