

AusSeabed Executive Board (EB)

Meeting # 3: 27th July 2020, 1330-1530, Virtual over Skype

Attendees: Richard Brinkman (AIMS), Trevor Dhu (GA, Executive Board Chair), Fiona Freeman (AHO), Johnathan Kool (AAD), Barbara Musso (CSIRO), Kim Picard (GA, AusSeabed Steering Committee Chair)

Secretariat: Aero Leplastrier (GA)

Action List

Action	Follow up item	Responsibility	Due date	Outcome/Comments
3.1	Annual Report —Provide comments on annual report (optional).	All EB	07/08/2020	Completed
3.2	Australian Research Data Commons funding round —Forward submitted EOIs to the EB board.	Kim Picard	31/07/2020	Completed 28/07/2020
3.3	Collaborative Heads Agreements —EB to progress CHA agreement	All EB	Ongoing	
3.4	Enduring program —Develop pitch for EB that justifies sustained investment in AusSeabed Program.	Kim Picard	EB meeting 4	
3.5	AusSeabed Communication and Engagement Strategy —SC to develop engagement plan with a focus on industry	Kim Picard	27/08/2020	In progress
3.6	Ten Year Impact Plan —Provide comment on the deliverables at the three, five, and ten year milestones.	All EB	31/08/2020	
3.7	Economic Benefit Analysis —Distribute RFQ to EB	Kim Picard	31/08/2020	
3.8	MNF Return on Investment study —Investigate estimates for the value Australia-US Joint Commission Meeting – Frontier Technologies Dialogue	Barbara Musso	11/08/2020	Closed
3.9	ASB EB meeting 4 —EB Chair to organise next meeting, to be held mid-October.	Trevor Dhu	31/08/2020	

Summary of Meeting

Meeting opened 13:35

1 Actions and Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 1.1 Minutes of Meeting #2 accepted and endorsed—actions list and updates in Appendix B

2 Work plan endorsement

- 2.1 Work plan endorsed by EB.

3 Steering Committee Update

- 3.1 Successful Steering Committee Renewal has taken place with ten nominations in total and the academic and private positions requiring elections due to competing nominations. New representatives include: Curtin University, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, South Australian Research and Development Institute, and IIC technologies Australasia. NSW Department of Planning Industry and Engagement applied for second term and was successful. KP continues as Chair, Tara Martin (CSIRO) voted in as Vice-Chair and Nigel Townsend (AHO) will lead the Tools and Guidelines work theme. Once again, there was an unwillingness from anyone within the SC to self-nominate for the Secretary role, and as such GA is continuing to juggle this workload.

EB discussed the difference between the ASC Secretary role (program leadership) and the secretariat support that is provided by the chairing organisation (business administration support). Difficulty was acknowledged with filling secretary roles on committees due to the often extensive nature of logistical and support tasks that are often invisible. Alternate governance solutions such as having a stationary Chair and a Secretary that sits with another organisation (and has dedicated resources) were suggested for consideration. Funding required for a Secretary position with additional communications responsibilities was estimated at around 120 K per annum. It was noted that this was not an explicit call for funding, but rather, invites the opportunity to consider strategies for enduring program funding. The EB commented that it might be good for them to advertise that there is a vacancy in the leadership SC leadership, however, no decision was made on this suggestion.

- 3.2 Overview given of the June Webinar and annual report. Acknowledgment of the importance to maintain focus on data delivery (a previous EB recommendation). A publication schedule has been established to ensure a consistent mechanism for data delivery and this framework is currently being refined and implemented. Data coverage on the portal has increased by 12 % compared to the previous year with contributions from various bathymetric sensors now discoverable alongside MBES data on the portal.

Q: Is that new data that we are holding or that we are aware of?

A: New data that we are aware the metadata of which is accessible through the portal as well as a representative coverage polygon.

EB were impressed by the progress documented in the Annual Report and the success of the first webinar.

3.3 ARDC Platform EOI has been submitted. With an extensive group of collaborators from the ocean modelling communities in support of a plan to develop a compilation on-the-fly service to meet community modelling needs (200-300 K funding request).

