

MARICULTURE RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER

MTF Working Group Meeting

November 18, 2020

Attendees: Melissa Good, Eric Wyatt, Schery Umanzor, Jordan Hollarsmith, Robert Foy, Hannah Wilson, Justin Sternberg, Riley Smith, Jeff Hertrick, Ginny Eckert, unknown phone number, Mike Stekoll

Meeting Notes

- **General Review of White Paper**
 - Summary of need for and goals of MRTC: Center isn't where research and training happens, instead a place to ID needs and make sure all needs get addressed.
 - AMA will bring together different stakeholders, serve as forum for industry and other stakeholders
 - Director of MRTC will potentially have exofficio seat on AMA exec committee
 - ASG mariculture specialist will be able to help facilitate connections between industry and researchers
 - Potential for an advisory board--should it be a component of AMA or a separate entity?
 - Major event is annual forum to bring industry and researchers together to ID future projects for collaboration as well as current research in the field
 - There will be opportunities to bring people together to go after funding, but there won't necessarily be funding from the center itself.

- **Incorporation of Alaska Native Communities and Tribal Entities:** How can we meaningfully incorporate the indigenous community (addressing both language and organization in the white paper and actual inclusion in the MRTC itself)?
 - Add tribal box to MRTC White Paper Diagram for leading and/or collaborating on research
 - Important to specify Alaska Native/Indigenous entities, not just "coastal communities" to clarify intent to support mariculture development in rural native communities.
 - Create at least one seat for Alaska Native representation on the advisory board, but likely will want more to ensure equitable representation.
 - Per Jeff Hetrick-Important to specify both coastal communities and Alaska Native entities as stakeholders highlighting interest in both restorative aquaculture (with some indigenous entities) as well as economic development in coastal communities. RS: Could also have a more detailed list of stakeholders.

- **General Stakeholder Identification and Inclusion**
 - Need to describe stakeholders beyond the term "industry", (i.e. coastal communities) as that signifies larger-scale, potentially out of state entities for some in order to maximize inclusivity.

- Per Eric Wyatt: ASGA creates list of priorities for R&D annually, so there's the potential to incorporate that into MRTC annual meeting priorities.

- **Future Topics to Discuss:**
 - Funding Sources
 - Announcement timing
 - Branding
 - Addressing near-term objectives (partially discussed, conversation to be continued)