



Minutes
Diving and Boating Safety Committee
February 13, 2018

Members Present: Dale Gawlik, Ph.D., Chair, Program Director & Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences
Matthew Ajemian, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, HBOI
Michael Brady, Ph.D., Dept. Chair & Professor, Dept. of Exceptional Student Education
Robert Coulson, Research Programs Coordinator, SeaTech Research Center
Tanja Godenschwege, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
David Muncher, Diving & Boating Safety Officer, EH&S
James Nelson, Diving & Boating Safety Officer, HBOI
Joshua Voss, Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor, HBOI
Jeanette Wyneken, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

Members Absent: Gabriel Alsenas, Director, Core Facilities

Environmental Health & Safety Administration: Wendy D. Ash Graves, CSP, Director

Committee facilitators: Elisa Gaucher, M.B.A., Assistant Vice President for Research Integrity
Judith Martinez, M.Ed., Coordinator, Research Integrity

Start Time: 2:02PM

Adjourned: 3:13PM

- **Introduction and Welcome**
 - Introductions between existing and new committee members, new EH&S Director
 - Committee is informed about member's written concern regarding the number of majority biological divers on the committee. It was clarified that this is a criterion that must be maintained in order to meet AAUS requirements. It was fortuitous that a new member is an active scientific diver as a current member recently lapsed into an inactive scientific diver status.
 - Chair provides DBSC Year in Review of 2017 DBSC activities and accomplishments as well as goals for 2018 which include a focus on safety and customer service, airboat training, improved float plan tracking, restructuring of the safety manual, and data-driven services based on the boating survey.
- **Committee member COI disclosure with agenda items**

N/A
- **Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 - *Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes with correction to minor typo: 7 in favor, 1 abstained, 1 opposed.*



Old Business

1. DOI-MOCC Southern Campuses & DBSO Updates

- Department of Parks & Recreation has approved the use of John Prince Park to conduct southern campus trainings on March 12th, 13th, and 14th. Training will be conducted as a test run to gauge the number of attendees who sign up. Three instructors will allow for a maximum of 12 students to sign up with one day of classroom training for all at once with day 2 and day 3 of on water training staggered to fulfill the 3:1 student to instructor ratio. DBSO will send announcement of training dates following the meeting.
- Approval from the parks department extends to parks throughout the county so success at John Prince Park opens the opportunity for conducting the training at any other park in the county.
- John Prince Park has 90-day window for reservations as per availability of the park. Short of a hurricane, weather should not be issue because John Prince Park is a protected water.
- Will email boat supervisors and an announcement will go on the DBSC website which will include boat application for PI to endorse.
- Member expresses concerns about budget for southern campus. EH&S director informs that EH&S will be paying for the associated costs. Member adds concerns regarding per diem and accommodations for instructors coming down from HBOI. EH&S director is amenable to paying for these costs and that a conversation of the specifics regarding these costs will be discussed prior to the training.
- **ACTION ITEM: DBSO to verify return information is included on the boat operator application form stipulating to email form to DBSO's.**

2. Airboat training feasibility report

- Course would be provided as an add-on to the MOCC training. Report includes options for the training efforts including 1) continuing to conduct the training as we have been doing so, 2) sending students to Titusville to be trained by an outside contractor, 3) have DBSO's go through the process of becoming airboat instructors. The DBSO calls for it being a matter of deciding which direction to take at this point.
- Cost assessment thus includes travel and course fees for option two of sending out students or option three training for DBSOs which would include the costs of the course and associated fees, travel accommodations and so forth. Chair proposes the report be distributed to the committee for review to determine the best and most cost-effective route to take.
- Training accommodations for instructors
- DBSO provides feasibility of costs for airboat training, asks that DBSC makes request about decision in order to incorporate costs into EH&S budget with approaching deadline. Director is suggested to include the highest proposed amount in the budget.

- Airboat training would be separate from the existing DOI-MOCC training which involves an additional full day of training after completing the general DOI-MOCC course.
- **ACTION ITEM: RI to circulate Airboat Feasibility document to the DBSC**

3. Frevvo/Amazon Cloud Float Plan Software

- Testing remains underway at HBOI, and it is not ready to present to the committee. Techs are still familiarizing and setting up Amazon Angular and Frevvo. The aim of release for testing has been pushed back to April/May, concerns are expressed that a member's active season begins now so April/May would already be their mid-season and will ask if the software could be released a little sooner even as beta testers.
- DBSO has been working with FAU's OIT on a Frevvo form to link to the Diving and Boating Safety Sharepoint calendar and hope to have the form done by the end of the week. The goal would be for the form to feed into the calendar in real time when its submitted which will allow DBSO's to see who's out on the water, the data can be captured on an Excel spreadsheet, when its submitted it will be sent out to certain people and will also vet a number of the fields. The aim is for this form to have notifications in lieu of signatures. The form will be ready to beta test in 3-4 weeks. This has been developed separately and in parallel to the form HBOI has been developing.

