**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES**

**Committee Report for the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS)**

**Executive Steering Committee**

**Chair Robert H. Boyles, Jr.**

**Telephonic Meeting of August 28, 2023**

**Meeting convened** 2:03 p.m. eastern via Teams call

**Chaired by** Robert H. Boyles, Jr.

**Committee Members Attending:** Robert Boyles, Jr., Sara Parker Pauley, Mike Oetker, Matt Elliott (for Ted Will)

**Other Attendees:** Amanda Sesser, SECAS Coordinator; Ross Melinchuk, SEAFWA Executive Director; Mallory Martin, SECAS Coordination Support; Rua Mordecai, SECAS Science Coordinator

**Scheduled Discussion Items:**

* Draft SECAS Charter
* Draft SECAS Elevator Pitch
* SEAFWA Conference and SECAS Symposia
* Southeast Landscape of the Future Summit
* Update on State Director engagement
* MD-DC Blueprint extension
* Misc. updates, including SECAS Goal Report refinements
* SECAS capacity needs

**Other Discussion Items:** Vacancy on the Steering Committee and date for spring Steering Committee meeting

**Action Items and Recommendations:**

1. SEAFWA President Robert Boyles asked to Nicole Angeli (USVI) to fill the vacancy on the SECAS Steering Committee. Director Angeli has accepted the appointment.
2. The Committee provided feedback and discussion on the draft Charter. The Committee recommended incorporating minor clarifying changes and sending the final version via email for Committee adoption. The Charter will then be sent to the full SEAFWA board for their consideration at the October 2023 business meeting.
3. The Committee considered the draft SECAS Elevator Pitch and offered feedback for revisions. A revised version will be sent to the Committee via email for any final comments.
4. The Committee was briefed on a request to serve as an advisory panel for a project through NC State and the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center examining climate resilience for cultural resources (including wildlife, plants, & landscapes). Rather than making a group commitment for the entire Steering Committee, Chair Boyles recommended that in honoring the request as a partnership, each Committee member should consider their own participation individually, including delegation of the advisory function to their staff.
5. The Southeast Landscape of the Future Summit will be held on dates to be determined between Feb 26-March 22, 2024. The Committee recommended avoiding the week of March 11 due to proximity to the scheduled SEAFWA Spring Directors meeting (March 5-8, 2024).
6. The Committee recommended holding its next in-person meeting on March 5, 2024 in Jackson, MS, prior to the SEAFWA Spring Directors meeting (March 5 is a travel day for the SEAFWA meeting; SECAS Steering Committee members should travel on March 4 and meet for a full day on March 5).

**Committee Recommendation for Chai**r**:** The Committee recommended the Chair to request an agenda item for the October 15, 2023 SEAFWA Director’s Retreat to discuss the need for additional coordination capacity for SECAS.

**Meeting adjourned:** 4:03 p.m. eastern

**List of current committee members and contact information:**

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**List of interested participants and contact information:**

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Ross Melinchuk SEAFWA Executive Director rossmelinchuk@gmail.com

**List and description of active committee members:** above

**Submitted by:** Amanda Sesser, SECAS Coordinator on behalf of Robert H. Boyles, Jr., Chair