SECOORA FY 21 Board Officers Election Framework

To ensure open and fair Board Officer elections are conducted for the SECOORA FY 2021 Board Officers, an election framework has been developed.

NOMINATIONS

Rules

Nominations are to be solicited from the May 2020 elected Board members for individuals to fill the Board Officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and At- Large (previously past chair).

Rick DeVoe (current Chair) is rotating off the Board and therefore is not eligible for the Past Chair position on the Executive Committee. For the Executive Committee Officer elections, the fifth seat will be an At-large seat rather than a Past Chair seat.

Nominations may be made prior to the next Board call and from **July 7 to 12 PM EDT on July 14**, **2020**. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Board meeting on July 15. A listing of the nominees for each office will be provided to Board members prior to the Board Meeting.

List of Eligible Nominees (i.e. not current PIs who are on the SECOORA Board)

Michael Crosby, Mote Marine Lab
Mike Piehler, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Jeff Copeland, WeatherFlow Inc.
Marcel Reichert, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Quinton White, Jacksonville University
Roger Pugliese, South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
Conrad Lautenbacher, GeoOptics, Inc.
Jim Murley, Miami-Dade County
Bill Savidge, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography at UGA
Kurt Korte, Surfline
Gary Mitchum, University of South Florida

Please be aware that existing officers still on the Board are <u>eligible for nomination and are willing to continue to serve as officers</u>. Below is a list of current officers.

- Chair: Open
- Vice Chair: Jeff Copeland, WeatherFlow (NOTE: Jeff Copeland has served his two-year term as Vice-Chair and would need to be nominated into another position). He is willing to serve in the Secretary or At-large position.
- Secretary: Open
- Treasurer: Quinton White, Jacksonville University. He is willing to serve as Treasurer again.
- At-Large: Michael Crosby (NOTE: For this election, there is not past chair position (as Rick DeVoe has rotated off the Board), therefore an At Large position is open). Michael can be nominated to any officer position, and is willing to serve.

Process

Separate email nominations with the name of the nominee and the office for which they are nominated should be made for each office and should be sent via email to BOTH: Abbey Wakely (email: abbey@secoora.org, phone: 863 838 4699) and Megan Lee (email: mlee@secoora.org). Abbey will email a confirmation to those who are nominated.

SECOORA Board members may nominate themselves or be nominated by other SECOORA Board members as candidates. If you are not nominating yourself, you should include verification in your nomination email to Abbey and Megan that the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

A listing of each nomination will be posted on the SECOORA website as they are received. A final list of the nominees and nominators for each office will be posted on the website on July 14 and will be provided to Board Members by email prior to the July 15 Board call.

ELECTIONS

Rules

Each SECOORA Board Officer election will be conducted separately, one officer seat election at a time. Elections will be held in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and At- Large.

In each election a Board member may vote for one and only one candidate.

Board members can attend the meeting via electronic means. **No proxy voting** is allowed. A quorum must be present for voting. Seventy percent of Board members is a quorum (SECOORA By-Laws).
With 11 members on the SECOORA Board, this means at least 8 members must be present for a quorum.
A roll-call will be called before each election if needed to verify quorum.

The winner of an election will be the nominee who receives the most votes from those Board members present and qualified to vote. There will be a run-off election if there is a tie for highest votes.

Receiving and Counting the Votes

Officer elections will be conducted via email (preferred) or by text during the Board meeting. There will be at least two separate vote Counters who can easily and efficiently:
- receive emails and phone calls
- agree off line to the final votes and
- provide the Board with timely results.

These counters will be: Abbey Wakely, abbey@secoora.org, 863.838.4699 and Megan Lee: mlee@secoora.org, 843.864.6755.

Once a particular election is called, Board members vote by email (preferred) or text to BOTH of the counters. Each Counter will separately tally results. Both Counters must unanimously agree on the count or bring the dispute back to the Board.

If a Board Member present fails to vote through email or phone to either of the Counters, that Board Member attending the meeting will be contacted to confirm his/her intent either verbally or by email to vote or not for a specific candidate.

Copies of the email votes, notes of phone call votes received, and the final vote tally will be filed with the Secretary for the record. This will allow votes cast to be later validated if any questions should arise.

Process

The first order of Business at the Board meeting will be the election of officers. The past Chair or Debra Hernandez, SECOORA Executive Director, will preside until the election of the new Chair who will then preside. The order for election is always sequentially Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large.

Only votes of Board members who are attending the Board Meeting can be counted. There will be a roll-call quorum verification before each election if necessary to confirm quorum. This is needed because people may join or drop off the phone in the interim.

If an election has only one nominee, this uncontested race can be handled in the following way: "The Chair recognizes that there is one nominee for the office of (name of office). Are there any other nominees for this office? (If no more, then:) Hearing none, I ask for a unanimous vote of the Board in support of (name of nominee) for the SECOORA Board (name of office). All those in favor say Aye. All opposed say Nay. The Ayes have it and (name of person) shall be the SECOORA Board (name of office) for the FY21 term."

If an election has two nominees (or more), this contested race can be handled in the following way: "The Board Chair or Executive Director recognizes that there are two (or more) nominees for the office of (name of office). Are there any other nominees for this office? (Accept additional nominees) I ask for a vote of the Board to choose between the two (or more) nominees (names of nominees) for the SECOORA Board (name of office). Please cast your ballots by email or phone (if you do not have access to email) to **BOTH** Counters (give names of vote counters). It is important that you send your vote to both so that separate tallies can be maintained and compared to ensure a fair election."

When results come in, the Chair or Executive Director reports that (name of person) shall be the SECOORA Board (name of office) for the FY21 term.