

FY17 Board Officers Election Framework

To ensure open and fair Board Officer elections are conducted for the SECOORA FY 2017 Board Officers, an election framework has been developed.

Nominations

Rules

Nominations are to be solicited from the May 2016 elected Board members for individuals to fill the Board Officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past Chair/ At-Large. Conrad Lautenbacher cannot fill the Past Chair position because he is rotating off the Board, therefore the At-large seat is available.

Nominations may be made prior to the next Board meeting and over the period **July 11 to 12pm EDT on July 18, 2016**. Nominations may also come from the floor at the Board meeting on July 27, but are greatly preferred to be done during the July 7-14 period so that a listing of the nominees for each office can be provided for consideration to Board members prior to the Board Meeting.

The following Board members are eligible for nomination:

Rick DeVoe, SC Sea Grant Consortium
Mitch Roffer, ROFFS™
Jim Nelson, UGA SKIO
Peter Hamilton, Leidos Corporation
Lisa Adams, Kennesaw State University
Jeff Copeland, WeatherFlow
Quinton White, Jacksonville University
Michael Crosby, Mote Marine Lab
George Maul, FIT
Marcel Reichert, SCDNR
Tim Short, SRI International
Bill Hogarth, FIO

Please be aware that existing officers still on the Board are eligible for nomination, but cannot serve in their current position. Note that Jim Nelson is not available to serve this year.

Vice Chair: Bill Hogarth, FIO

Secretary: Jim Nelson, UGA SKIO

Treasurer: Peter Hamilton, Leidos Corporation

Past Chair: George Maul, FIT

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: Vembu Subramanian (email: vembu@secoora.org, phone: 727.525.1926) and Megan Lee (email: mlee@secoora.org). 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 Vembu 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 the afternoon of July 18 and will be provided to Board Members by email prior to the Board meeting.

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 Past Chair/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 16 members on the SECOORA Board, this means at least 11 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 phone 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: Vembu Subramanian: vembu@secoora.org, 727.525.1926; and Megan Lee: mlee@secoora.org, 843.864.6755.

Once a particular election is called, Board members vote by email (preferred) or phone call 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. 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 Past Chair/ 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 FY17 term."

If an election has two nominees (or more), this contested race can be handled in the following way: "The Board Chair or Past Chair 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 reports that (name of office) shall be the SECOORA Board for the FY17 term.