A. FINAL ARBITER OF THE SECOORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION PROCESS

1. According to SECOORA By-Laws as revised and approved at the May 13, 2009 Members meeting, the SECOORA Board Development Committee has the following charges:
   - Establish criteria and processes for Board elections, accept nominations, screen prospective nominees, and provide a slate of candidates to the members for approval.
   - Develop the annual Board ballot and coordinate circulation to the membership, allowing ample time for consideration of all candidates and resolution of any technical problems.
   - Establish procedures for determining winners of Board elections and handling any disputed election results.
   - Establish procedures governing candidates’ conduct regarding election campaigns.

2. The 2021 SECOORA Board of Directors Election Procedural Framework has been drafted by the Board Development Committee, based on the 2020 Framework, which was based on earlier Frameworks that were vetted, commented upon, and supported by the Executive Committee (EXCOM).

3. A subset of the Board Development Committee will serve as an impartial Nomination Sub-Committee (NSC). Those on the NSC will be Board Development Committee members who are not running for re-election in the current term.

4. The NSC will act as the final arbiter of the 2021 Board of Directors Elections.

B. NOMINATION PROCESS AND THE OFFICIAL SECOORA BOARD ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2021

1. SECOORA By-Laws are the basis for the development of the 2021 Board Election process.

2. If the ballot is uncontested the elections will be held virtually. An oral vote will be taken at the 2021 virtual SECOORA Membership Annual Meeting, May 24, 2021. If the ballot is contested, then the full membership will vote using a secure online voting system (Election Buddy). The winners of the election will be announced during the 2021 SECOORA Membership Annual Meeting on May 24, 2021 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET.

3. The 2021 Board Election shall fill those positions on the Board of Directors that will become open on July 1, 2021, due to the staggered terms of SECOORA Board members.
The following seats are open for nomination. The attached Appendix shows a list of current Board members with those whose terms are expiring highlighted in yellow. The Appendix also shows those Members eligible for each seat and a list of Members in Good Standing.

**Industry/Private Sector**
**ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**

**Public Agencies/Non-Profit/Other Sector**
**ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**

**At Large SC**
**ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**

**At Large NC**
**ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**

4. Criteria and Deadlines for nominees wishing to fill the Board position(s):
   
   a. representative of SECOORA’s broad constituency
   
   b. paid dues to become a SECOORA Member in Good Standing
   
   c. submittal of a nomination that includes an agreement to be a nominee, 2 page CV consisting of background and experiences that pertain to ocean observing systems and ability to represent SECOORA, and Conflict of Interest (CoI) statement of the nominee by 5 PM ET on March 22, 2021 to the Nominations Sub-Committee via Abbey Wakely (abbey@secoora.org) and copy to Peter Hamilton (peter_hamilton@ncsu.edu), Molly Baringer (molly.baringer@noaa.gov) and Paul Sandifer (sandiferpa@cofc.edu). A nominee may be a candidate in only one category of Board Seat (i.e., Institutional Member Seat in the Industry/Private Sector or Institutional Member Seat in Academic/Research/Education Sector, etc.).

5. SECOORA members may nominate themselves or be nominated by other SECOORA members as candidates.

6. The NSC will review nominations of candidates on behalf of the Board Development Committee.

7. The NSC will review each nominee’s CoI disclosure and determine to its satisfaction whether or not a CoI exists. If a CoI is viewed to exist, the NSC will develop a draft remedy. The NSC will explain the situation to the SECOORA Executive Committee and seek approval of the draft remedy. Once approval is given, the NSC will ask for agreement from the nominee to follow the remedy in order to be nominated.
8. All nominees meeting the announced criteria will be submitted as a Slate of Candidates to the Board of Directors for approval.

9. The approved Slate of Candidates, their CVs, their COI disclosure, and if applicable, the remedy, will be posted on the SECOORA website with a notice emailed to all SECOORA members.

10. No nominations to this Slate will be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting.

11. If there is a contested ballot, voting will take place using Election Buddy. Institutional Member representatives may vote for all candidates. Individual Members may only vote for At Large candidates.

C. PROCEDURES GOVERNING CANDIDATES’ and MEMBERS’ CONDUCT REGARDING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

1. Once nominated to be a candidate for a Board seat, the person nominated may seek support for a position on the Board through verbal, electronic, or written communication. Campaigning for a SECOORA Board seat by a candidate or a member shall not occur in the form of negative criticism of any other person nominated for a Board Seat that is the subject of a 2021 Board Election.

2. Once nominated to be a candidate for a Board seat, nothing of tangible or intangible value may be exchanged between such candidate and any SECOORA member or member representative. No member of SECOORA shall engage in inappropriate or unethical activities associated with an election.

3. Should an incident be reported to the NSC that, if true, constitutes prohibited campaign activity, the NSC will investigate and resolve the matter. If unable to reach a resolution, the NSC will refer the matter to the full Board of Directors for resolution.

