



NALMS Board of Directors Mid-Term Meeting Summary

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On March 23, 2024, the NALMS Board of Directors (BOD) had their virtual Midterm Board Meeting, with all current BOD members present.

In addition to regular board business, the meeting started with breakout discussions on improving inclusivity and retention of active members, advocacy, and allocation of the new Ann St. Amand Early Career Fund to support attendance at the national symposium, starting with the symposium in November in Lake Tahoe.

The BOD also updated our Non-Disclosure Policy and got a report from the newly formed Personnel Committee, which is tasked with addressing staff-related issues such as the leave policy and cost of living pay increases.

Finally, we ended the day with a discussion of NALMS Symposia and conference-related activity through 2028. We set the registration rates for the Tahoe Symposium and discussed formation of the Host Committee for 2025 in Myrtle Beach, SC (NALMS members in the southeast are encouraged to get involved!).

We heard more about potential Canadian locations for 2026 and Midwest and New England locations for 2027. We also got an update on the likely midwestern location of the 2025 National Water Quality Monitoring Conference which NALMS coordinates.

Despite the challenges of an all-day virtual meeting, the NALMS BOD had a productive day and we look forward to the Annual Board Meeting on Monday November 4th in Tahoe! All members are welcome to sit in for the meeting!

NALMS 314 Workgroup Updates

Chris L. Mikolajczyk, CLM and Benjamin Rhoades

NALMS continues to take on a mission of continued protection of our lakes and reservoirs with the 314-working group (WG). As you may/may not know, The Clean Lakes Program was established in 1972 as section 314 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to provide financial and technical assistance to states in restoring publicly owned lakes.

The program has funded a total of approximately \$145 million of grant activities since 1976 to address lake problems, but there have been no appropriations for the program since 1994. The section 314 Clean Lakes Program was reauthorized in September 2000 as part of the Estuaries and Clean Water Act of 2000, but no funds have been appropriated.

The 314 WG is seeking the restoration of funding specifically to section 314 of the program, along with the current section 319 funding, which addresses non-point source watershed management. In the last six months the 314 working group has:

- Provided EPA comments on EPA's draft revision of the Section 319 Non-Point Source Program guidelines for states and territories.
- Sought out and contracted with Drue Banta Winters (DBW) for government affairs consulting.
- Began review of data collected by Callista Smith and Skye Embray, previous NALMS interns.
- Drafted a data and storytelling tool (ESRI StoryMap) for clean lakes advocacy outreach.

In the next six months, we seek to:

- Work with DBW to better understand the federal advocacy landscape and NALMS.
- Continue to review data collected by Callista Smith and Skye Embray.
- Initiate targeted state outreach with goals set in collaboration with DBW.
- Continue ESRI StoryMap development.

NALMS has long understood, and Drue has confirmed, that the campaign for enhanced lakes funding at the federal level, particularly through Section 314, will be a long-haul mission. The 314 WG is also underscoring the identification of partner organizations that have the capacity to lobby, something that we cannot do as a non-profit organization. The 314 WG will prioritize the valuable time we have with DBW as we assess her success in networking us with congressional allies and additional nonprofit partners.

The 314 Working Group is very excited to start this new chapter – NALMS goes to Washington, DC, Summer 2024.

Stay tuned!

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Send any corrections to membershipservices@nalms.org