4. Subcommittee Updates

- Subcommittees had meeting scheduled in January but were unable to have enough people in attendance and had to cancel. They have not made progress but are scheduled to meet on February 20th.



New Business

1. 2017 Annual Report Update

- The annual report was started this week DBSO will be working on the report this week and the next collecting raw data and producing tables to include and should have a draft version within the next week or so. Question regarding data can be captured to the level of PI to reflect the activity of each lab to better identify active groups.
- **ACTION ITEM: DBSO to send Draft 2017 Annual Report for committee review**

2. Boat Operator CPR/First-Aid Certification

- DBSO requests to revisit the topic of CPR/First-Aid certification for boat operators and calls for a vote to make this required to reflect current best practice at most institutions. Incident from previous year is cited where an injury occurred and might have been better addressed had the boat operator been trained. Discussion regarding why this incident was not included in the annual report or brought to the committee as the incident took place on a field trip wherein persons were transported by an FAU boat. It was determined that this did not classify as a boat accident and thus didn't need to be reported.
- Certification is already a pre-requisite for MOCC course which captures those who are training for the first time however the CPR component has not yet been taught at FAU as the

DBSO's have been setting up this new program. Question regarding whether existing boaters should be grandfathered in or be required to complete the training now.

- Divers are already required to do this training and renew about every two years so a similar requirement could be extended to boat operators. The associated costs for the course and subsequent renewals is about \$25 which includes course books. Concern regarding this fee being used for books and whether it is possible to use the same book each year and avoid the renewal fee. Clarification is made that this training is being done through Divers Alert Network (DAN) and books are no longer used instead DAN now has an online component in its place which must be completed prior to the face to face component. DAN costs \$10 for the certification card.
- HBOI DBSO offers that additional training should also be required to discuss at a future time
- Proposal made for committee to consider support of the idea of training and investigate avenues of payment options
- Motion was made and seconded however no vote was taken following additional discussion regarding boat operators needing to be current in their CPR/First-Aid Certification. Proposal to look into funding opportunities to present at the next meeting suggestion for member to pay individually and then be reimbursed.
- Agreement that department should provide funds for this continuing education training course even if current research does not require or necessitate it only if there is idea to incorporate it into future research or otherwise use this training toward making some manner of contribution to the department/college.

3. DAN diver's insurance

- DBSO submitted a quick survey on the DSO listserv nationwide asking whether all current divers should carry DAN insurance. Receiving 11 responses stating that it's a universal requirement, 2 stating its highly recommended, 1 stating its required of volunteers and not staff, and 1 stating its required of students and recommended for staff and faculty.
- Questions regarding what is the benefit to the university to require DAN's insurance, is there a need for it to be DAN or can it be another insurance company that includes a certain level of minimal coverage?
- It was discussed that if one's obligation to the institution is already covered by worker's comp, DAN doesn't have any additional benefit.
- Revisiting the topic of who is covered under worker's compensation and clarifying the committee is only dealing with diving under the auspices of FAU for educational or research purposes. According to our liability guidance document there should be no one who isn't covered under worker's comp unless it's a volunteer that hasn't been vetted by human resources such as a visiting diver.
- It is proposed that DAN insurance should be strongly recommended but not required.
- **ACTION ITEM: Clarify with legal counsel whether DAN insurance is needed or whether worker's compensation is sufficient. Additionally, evaluate a liability issue versus insurance claim.**



Other Business:

- Member welcomes new committee members and raises question regarding DBSC membership composition and nominations. It is clarified that nominations are an ongoing

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process from members as well as departments, deans etc. which are evaluated and offered official nomination by VPR.

- DBSO describes a need to evaluate training for re-breathers. Member suggests disregarding that until there is an approval of the grant proposal that would allow for this kind of diving.
- DBSO describes possibility of for-credit-class of scientific diving. Previous syllabus will be revised and presented to committee
- **ACTION ITEM: DBSO to revise syllabus of scientific diving curriculum course. RI to distribute syllabus to DBSC**
- DBSO's propose to do away with open water training as they are burdensome and poorly attended
- Donut hole issue wherein a researcher has completed the coursework and received certification for a Captain's license but has not yet received license which may take months for the U.S. Coast Guard to process and issue. Question regarding whether this certification though not licensure, can substitute the need for the DOI-MOCC requirement.
- **ACTION ITEM: DBSO and RC to send description of captain's licensure course components for DBSC to compare to DOI-MOCC course components and evaluate equivalency.**