

SECOORA FY24 Board Officers Election Framework



To ensure open and fair Board Officer elections are conducted for the SECOORA FY 2024 Board Officers, an election framework has been developed.

NOMINATIONS

Rules

Nominations are to be solicited from the May 2023 elected Board members for individuals to fill the Board Officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large.

Nominations may be made prior to the next Board call from **Friday June 30 to noon on Tuesday July 11, 2023**. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Board meeting on Thursday, July 13, at 10:30 AM ET. A listing of the nominees for each office will be provided to Board members prior to the Board Meeting.

List of Eligible Nominees

Bill Savidge, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography at UGA
Gary Mitchum, University of South Florida
Susan Lovelace, SC Sea Grant
Evelien VanderKloet, Ocean Tracking Network
Patrick Barrineau, Coastal Science & Engineering, Inc
Duane DeFreese, Indian River Lagoon Council
Bryan Franks, Jacksonville University
Jeff Copeland, WeatherFlow
Erin Hague, TetraTech
Nathan Hall, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

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

- Chair: Gary Mitchum, University of South Florida College of Marine Science (NOTE: He is willing to serve in the Chair position).
- Treasurer: Susan Lovelace, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium (NOTE: She is willing to serve in the Treasurer position).
- Secretary: William Savidge, University of Georgia, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (NOTE: He is willing to serve in the Secretary position).
- At-large: Evelien VanderKloet, Ocean Tracking Network (NOTE: She is willing to serve in the At- large position).

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: Megan Shaw (email: mshaw@secoora.org, phone: 937-689-0374) and Abbey Wakely (email: abbey@secoora.org, phone: 863-838-4699). Megan 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

Megan and Abbey that the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

A final list of the nominees and nominators for each office will be provided to Board Members by email prior to the July 13, 10:30 AM ET 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 10 members on the SECOORA Board, this means at least 6 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 offline to the final votes and
- provide the Board with timely result

These counters will be Megan Shaw (email: mshaw@secoora.org , phone: 937-689-0374) and Abbey Wakely (email: abbey@secoora.org, phone: 863-838-4699).

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 current 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 FY24 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 FY24 term.