

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTION

Chairman's Newsletter No. 6

20 April 2007

Greetings

This Newsletter No. 6 is being distributed to WAMSI Governors, Alternates, Board Members, Node Leaders and HQ, and also to a number of other people closely associated with WAMSI. Please feel free to distribute this Newsletter to anyone who may be interested in the development of WAMSI. The Chairman's Newsletters are also placed on the WAMSI web site.

WAMSI Agreements

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report that all of the WAMSI Agreements were signed last month. The final signature, that of the WA State Premier, the Hon Alan Carpenter MLA, was appended at Parliament House on Wednesday 21 March 2007. The Premier is also the Minister for Science and it is great to have his personal interest in the progress of WAMSI. The State Funding Agreement was signed by the Premier and by Professor Alan Robson (UWA VC) for the Centre Agent on behalf of the WAMSI parties.

WAMSI Challenges

The WAMSI Headquarters have now been established, the CEO and his staff have been appointed and the Agreements have been signed. The challenge for WAMSI now is to ensure that the Node research programs are undertaken in a coordinated and highly transparent manner so that it is clear to the researchers, the public and the decision-makers that the benefits of having the WAMSI joint venture far outweigh benefits flowing from the partners each operating individually.

The success of WAMSI will be judged by the quality and impact of the research outputs to deliver economic, social and environmental outcomes of benefit to Western Australia. This requires the development of networks across the whole spectrum of researchers, industry, the community, policy-makers and managers. The WAMSI partners have already demonstrated a sound commitment to undertaking issue-based research in a strategic framework and this has led to a sound portfolio of research being established (currently six Nodes, 23 Projects and 53 sub-Projects with more in the 'pipeline'). The networks are being formed and each element of those networks has a responsibility to ensure that the benefits are achieved through project delivery, timely reporting and the establishment of clear pathways to an understanding and utilisation of the research outputs.

Information about the research being undertaken under the WAMSI banner can be found on the WAMSI web site at www.wamsi.org.au and by following the prompts to the Research Nodes.

WAMSI Governors and Board members

The signing of the Agreements has led to a requirement for a formal nomination of the Governors and Board members in accordance with the relevant sections of the Joint Venture Agreement. Nominations may be varied at any time.

The current Governors (G) and their Alternates (A) are:

- AIMS Ian Poiner (G): Peter Doherty (A)
- Curtin University Tony Tate (G): Charlie Thorn (A)
- ECU Patrick Garnet (G): Rob Newton (A)
- BoM Neville Smith (G): Garry Foley (A)
- CSIRO John Gunn (G)
- WA Museum Di Jones (G): Jane Fromont (A)
- UWA Alistar Robertson (G)
- Murdoch University Jim Reynoldson *(G): Neil Loneragan (A)
- DoF Peter Millington (G): Rick Fletcher (A)
- DEC Keiran McNamara (G): Neil Burrows (A)
- DoIR Jim Limerick (G): Peter Viney (A)
- WAGOOS Ray Steedman (G)

The explanation of the * for Jim Reynoldson is that the current Governor for Murdoch University is Professor Andris Stelbovics. However, he is taking up a new position at Curtin University and Professor Jim Reynoldson is expected to be nominated to replace Andris as the Governor for Murdoch University. Additionally, we have received formal first point-of-contact nominations from our two Foundation Industry Collaborators as follows:

- Woodside Stan Stroud
- BHP Billiton Robin Wright

The current Board members (B) and their Alternates (A) are:

- Chairman Bernard Bowen
- ECU/Curtin Charlie Thorn (B): Marcia Taylor (A)
- AIMS Ian Poiner (B): Peter Doherty (A)
- CSIRO Greg Ayers (B)
- UWA/Murdoch Alistar Robertson (B): Jim Reynoldson (A)
- DoF Peter Millington (B): Rick Fletcher (A)
- DEC Keiran McNamara (B): Neil Burrows
- Rep. other Parties Di Jones (B): Jane Fromont (A)
- WAMSI CEO (non-voting member)

First meeting of the Governing Board

The Governing Board met under the full authority of the Joint Venture Agreement on Thursday 22 April 2007. The next meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday 21 June 2007.

Perhaps the principal matters arising from the Board meeting were:

1 Meeting with Professor Beazley

The Board was pleased to meet with the recently appointed WA Government Chief Scientist, Professor Lyn Beazley. The meeting provided an opportunity for Lyn to outline to the Board some of the matters which will be important in her new role. Professor Beazley was also able to learn more about the work of WAMSI. It will be important for WAMSI to maintain a continuing close link with Professor Beazley.

2 Node 3 Leader

The Board noted that the Node 3 (Ningaloo Research Program) leader, Dr Nick D'Adamo, was no longer available to be the Node leader. The Board was pleased to learn that Dr Chris Simpson could be available and agreed to request the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Mr McNamara, to formally approve Dr Simpson taking on the role of leader of Node 3.

3 Committee Reports

The Board received a report from the Audit and Finance Committee which met on 2 March 2007 and from the Research and Development Committee which met on 20 March 2007.

The Audit and Finance Committee reported on the establishment of the WAMSI account with the Centre Agent, financial planning, the PhD top-up scholarship fund and the annual audit requirements.

The Research and Development Committee reported on the Project Plan 4.3 within Node 4 (trophic interactions and ecosystem modelling). The Board agreed that the R&D Committee could approve the Node 4.3 Project on behalf of the Board when further information had been provided.

4 The WAMSI Launch

The Premier, the Hon Alan Carpenter MLA, will launch WAMSI at a function to be held at the Maritime Museum Fremantle on Friday 18 May 2007. This will mark the final act of forming the WA Marine Science Institution.

5 Chairperson of the WAMSI Board

Bernard Bowen will be stepping down as Chairman of the Board as from 30 June 2007. It is important that the new Chairperson has the skills to guide WAMSI in its next phase of development. The WAMSI Governors are

currently considering the matter of Chairperson for the annual period commencing on 1 July 2007.

WAMSI Meetings for the remainder of 2007

1 WAMSI Board:

- Thursday 21st June 9:00 – 4:00
- Thursday 23rd August 9:00 – 4:00
- Thursday 8th November 9:00 – 4:00

2 WAMSI 1st Strategic Planning Day:

- Wednesday 22nd August 9:00 – 5:30
(invited: Governors, Board members, Node Leaders & HQ)

3 Audit & Finance Committee:

- Thursday 31st May 3:00 – 5:00
- Friday 3rd August 3:00 – 5:00
- Tuesday 30th October 9:00 – 11:30

4 Research & Development Committee:

- Thursday 14th June 9:00 – 10:30 Teleconference
- Thursday 9th August 9:00 – 1:00 Face to face meeting
- Friday 19th October 9:00 – 10:30 Teleconference

5 Operations Group:

- Tuesday 22nd May 9:00 – 12:00
- Friday 29th June 9:00 – 12:00
- Friday 31st August 9:00 – 12:00
- Friday 26th October 9:00 – 12:00

6 Communications Group:

- Tuesday 17th July 2007 9:00 – 12:00
- Tuesday 9th October 2007 9:00 – 12:00

It is anticipated that meeting frequency can be reduced in 2008 once WAMSI is truly underway.

Kind regards

Bernard Bowen
(CHAIRMAN)