Meeting called to order at 9:03 am. By President, Angela Briguglio

Members Present: Angela Briguglio; President, Anna Marie Martin; VP, Bob Whyte; Treasurer, Bruce Balc; Secretary, Bob Cameron, Diane McKissick, Fran Schlusemann, Denise Perreca, Cathy Aldrich, Martha Noyes, Cathy Marine, Ken Rear, Gil Weiner, Rick Arata, Jim Tolley, Jeanne Panka,

Staff Present: Dr. Crosby, Evan Barniskis, Ralph Corse, Wendell Runnells, Claire Grove

Guests Present: Larry Wolf, Wendy Ruter

Dr. Crosby’s Comments:

Oceanic Evening Gala / Oceans of Opportunity

- Just this past weekend, we celebrated the success of our first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, Oceans of Opportunity, and the extraordinary generosity of its supporters at our annual fundraising event, Oceanic Evening – on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016 at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota.
- Oceanic Evening drew about 400 ocean supporters for an elegant event that applauded the historic achievement of Mote’s comprehensive campaign and shared the Lab’s exciting vision for the future.
- As I have said previously, we are incredibly excited that Mote has exceeded its Oceans of Opportunity campaign goal of $50 million.
- It is with great pleasure that I am able to share with you that the Oceans of Opportunity campaign for the future of Mote Marine Laboratory has raised $51,736,582 nearly $52 million!
- As a member of the Mote family, you have played a critical role in this achievement and I want to thank you for your tremendous help.
- Many of you have also gone above and beyond by providing and pledging your support and I give you my most sincere gratitude for being a part of this historic campaign.
- As you know, funds from this campaign are helping Mote achieve our 2020 Vision & Strategic Plan by expanding our efforts to study and address the grand challenges facing the marine environment locally and worldwide.
- Impacts of the campaign are widespread and can already be seen with the construction of Mote’s new coral research and restoration facility in the Florida
Keys, enhanced support for the next generation of postdoctoral scientists, education programs for underserved children and more.

- So now what? What does the future hold for Mote and its vital mission?
- Next year we will develop a timeline for achieving the evolution of our City Island campus into an international marine science, technology and innovation park.
- This is needed to house not only the increase of 10 new Ph.D. level scientists at Mote, but also to attract other visiting scientists and entrepreneurs from around the world to spend time in Sarasota.
- Achieving this goal will require a build-out of critical research infrastructure on City Island.
- This will require building a new informal science education center and aquarium on the mainland where it will serve as a new 6th campus of Mote that will instill ocean literacy in many more residents and visitors.
- Achieving our 2020 goals, and a successful evolution of our City Island campus along with a new 6th campus for Mote will result in an annual economic impact to Sarasota County alone for over $115 million per year.
- Our 2020 goals, supported by Oceans of Opportunity, are stepping stones toward an even brighter horizon.
- The end of this campaign is just the beginning. It is the launch of a whole new era for Mote — A Mote vision beyond 2020.

New Protect Our Reefs License Plate Website

- Mote Marine Laboratory is excited to announce the launch of its new Protect Our Reefs specialty license plate website, www.motereefplate.com, which is designed to provide an easy, user-friendly experience.
- Please feel free to direct our guests here, as each plate sold in the state of Florida provides a $25 donation to Mote and helps to fund coral reef research, restoration, education and conservation.

Expedition to Gulf of Aqaba

- Mote partnered with Saudi Arabian scientists to launch the most extensive baseline survey to-date of coral reef ecosystems along the Saudi coast of the Gulf of Aqaba during late September 2016 — investigating multiple reef species in detail to support conservation.
- I was joined by Mote scientists Drs. Vaughan and Muller, Jim Culter and scientists from King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the initial, two-week expedition focused on coral abundance, diversity and stress, along with the abundance and diversity of butterfly fish, sea urchins, seagrasses and other species that may indicate the health of this critical environment.
- Preliminary results suggest that some life forms may be healthier or more diverse in southern Gulf of Aqaba waters further from denser human populations.
- More data and analyses are needed to verify the possible significance of trends and we are hoping for another expedition in summer 2017.
NWNF Electronic Monitoring Grant

