



NORA Advisory Board Minutes 7th July 2021

Attendees: Pierre Boudry, Alison Debney, Tristan Hugh-Jones, Kruno Bonačić, Bernadette Pogoda, Joanne Preston, Hein Sas, Henning von Nordheim, Bill Sanderson, Philine zu Ermgassen, Boze Hancock

Apologies: Cass Bromley

Chair: Kruno Bonačić

Agenda

- 1) Accepting the proposed agenda
- 2) Discussion of the organisational structure of NORA
- 3) Future funding for NORA
- 4) Duration and time of the next meeting

Minutes

- 1) **The proposed agenda was accepted.**
- 2) **The following matters relating to the structure and processes of NORA were discussed:**

A. Role and composition of the board

During the first AB meeting of 17th September 2019;

It was recognised that the Iberian Peninsula, Scandinavia and hatcheries are underrepresented on the Board.

A 2-year term was proposed by which time the Board would agree on the criteria and process for reviewing Board membership. The Advisory Board therefore move to consolidate the structure and processes of the Advisory Board in the future.

The following possible actions were discussed:

- Increase the size of the Board.
- Consider partial replacement of the board every 2 years.
- Seek further industry involvement
- NORA 4 is an opportunity to be very open about the function of the AB and make it accountable.

The following actions were proposed:

1. Prepare a draft note on possible structures of the Board and voting procedures for the Board (Hein Sas/ Boze Hancock).
2. Develop a session at the NORA 4 conference in which NORA network participants develop the structure of NORA (Bernadette Pogoda)

B. Independence of NORA

It was stated that it is of importance to the Advisory Board that NORA remains independent in its function regardless of the funding source.

C. Code of conduct for NORA meetings

It was agreed that NORA meetings of the Advisory Board and the Working Groups should adhere to a code of conduct. BP to share a draft code of conduct which can be referred to for NORA activities.

3) Funding

A. Update on funding opportunities since the last call

1. TNC will fund NORA to end of 2021
2. Germany has limited funding for 2022 for secretariat support at a minimum level.
3. NORA4 Conference surplus may be channelled towards the Secretariat for 2022 with agreement of the sponsors.
4. Possible funding from the Dutch Ministry through the Production Proposal.
5. Horizon funding call EU Horizon Biodiversity call was identified as an option for supporting NORA.

- B. Discuss the merits of sending a letter out to the broader NORA community to solicit ideas for funding.



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AB recommends a letter be drafted to inform NORA participants of the status of NORA. A- describing our work, highlights to date

B- Describe the changes in the near future.

C- One entity has supported this effort for 4 years. Ask NORA community for ideas for funding NORA into the future (any parties who are willing to apply for funding with their organisations on behalf of NORA. Invite participants to investigate with their ministries or organisations). (Action assigned to Hein Sas, Bill Sanderson, Henning von Nordheim, Bernadette Pogoda, Joanne Preston)

Funding of the NORA Secretariat can be thought of in two components. A maintenance component to keep the web site licensed and functioning, maintain content, help with conference preparation and maintain a base level of communication with the NORA community. Then there is a higher level which involves coordinating the working groups, preparing handbooks and publications aimed at addressing bottlenecks in scaling oyster habitat restoration. A productive Secretariat will include both. Funding the maintenance level is the priority and funding the higher output could be done through project support. An indicative budget for the maintenance level activity should be drafted to assist in finding appropriate funding. (Action Boze Hancock)

Table for future meeting

- Is registering NORA as a legal entity the right decision at this time?
 - Nominating a Governing Board for the proposed Association
 - Selecting a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer from the Board
- What are the alternative options for funding NORA in the future?
 - Legal entity- NORA can be included in EU funding bids officially.
 - A legal entity (e.g. AB member organisation) applies for funding and hires a secretariat to perform the NORA function.

4) Time and duration of the next meeting

August 2022 a decision needs to be made regarding whether NORA 4 may go ahead in light of the ever developing Covid-19 situation.

Summary of Action Items

- Prepare a draft note on possible structures of the Board and voting procedures for the Board. Include suggestions for voting and minimum quorum. Draft to be shared with the AB by Tue, 20Jul2021. (Hein Sas/ Boze Hancock)
- Organise a session at the NORA 4 conference to canvas the NORA community on the structure of NORA and the Board. To take place at NORA 4. (Bernadette Pogoda)
- Share a draft code of conduct for meetings of the NORA Board and sub-groups with the AB. Draft to be shared with the AB by Tue, 20Jul2021. (Bernadette Pogoda)
- Develop and circulate a draft letter to the NORA community describing highlights to date, future changes to funding, and canvassing ideas for supporting NORA financially. Draft to be shared with the AB by Tue, 20Jul2021. (Hein Sas, Bill Sanderson, Henning von Nordheim, Bernadette Pogoda, Joanne Preston)
- Prepare an indicative budget for the maintenance level of NORA Secretariat activity. Draft to be shared with the AB by Tue, 20Jul2021. (Boze Hancock)