D. TIMELINE OF EVENTS FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS

1. March 9, 2021 Notice. A notice shall be emailed by the SECOORA Staff to all SECOORA members and posted on the SECOORA website with the following information:

   a. SECOORA Board of Directors Election Procedural Framework

   b. Criteria for Board Nominations as provided in B.4 above with information on openings in the various Board categories (i.e., Institutional Member Seat in the Industry/Private Sector (one), etc.)
c. Request all SECOORA members wishing to make nominations to send the nominations by COB on March 22, 2021 to the NSC (see page 2, B. 4c).

d. Reminder Notice: SECOORA members wishing to designate a proxy to vote on their behalf at the 2021 SECOORA Membership Meeting must notify the SECOORA Executive Director, Debra Hernandez (debra@secoora.org).

2. March 22, 2021 at 5pm is the Nomination Deadline.

3. To be determined, likely March 23, 2021: The NSC shall review nominations and CVs to assure the timeliness of the nomination and alignment with criteria for nominees. The NSC shall construct and approve the draft Slate of Candidates. With the approval of the Board Development Committee, the Slate of Candidates shall be submitted on or before, March 28, 2021 to the SECOORA Board for approval.

4. March 29, 2021: The SECOORA Board sends their approval of the draft or revised Slate of Candidates back to the NSC. The nomination period is closed.

5. To be determined, likely March 30, 2021, the approved Slate of Candidates is posted with their CVs on the SECOORA website.

6. To be determined, likely March 30, 2021, the NSC directs the SECOORA staff to construct the Official 2021 SECOORA Board Election Ballot and approves the final version thereof.

7. March 31, 2021: The SECOORA staff will post the Official 2021 SECOORA Election Ballot, the list of dues paying members in good standing, and the list of members’ representatives (or approved proxy as of that date) voting in the 2021 Board election. The NSC shall confer on this date to review the items posted to confirm with SECOORA staff that the lists and other items posted for the 2021 Board Election are accurate.

8. Week of April 12, 2021: If the ballot is contested, SECOORA staff will prepare an electronic ballot using Election Buddy. An email to each Member Representative will be sent that contains a code to vote. The nature of the electronic vote eliminates the need for a proxy, but one is allowed to be designated to the Executive Director if it is requested.

9. Week of April 26, 2021: Any runoff elections for tie ballots will be held using Election Buddy. Results of Board members winning their respective elections will be announced at the SECOORA Annual Meeting.

E. ELECTION PROCESS

1. Contested ballot voting procedures are listed above.
2. Uncontested ballot voting procedures are listed above.

F. COUNTING OF VOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

1. SECOORA staff members will double check the Election Buddy votes and the results will be saved in the SECOORA records.

2. If there are no tie votes or issues with the 67% rule (see Section H), the election results shall be announced by the Chair of the NSC to the Annual Meeting attendees.

G. ELECTION PROCESS IN CASE OF A TIE VOTE FOR A SPECIFIC BOARD SEAT.

1. Tie votes will be handled by a run-off election the week of April 26, 2021 via Election Buddy. SECOORA staff members will double check the Election Buddy votes and the results will be saved in the SECOORA records.

H. ELECTION PROCESS TO SEEK A MORE DISPERSED GEOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

SECOORA By-Laws, Article IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Section 1 states: “Composition of the Board. The Board will be composed of 11 members. The number of Board seats filled should at all times be an odd number. No state will hold more than sixty-seven (67%) percent of seats on the Board”.

1. It is possible in any given election year to have an election that, when the individuals who have won their respective Board Seats are installed as Board members in June or so of each year, results in Board composition that will violate this By-Law section (more than 67% of the Board come from one state).

2. After the ballots are counted and results are reported to the SECOORA Membership by the NSC, if any state has more than (67%) of Board membership, then the NSC will follow this procedure:

a. The NSC will first ask if any of the newly elected Board members from that state with more than 67% Board Seats wish to relinquish so that the number of seats from one state can conform to the By-Law requirement in Article IV, Section 1. Should such a Board member announce that he or she wishes to relinquish; the NSC will draw up and approve the Slate of Candidates to fill the seat vacated and, with SECOORA staff, present another ballot to the SECOORA Members for election to the newly opened Board Seat.

b. If no Board member from such a state wishes to resign, the matter will be turned over to the Board of Directors for resolution no later than June 15th and sent to the Governance Committee (options include an election of one or more new Board members,
acceptance of resignations from one or more existing Board members, or appointment of members to Public Seats by the Board of Directors).

I. CLOSING COMMENTS AND PROCEDURES

1. All 2021 Board Election ballots through Election Buddy shall be kept as SECOORA records on the 2021 Board Election and shall be reviewed prior to storage by the Secretary of the SECOORA Board of Directors.

2. After the announcement of the results of the 2021 Board Election, the Chair of the NSC will confirm the 2021 Election is concluded and that the newly elected Board of Directors will be installed as Board members on July 1, 2021.
APPENDIX

The SECOORA Board voted in January 2019 that PIs are no longer eligible to serve on the SECOORA Board. The SECOORA membership voted to change the bylaws in June 2019 to reduced the size of the Board to 11 as follows:

Public Seat: 1
Institutional Member Seats: 2
Industry/Private Sectors: 2
Academic/Education Research Sectors: 2
Public Agencies/Non-Profit/Other Sectors: 2
At Large Member Seats:
   1 North Carolina
   1 South Carolina
   1 Georgia
   1 Florida

Current List of Board Members

The SECOORA Board seats and term limits are given below. Yellow highlighted are the ONLY SEATS BEING FILLED in the 2021 Election.