- Scientists at Mote Marine Laboratory recently received a grant for more than $500,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to continue advancing electronic monitoring of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.
- The Ocean Conservancy led the first study of electronic monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico in 2011 with Mote and other project partners to determine if using electronic monitoring tools could be effective for fisheries monitoring and management.
- That pilot study showed that electronic monitoring could be successfully applied aboard bottom longline and bandit (vertical line) vessels fishing for snapper and grouper, and study partners decided to shift leadership of the project to Mote, an ideal organization to interface with the fishers and NOAA alike.
- This newest phase will launch in January 2017 when electronic monitoring equipment is installed on commercial longline vessels based in southwest and the panhandle of Florida, Louisiana and Texas.
- Scientists will provide each vessel with training and equipment, including closed-circuit video cameras that will operate during fishing, gear sensors to detect fishing activity, a GPS to help detect where fish are caught and a monitor and computer control center with a portable hard drive that will later be returned to Mote for viewing and data analysis.

Night of Fish, Fright and Fun
- We had a wonderful annual Night of Fish, Fright and Fun on October 23. We had over 800 tickets sold for this fun event.

Siesta Key Crystal Classic
- I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Siesta Key Crystal Classic, Nov. 11-15.
- This event is a rare opportunity to help hundreds to thousands of people learn about the ancient reptiles on our beaches, how to protect them and how to support Mote’s Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program with a donation or by attending our upcoming fundraisers, such as Run for the Turtles. If proceeds from the annual Crystal Classic are above and beyond the amount needed to cover expenses, Mote allocates its portion of the proceeds to its Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program.
- Mote volunteers and staff have done a wonderful job raising awareness for sea turtles and showing the community what is special about Mote as a whole.

Guest Speaker:

Ken Rear introduced our guest speaker, Carl Luer, PhD. who provided an outstanding program on “Antimicrobial Properties of Stingray Mucus”
Dr. Luer received his Bachelor's Degree from Duke University (1970), his Master’s Degree from University of South Florida (Zoology, 1974), and his PhD from the University of Kansas Medical Center (Biochemistry, 1978).

Since joining Mote Marine Laboratory in 1979 to initiate and manage a marine biomedical research program, Dr. Luer has been involved with several studies utilizing sharks, skates, and rays as model systems and sources of research material. His projects include characterization of the histological and biochemical responses of sharks and skates to potent chemical carcinogens, research on skate reproductive physiology and embryonic development, age and growth studies and tooth replacement studies with nurse sharks, investigations into the cellular immunology of sharks and skates, characterization of the culture medium from short-term culture of shark epigonal cells that demonstrates potent tumor cell inhibitory activity, identification of antimicrobial activity in stingray epidermal mucus secretions, and studies of the healing response of experimental wounds in stingrays.

Dr. Luer has published 46 peer-reviewed scientific papers, authored or co-authored seven book chapters, co-edited one book, co-organized three symposia, and served three years as President of the American Elasmobranch Society. In 2014, he was recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Elasmobranch Society, only the 11th Fellow acknowledged in the 32-year history of the Society.

Antimicrobial Properties of Stingray Mucus

The protective secretion produced by epidermal mucus cells in stingrays is being investigated to identify mucus-associated antimicrobial compounds with the potential for development into novel therapeutics to treat wound infection pathogens. Freshly obtained epidermal mucus from cownose rays (Rhinoptera bonasus), devil rays (Mobula hypostoma) and Atlantic stingrays (Dasyatis sabina) can be separated by centrifugation into an aqueous supernatant and a viscous pellet. The pellet fraction contains bacterial symbionts that are not seawater contaminants. More than 1,500 bacterial isolates have been cultured from fresh mucus samples, approximately 19% of which are active against at least one human pathogenic tester strain demonstrated by antimicrobial screens performed at Mote Marine Laboratory and University of South Florida Center for Biological Defense. Many of the active isolates secrete compounds that inhibit Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and/or Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE). Culturable libraries of all isolates have been cryopreserved for future studies.