EB made comments on the strong links that an on-the-fly compilation service would have to the work done by the coastal community through the marine Virtual Laboratory initiatives using AODN data to provide boundary conditions and user specification. Looking at integrating this service with the Virtual Labs would really strengthen the coastal modelling community's use of the Marine Virtual Laboratory platform. Some additional collaborators were suggested for contact and invitation to the proposal going forward: Peter Oke (CSIRO), Andreas Schiller (CSIRO), and Moninya Roughan (UNSW).

3.4 ARDC Data Partnership EOI has been submitted. If invited to continue with a proposal, the submission would focus on infrastructure and code required for collaborators to establish a local hub, a data packaging service, and guiding documentation.

Q: Is there a filtering process on the EOIs before they go through full proposal mode?

A: No, at this stage they require EOIs to look for opportunities to combine calls for funding with projects that would deliver overlapping or synergistic work.

Action 3.1 EB to provide comments on the Annual Report (optional)

Action 3.2 GA to send submitted EOIs to EB

4 Work plan Implementation (2020/21)

4.1 Since the last EB meeting, KP has met with program theme leads and the VC to refine the work plan. The discussion has brought all parties involved up to speed on the outline, scope, and plan for the 2020/21 work plan. The work plan is currently progressing to schedule but August will be used to re-evaluate progress and confirm whether the program is on track. A brief overview was given of the work plan and the changes that had been made. Work plan milestones have been augmented to include a responsible person column to increase transparency and accountability. Delivery of data that is submitted from various sources, processed to different standards and at different stages of processing is quite a difficult task. The publication pipeline looks promising to help us deliver data consistently moving forward.

EB supported the work plan, and acknowledged that although the program is very ambitious, it is not unachievable. Even if 80 per cent of the outcomes were achieved, it would be a great contribution to marine science and maritime industries in Australia. The AHO were very comfortable with milestone 16 (HIPP data available through AusSeabed portal) and discussions are in place to begin working through these details. The EB again reverted back to discussion on ensuring that AusSeabed remained a viable and enduring program and that securing the necessary venture capital and resourcing from partners was crucial to this end. In the meantime, if the work program is inhibited by a lack of resources then activities that will strengthen the business case and apply for ongoing funding need to be prioritised. These tasks based on the community value statement would be on infrastructure and services that ensure data collected is served publicly. Another risk that needs to be taken into account is that there is an ongoing and growing cost associated with storing and serving data which means that AusSeabed

needs a scalable costing solution that is also enduring. The discussion about ongoing funding requires knowledge of project details, associated costs and commitment from involved organisations in the sense of leadership and stewardship of the program. In terms of agreements between the EB the CHA is seen as the first step needed before funding models can be considered. The costs for the program are reasonably well understood and can be broken down into the upfront infrastructure development costs and the ongoing funding required to run the services. We have the government voices and support for this work but we are lacking the industry voices of support for the need and benefit from this program. Support through industry should be spearheaded through the steering committee, with potential support from AIMS.

Action 3.3 EB to progress the CHA

Action 3.4 GA to develop pitch for EB to build business case for AusSeabed Funding

Action 3.5 SC to develop a communications and engagement strategy with a focus on industry

5 Ten Year Impact Pathway

KP presented an overview of the Ten Year Impact Pathway that is built on four key program goals:

5.1 Improve the curation and delivery of seabed mapping data: through to 2025 the focus will be on making all bathymetric data from government and academia available through the portal. Over the same time period the goal is to include 60 per cent of Industry bathymetry data. From 2025-2030 the focus will be to provide access to the rest of the industry bathymetry data and move to delivering the other seabed data sets (backscatter, sediments, sub-bottom profiles, and water column data) comprehensively.

EB discussed current government policy that requires industry to submit geophysical data but does not mandate submission of bathymetry data, unlike the current US policy (inclusive of bathymetry data). While there is bathymetric data that can be gleaned from the geophysical data it would be better that all bathymetric data was mandated to be sent to the AHO and GA as AusSeabed.

5.2 Improve the standards and quality related to seabed mapping procedures and data management: The program will also deliver guidelines and QA tools across all these data types to help improve the quality and standards of data collection, processing, and management.