Industry/Private Sector: Term Limit (yr)
Kurt Korte 3 (as of 7/1/2019)
Jeff Copeland 3 (as of 7/1/2018) - TERM IS UP – has to rotate off Board, served 2 consecutive 3-year terms

Academic/Research/Education Sector: Term Limit (yr)
Quinton White 3 (as of 7/1/2019)
Gary Mitchum 3 (as of 7/1/2020)

Public Agencies/Non Profit/Other Sector: Term Limit (yr)
Roger Pugliese 3 (as of 7/1/2018) - TERM IS UP – has to rotate off Board, served 2 consecutive 3-year terms
Michael Crosby 3 (as of 7/1/2019)

At-Large: Term Limit (yr)
Bill Savidge (GA) 3 (as of 7/1/2019)
Michael Piehler (NC) 3 (as of 7/1/2018) - TERM IS UP – up for re-election
Marcel Reichert (SC) 3 (as of 7/1/2018) - TERM IS UP – has to rotate off Board, served 2 consecutive 3-year terms
Jim Murley (FL) 3 (as of 7/1/2019)

Public Seat: Term Limit (yr)
Conrad Lautenbacher 3 (as of 7/1/2020)
Current List of Members Eligible

**Industry/Private Sector – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**
Patrick Barrineau, Coastal Science & Engineering
Matthew Upton, Upton Environmental, Inc. D/B/A ROFFS™
Jay Titlow, WeatherFlow

**Public Agencies/Non-Profit/Other Sector – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**
Luke McEachron, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
Monty Graham, Florida Institute of Oceanography
Duane De Freese, Indian River Lagoon Council
Susan Lovelace, SC Sea Grant Consortium
Evelien VanderKloet, Ocean Tracking Network

**At Large SC – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**
Ryan Rykaczewski, University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences
Paul Sandifer, College of Charleston
Susan Lovelace, SC Sea Grant Consortium
Patrick Barrineau, Coastal Science & Engineering

**At Large NC – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE**
Michael Piehler, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

**Affiliates**
(Members elected from this category would serve as non-voting, Ex-officio Board members)
Geno Olmi, SECART
Molly Baringer, NOAA AOML
Jennifer Bennett Mintz, NOAA Ocean Acidification Program
Steve Pfaff, NOAA National Weather Service Wilmington, NC
John K. Joiner, U.S. Geologic Survey
### List of Members in Good Standing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Dues Paid</th>
<th>Date Received</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional Members - Director</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute</td>
<td>Quinton White</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Surfline</td>
<td>Kurt Korte</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>9/21/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 WeatherFlow</td>
<td>Jay Titlow</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>9/21/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council</td>
<td>Roger Pugliese</td>
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<td>8/19/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Skidaway Institute of Oceanography</td>
<td>Bill Savidge</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>6/8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 SC DNR Marine Resources Division</td>
<td>Marcel Reichert</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10/19/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 UNC-Chapel Hill</td>
<td>Michael F. Piehler</td>
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<td>7/31/20</td>
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<td><strong>Sustaining Members - Director</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Mote Marine Laboratory</td>
<td>Michael Crosby</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 USF</td>
<td>Gary Mitchum</td>
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<td>6/8/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Miami-Date County</td>
<td>Jim Murley</td>
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<td><strong>Public Seat - Director</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 GeoOptics</td>
<td>Conrad Lautenbacher</td>
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<td><strong>Institutional Members - Non-Director</strong></td>
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<td>12 Florida Institute of Technology</td>
<td>Steven Lazarus</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 NC State University</td>
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<td>16 USC College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>Ryan Rykaczewski</td>
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<td>6/16/20</td>
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<td>17 UF</td>
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<td>18 Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute</td>
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<td>19 FIU-SEAS</td>
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<td>21 Florida Institute of Oceanography</td>
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<td>22 FL Fish and Wildlife Research Institute</td>
<td>Luke McEachron</td>
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<td>23 Fathom Science</td>
<td>Jennifer Warillow</td>
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<td>24 ECU (Coastal Studies Institute) - replaced JP Walsh</td>
<td>Mike Muglia</td>
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<td>25 College of Charleston</td>
<td>Paul Sandifer</td>
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<td>27 SC Sea Grant Consortium</td>
<td>Susan Lovelace</td>
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<td>28 Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program</td>
<td>Duane De Freese</td>
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<td>29 University of Miami-Rosenstiel School</td>
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<td>30 The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>Mary Conley</td>
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<td>31 Coastal Science &amp; Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>Patrick Barrineau</td>
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<td><strong>Individual Members</strong></td>
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<td>32 Rick Cole - RDSea International</td>
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<td>33 Cliff Merz - Dialytics, Inc.</td>
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<td>34 Peter Hamilton</td>
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<td>35 Scott Duncan - Navocean Inc.</td>
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