The problem is that wound infection pathogens are becoming resistant to antibiotics. “ESKAPE” Pathogens Primarily Studied:

- Enterococcus (Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE))
- Staphylococcus Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
- Klebsiella
- Acinetobacter Multidrug - resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (MDRAB)
● Pseudomonas

The Animals Used in research:
● The Cownose Ray
● Atlantic Devil Ray (Both marine and freshwater):
● The Mucus on the surface of the ray is collected and spun down to make mucus pellets that are grown on plates, isolated and purified. They are cryopreserved and the isolates can be used when needed for screening of antimicrobial activity,
● The assay test is conducted on a 96 ‘well’ with isolates with an overlay of pathogens placed over the plate. Areas around the wells that are clear indicate an effect on the pathogens.
● Long term plan is to target bacterial isolates with the greatest activity against pathogens to scale up production and obtain larger quantities of compounds for evaluation of their therapeutic potential as novel antibiotics.

Staff Reports:

Evan Barniskis: Assistant Vice President, Aquarium
● Wave exhibit is down due to leaks in the exhibit. Work is underway to resolve.
● The “croc exhibit “is progressing.
● Manatee exhibit signage has been removed.
● Caitlin Woody, a former intern at Mote has been hired
● Plans to add a back-drop inside the shark tank. This should prove to be a good alternative to removing the fish, draining the tank and repainting.
● Guest services; Walter Kruse has semi retired. Eric Lamboley has stepped in as manager.
● Working on a Manatee quiz show similar to the existing program in the Mammal center.
● Research Map that will go in the F & I allowing guests to learn about Mote’s scientists and where they are doing research around the globe.
● Turtle exhibit will be painted next fall.
● Still looking for staffing for fossil creek.
● The grass flats is recovering fish in quarantine.

Ralph Corse; Volunteer Coordinator
● 11 volunteers have been placed this past month.
● Kay Garsnett is looking for volunteers with a degree in library science to work with her in the library.

Wendell Runnels:
• **Newsletter deadline:** November 17th!

• David Stone, photographer has been hired in the video department.

• The badge (I.D.) machine is back in operation. Anyone who has a temporary badge, please visit the volunteer office for a new badge.

• Time cards have been tallied through August.

• Continues to update the email addresses.

• Thanksgiving volunteer docent coverage list will be posted in the lounge. Please sign to confirm coverage on your shift. The day chairs will also be asked to identify volunteers who will be out of town.

• A link to the day chair page has been added for the volunteers along with instructions on how to access.

**Claire Grove**

• Basic marine science classes continue and all are welcomed to attend.

• We are updating the spring recruitment criteria for the high school students.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**President - Angela Briguglio**

**November General Meeting November 10th - 9am Wave Center.** We have two great speakers planned:

• Dr. Crosby, President and CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

• Dr. Kevan Main; Manager for the Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture Research Program. Dr. Main will be talking about Mote’s 200-acre Mote Aquaculture Operations

**All volunteers are encouraged to attend**

• It was suggested that a representative from the Volunteer Office speak at the General meeting sessions.

• In accordance to Article X of the Volunteer by-laws, a nominating committee of five members shall be elected by the Board of Directors four months prior to the annual election meeting. The required position and names put forth are:

Board Member: Gil Weiner
Board Member: Ken Rear
Chairperson of the preceding nominating committee: Joe Mathis
General Membership: Rick Arata
General Membership; Linda Powers
A motion was made to accept these nominations. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Vice President - Anna Marie Martin**

The Mote Volunteer Association Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Tuesday Evening November 15th, 2016! Bring a guest! Tickets are only $18.00 in advance ($20 at the door) and can be purchased in the Gift Shop.

- The meal is traditional thanksgiving cuisine with a cash bar
- Many fabulous door prizes and silent auction items
- AND the 1st Annual Pumpkin Pie contest! So bakers, now is a great time to show off your culinary skills and have some fun!

**Secretary - Bruce Balck**

October’s Volunteer Board Minutes have been sent to the day chairs, posted on the digital page and placed in the Volunteer Lounge binder.
A motion was made to approve the October board minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

**Treasurer - Bob Whyte**

The October 2016 Volunteer Association bank account balance remains at $847
A Motion was made to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion was seconded and approved.

**Jim Tolley - Emeritus Program Report**

The following candidate meets the criteria established for Emeritus Volunteer and wishes to participate in the Program:

Linda Smalheiser

According to Program rules, the Volunteer Board must take action to approve or disapprove candidates.