5.3 Nationally coordinate seabed mapping activities and objectives: National mapping will be coordinated in line with refined priorities delivered through the AusSeabed Survey Coordination Tool and data from international transiting vessels will be incorporated into the portal.

5.4 Demonstrate the value of seabed mapping data for decision making: Data delivered through the portal will be used to help inform decision making models and processes and the economic benefits of the program will be tracked and evaluated at the start and beginning of the decade.

EB discussed the value adding services that could sit on top of the data delivery proposed by AusSeabed. These are seen as crucial for ongoing funding as data provision and warehousing won't be enough to acquire ongoing program funding, but first priority remains data delivery. AusSeabed and hence Australia have the potential to be seen as an international example of best-practice data management and sharing, this is an appropriate goal given the nature of the program. There is a need for the EB to consider the 10 year plan in detail, goals and vision inclusive to help build the pitch that can be used to move forward for securing funding and long-term support.

Action 3.6 EB to provide comment on the three, five, and ten year goals and how they see the program developing.

6 Other business

- 6.1 Economic Benefits Analysis Update: GA is currently engaging ACIL Allen to conduct an EBA on the value of the AusSeabed program to date. We will be able to take the value of the MNF EBA seabed mapping value as a case study, to seabed mapping with respect to value at large in Australia. We feel that the Economic Benefit Analysis is one of the key items that we are going to need for the NPP. We are currently putting forward a terms of reference for that work.

Action 3.7 GA to distribute draft RFQ for the Economic Benefits Analysis to EB

Action 3.8 CSIRO to investigate whether preliminary return on investment estimates for the MNF program can be used in Australia-US Joint Commission Meeting – Frontier Technologies Dialogue

Action 3.9 GA to send poll to confirm dates and timing for late October meeting

Meeting closed 15:35

Appendix A Agenda

Time	Item	Action	Lead	Paper
1330	Welcome and other business	N/A	TD	N/A
	1. Action list & Minutes (EB#2)	Approve	TD/AL	N/A
1340	2. 2020/21 work plan	Endorse	KP	Document attached to invite
1350	3. Steering Committee Update	Inform	KP	N/A
1410	4. Implementing the 2020/21 work plan	Discuss	TD	N/A
1450	5. Ten year impact pathway	Discuss	KP	Document attached to invite
1520	6. Other Business	TBC	TD	N/A
1530	Meeting Close	N/A	TD	

Appendix B EB Meeting #2 - Actions

Item number	Follow up item	Responsibility	Due date	Outcome/Comments
2.1	<p>Steering Committee Update</p> <p>SC Chair to reinforce to the SC and the community that the Executive Board is happy with the progress of AusSeabed and supportive of the work. However, there is a strong need to accelerate release of data through the Data Hub.</p>	Kim Picard		<p>ACTION CLOSED</p> <p>Kim sent e-mail out on 3 May 2020 to the ASB Steering Committee.</p>
2.2	<p>Value Statement</p> <p>EB to review and provide final updates on the Value Statements associated with their agency.</p>	ALL EB	25 June	<p>ACTION CLOSED</p>
2.3	<p>Economic Benefit Analysis</p> <p>MNF to engage with RTI if their EBA can be extended to include the value of Seabed data.</p>	Barbara Musso	Out of Session.	<p>ACTION CLOSED</p> <p>KP sent material on 4 May 2020 to BM who followed up with RTI.</p> <p>RTI were grateful as they hadn't seen the reports. They are using seafloor mapping from Investigator as a case study for the EBA. Looking at valuing four elements: 1) improved ecosystem health; 2) improved ecosystem services; 3) reduction of risk and impacts on other sectors; 4) offshore industry development.</p> <p>Expect results by the end of August.</p>

2.4	<p>CHA</p> <p>EB Chair to send cover letter accompanying the CHA to the EB to support each member in demonstrating the purpose and importance to their agency.</p>	Trevor Dhu	<p>Letter 2 June</p> <p>Response 25 June</p>	ACTION CLOSED
2.5	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>EB Chair to arrange next meeting to be held in a quarter-potentially week of 20 July 2020. The focus of the meeting will be on the 20-21 work plan.</p>	Trevor Dhu	26 June	ACTION CLOSED