#### 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 Justin Sternberg: Important to prioritize value added in coastal communities and capacity building by getting the communities up to speed with their own processing facilities, etc. to avoid existing industry coming in and farmers have to sell a commodity product to existing industry.
- Clarify role of ASGA in MRTC. Would ASGA board members also like to be on the MRTC Advisory Board?

#### • Mission Statement \*see White Paper document edits:

- Include language like "For better success of industry and community" to highlight the importance of value-added community development.
- Clarify MRTC role of coordinating versus facilitating (the goal of the MRTC is to identify needs in the field and make connections)
  - For now keep "facilitation and coordination" language. Lots of coordination required for hands-on trainings, i.e. coordinating who can facilitate the training and who can teach the hands-on components. Keeping both terms allows for growth and flexibility of work.
- Address desire to grow the field--add language addressing training and economic development/facilitating new entrance into the field from research and industry (does not necessarily need to be in the mission statement).
- Add language capturing desire to leverage resources/bring people together.

#### • Other White Paper Edits and Next Steps:

- Per Ginny Eckert: Make Industry Stakeholders into Industry and Coastal Community Stakeholders (in white paper diagram). Potentially add an Alaska Native entity(ies) to the Advisory Board and ID a way to include AK Native representation in bottom boxes.
- Add boxes to diagram for all IDed potential places for inclusion of Alaska Native entities to refine after receiving input.
- Reach out to interested Alaska Native stakeholders to ask how they would like to be involved and how they envision good representation within both the AMA and MRTC.
- Potential for growth of an ad hoc working group to address Alaska Native inclusion in the AMA.
- Potentially add a "to be included" placeholder for identifying areas for Alaskan Native inclusion and engagement.
- Identify short and long term goals
- Prioritize bringing together

# Annual R&D Forum Planning

- Per Jeff Hetrick: Need to make sure there's adequate support/funding to get industry representatives (growers, community reps) to the annual meeting. Growers have been underrepresented at similar events in the past.
- Potentially plan the annual forum to coincide with the annual ASGA meeting to increase accessibility for attendees.

• 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
- o Announcement timing
- Branding
- Addressing near-term objectives (partially discussed, conversation to be continued)