If this candidate is approved by the Board, there will be 86 Emeritus Volunteers.
A motion was made to approve Linda Smalheiser to Emeritus status. Motion was seconded and approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

Liaison of Field Locations Volunteers: Bob Cameron

- The Liaison position has been explained to MAP key staff and distribution lists for sharing information with MAP volunteers has been established. Additional communications to volunteers have begun and email issues with several volunteers have been resolved along with collection of several missing volunteer applications.
- Met with Boca Grande lead employee Ashley Hill and have identified some areas to provide additional support. A volunteer meet and greet will be held with the Boca Grande volunteers in late November so that I can get to meet everyone.
- Requested Talking points from Gil Weiner regarding fish tagging research in the Charlotte Harbor estuary for use by Boca Grande volunteers.

Liaison of Animal Health and Care: Bruce Balck reported for Lisa Kinsella (Norma Pennington)

Currently, there are 2 fibropapilloma tumor sea turtles in the hospital.
Avalon - juvenile green
Chicken Noodle - juvenile green

There are five non-pap sea turtles in the hospital. One sea turtle was admitted into rehab in October.
Frank - subadult green
Penelope - juvenile kemps
Kiwii - juvenile green
Pancake - juvenile green
Sea Salt – adult male green

Hatchling update:
October was a very slow month. With only a handful of nests on the beaches left to watch, we are starting to wind down.
Only 14 hatchlings came through the hospital in Oct. This included two green sea turtles.
We released our last long term patient from the hospital tank this month, C3. C3 came in with a necrotic front flipper that had to be amputated. Even when reduced to three flippers he was able to dive to the bottom and dive successfully. Therefore he was released offshore by boat in the weed line.

Volunteer Representative: Martha Noyes - MMC
Manatees: October has been another great month for the Manatee Care, Training, and Research department! This month, the Manatee Care staff worked very hard on accomplishing all the behaviors needed to complete the manatee’s second health assessment of the year.

These behaviors included voluntary weights and measurements, blood collection, urine and fecal collection, and full body exams. Our vet staff listened for healthy heart rates and lung/gut sounds. They checked their eyes, mouth, and nose for any abnormalities and checked for scratches and/or skin irritations. All results came in normal!

Here are their new weights: **Hugh: 1166 lbs, Buffett: 1801 lbs**

We are happy to report that both, Hugh and Buffett are in excellent health! We are so proud of our resident manatees for all their accomplishments in their husbandry training program!

Sea Turtles:

We have been working on husbandry training with both of our juvenile turtles, Captain and Squirt 2. Because Squirt is only able to see out of one eye, we opted for a stationing apparatus instead of a target. The stationing apparatus is large and easily visible to him, and he is learning to swim over and sit on top of it for his feeds. It also gives him more control when trying to eat his food. He is a very quick learner, and is able to swim on to the platform and station with minimal assistance some days.
We use this same apparatus, which is a small platform that attaches to the viewing window, for some of Captain’s training sessions. Captain has a visual target, a purple circle, and she understands this is her feeding station. She will follow it anywhere in her exhibit. We can lead her onto the platform using the target, and the platform also helps Captain control herself better in the water while feeding (similar to Squirt) because she can either touch her flippers to it or rest her plastron on it.

The platform is a useful husbandry tool, because it helps the animals station calmly at the surface, where we can perform routine checkups or voluntary blood draws without pulling the animals completely out of the water.

Thanks,
Holly, Amber and Lauren
Admissions/Membership

- Guest Services would like to announce the simultaneous personnel moves of Walter Kruse to a part time position and the promotion of Eric Lamboley to Guest Services Manager. Eric will continue his Sun. – Thurs. schedule while Walter will be here 2-3 days a week at various times depending on scheduling needs.
- We will be hiring for two open staff positions: One full time Head Cashier and one part time cashier/volunteer liaison.
- Our volunteer needs remain critical as we have two open shifts on Sat. and one on Sun. at the main aquarium and almost no volunteer coverage at the mammal center booth.

Greeters

- One new greeter was trained in September and has started working as a substitute greeter.
- Greeters, please mark your calendars for a Greeter meeting rescheduled for Thursday, November 10th from 11:30-12:30 in the Wave Center. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the revised Greeter Guidelines and Training Plan. The greeter meeting will follow the Volunteer General Meeting which begins at 9:00 (with refreshments), and greeters are encouraged to attend both meetings. If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Office.

Denise also acknowledged Walter Kruse for all his support he has provided Guest Services throughout the years of service.

Liaison of Community Outreach: Bruce Butterfield
Nothing to report.

Liaison of Education: Cathy Aldrich
- The Night of Fish, Fun and Fright was a huge success with over 800 tickets sold and lots of happy children! Thank you to all of the volunteer help and support!
- School field trips are very busy – we have had many of our Partnership Schools come out for visits, as well as other school field trips and we are already scheduling for spring 2017!
- Public Programs are also in full swing! October wraps up the Mommy & Me Exploring the Bay field program, but we will continue with the regular Mommy & Me classes, which are all nearly full. We also are still running many Birthday Parties and Morning Rounds.
- We have added an additional Home School Advanced Program this fall. We are currently offering monthly one-off Home School Days open to ages 6-13. Additionally, children can participate in a school-year long program; programs are for ages 8-11 and 12-16. Students work on ongoing research projects, participate in conservation activities, and work on science communication skills.
- Mote Education Staff and the Mote Mobile attended the St. Pete Science Festival and MarineQuest at USF St. Pete Oct 21th and 22th. It was a wonderful event with thousands of visitors! Friday, 10/21 was a school day where local school children
all participated in hands on activities prior to it being open to the public on Saturday, 10/22.
- Brad Tanner attended the Florida Area Science Teacher (FAST) conference in Orlando.

**Volunteer Representative:** Diane McKissick, Mobile Unit

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/5/2016</td>
<td>Inspire Sarasota</td>
<td>9:30 AM to 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>Selby Public Library</td>
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<td>Crystal Classics</td>
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<td>Siesta Key Public Beach</td>
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<td>Anna Maria Elementary</td>
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<td>2/7/2017</td>
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<td>10 AM to 3 PM to 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM</td>
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<td>3/25/2017</td>
<td>Boca Grande Women’s Club</td>
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<td>Lakewood Ranch, FL</td>
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| 7/8-9/2017 | Shark Con          | Info to come |                   |

**Liaison of Research:** Ken Rear

The next Guest Speakers and topics are:

- Dr. Kevan Main - Mote’s Aquaculture Park; “Sustainable Aquaculture Systems for Food, Restoration and Research” - **November’s General Meeting**
- Matt Seguin - Curator of Husbandry and Records - Mote F & I - “Institutional Collection Plan” - **December Board Meeting**

**STCRP Liaison Report**

**Volunteer Representatives:** Jeanne Panka, STCRP, Rick Arata, F & I

**STCRP LIAISON REPORT - Jeanne Panka**

- Potluck was held on Friday, October 28 for Sea Turtle Patrol Volunteers – very successful night with great presentations.
- Two nests still left on the beach – Casey key (will be completed by 11/14) and Siesta Key (will be completed by 11/26)
- All Longboat Key active nourishment projects were completed around 10/23.

Additional notes:

- All interns have departed, the last one left on 10/16.
- Many seasonal technicians have departed by 10/31.
- Kristen presented to Mote docents on 10/10.
- Staff is running QA/QC on all data and compiling it for reports for FWC and local municipalities. (Unofficial total nests this year is approximately 4,500)

**Liaison of Volunteer Resources:** Gil Weiner

**DIGITAL PAGE:**

- Will continue to post, trying to get both sides covered
- We will repeat posts for ‘snowbirds’ as well as reminders
- Reminder to volunteer that posts are available on their computers at home

Our team continues to put together brief posts on the Digital Webpage relating to Mote’s Displays, Research and Researchers & relevant Events. Posts made to the Digital Page for October included Hogfish, Squirt 2 (a new Kemp’s Ridley on display), Giant Hermit Crab, Gulf Flounder, Epaulette Shark, Redspotted Hawkfish, and the OPD –
Optical Phytoplankton Detector. As the “snowbirds” are returning, there will be repeats of past posts to serve as reminders.

Volunteer Representative: Cathy Marine, Library

Nothing to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 11 am.