

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

*May 4, 2021
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Webinar*

Draft Agenda

The times listed are approximate; the order in which these items will be taken is subject to change; other items may be added as necessary.

1. Welcome/Call to Order (*J. Carmichael*)
2. Council Consent
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of Minutes from February 2021
3. Public Comment
4. Review Funding Decision Document and 2022 Request For Proposals (*J. Simpson*) **ACTION**
5. Program Updates (*G. White & J. Simpson*)
6. Other Business/Adjourn

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
ATLANTIC COASTAL COOPERATIVE STATISTICS PROGRAM
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**Webinar
February 3, 2021**

These minutes are draft and subject to approval by the
Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council
The Council will review the minutes during its next meeting.

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1. **Approval of Agenda** by Consent (Page 1).
2. **Approval of Minutes of October 2020** by Consent (Page 1).
3. **Motion to approve the 2016-2020 Administrative Grant extension tasks as presented, and approve the revised 2021 ACCSP proposal at \$2,122,916** (Page 4). Motion by Cheri Patterson; second by Mel Bell. Motion carried (Page 5).
4. **Motion to adjourn** by Consent (Page 8).

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ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Bob Beal, ASMFC	Pat Geer, VA
Pat Keliher, ME	Dee Lupton, NC, proxy for J. Batherson
Cheri Patterson, NH	Mel Bell, SC, proxy for P. Maier
Dan McKiernan, MA	Doug Haymans, GA
Jason McNamee, RI, Vice-Chair	Erika Burgess, FL, proxy for J. McCawley
Greg Wojcik, CT, proxy for J. Davis	Derek Orner, NOAA
Jim Gilmore, NY	Marty Gary, PRFC
Joe Cimino, NJ	John Carmichael, SAFMC, Chair
Kris Kuhn, PA, proxy for T. Schaeffer	Brandon Muffley, MAFMC, proxy for C. Moore
John Clark, DE	Sherry White, USFWS
Lynn Fegley, MD, proxy for B. Anderson	Richard Cody, NOAA

Staff

Toni Kerns	Chris Jacobs	Marisa Powell
Kristen Anstead	Jeff Kipp	Mike Rinaldi
Lindsey Aubart	Laura Leach	Julie Defilippi Simpson
Tina Berger	Savannah Lewis	Caitlin Starks
Alex DiJohnson	Kirby Rootes-Murdy	Deke Tompkins
Maya Drzewicki	Sarah Murray	Geoff White
Emilie Franke	Joe Myers	
Sarah Hylton	Jennifer Ni	

Guests

Karen Abrams, NOAA	Russell Dize, MD (GA)	Raymond Kane, MA (GA)
Bill Anderson, MD (AA)	John DePersenaire, RFA	Adam Kenyon, VMRC
Max Appelman, NOAA	Renee DiPippo	Kathy Knowlton, GA DNR
Mike Armstrong, MA DMF	Chris Dollar, Queenstown, MD	Mike Luisi, MD DNR
Pat Augustine, Coram, NY	Ray Draper, King George, VA	Chip Lynch, NOAA
Rick Bellavance, Kingstown, RI	Warren Elliott, PA (LA)	John Maniscalco, NYS DEC
Alan Bianchi, NC DENR	Julie Evans	Jerry Mannen, NC (GA)
David Borden, RI (GA)	Cynthia Ferrio	Genine McClair, MD DNR
Jeff Brust, NJ DEP	James Fletcher, Wanchese Fish	Chris McDonough, SC DNR
Mike Celestino, NJ DEP	Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	John McMurray, NYS DEC
Barry Clifford, NOAA	Rick Frenzel, Black Tree Inc	Mike Millard, US FWS
Allison Colden, CBF	Alexa Galvan, VMRC	Roy Miller, DE (GA)
Heather Corbett, NJ DEP	Lewis Gillingham, VMRC	Pat Moran, MA Env. Police
Nicole Lengyel Costa, RI DEM	Angela Giuliano, MD DNR	Jerry Morgan, Madison, CT
Jessica Daher, NJ Dep	Bill Gorham, S. Shores, NC	Clinton Morgeson, VA DWR
Bob Danielson, S. Setauket, NY	Dan Hadler, NYS DEC	Allison Murphy, NOAA
Maureen Davidson, NYS DEC	Jay Hermson, NOAA	Kennedy Neill
Justin Davis, CT (AA)	Carol Hoffman, NYS DEC	Derek Orner, NOAA
Randy Dean	Joseph Holbeche	Michael Pierdinock
Jeff Deem, Lorton, VA	Rachel Howland, NC DENR	Kelly Place, Williamsburg, VA

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Guests (continued)

Craig Pugh, Leipsic, DE
Jill Ramsey, VMRC
Eric Reid, Kingstown, RI
Adam Rettig
Tim Sartwell, NOAA
CJ Schlick, NC DENR
Mike Schmidtke, SAFMC
Tara Scott, NOAA

McLean Seward, NC DENR
David Sikorski, CCA
Andrew Sinchuk, NYS DEC
Tom Sminkey, NOAA
Alan St. John
Michael Thompson, NC DENR
Douglas Vaughan, Beaufort, NC
Laura Versaggi, NJ DEP

Beth Versak, MD DNR
Ritchie White, NH (GA)
Kerry Whittaker, MMA
Meredith Whitten, NC DENR
Chris Wright, NOAA
Sarah York, NOAA
Renee Zobel, NH F&G

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened via webinar; Wednesday, February 3, 2021 and was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Chair John Carmichael.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIR JOHN CARMICHAEL: To call up the agenda, our first order of business is to approve the agenda, and then we'll approve the minutes. We'll see if anybody has any comments on the agenda. All right, not hearing anything or any shouting of hands.

MR. MAX APPELMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Max Appelman. I just wanted to make sure I was caught in the attendance sitting in for NOAA Fisheries.

MR. GEOFF WHITE: Max, thanks very much. Is there anyone else that I missed that needs to identify themselves?

MS. JULIE DEFILIPPI SIMPSON: Geoff, I have hands from Jay McNamee and Bill Gorham.

MR. WHITE: Jay, welcome back.

DR. JAYSON McNAMEE: Hi, Geoff, I'm here, just wanted you to know.

MR. WHITE: Thank you, and Bill, go ahead.

MR. BILL GORHAM: Yes, Sir, here.

MR. WHITE: Perfect. Julie has already jumped in here, but just a minor housekeeping item. We do have Julie helping with raising hands as we go through this, and I didn't make a slide for the agenda or past minutes, but you've got the materials.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, thank you, Geoff. I'll say just Geoff, Julie, just jump in when you

have to, to indicate a hand is raised. It sounds like we're up to date on everybody that's here, and sound check is all done so we're good there.

APPROVAL OF PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: No comments on the agenda, so consider that approved, and the next item for consent is the minutes from October, 2020. Does anyone have any objections to approving those by consent?

MS. SIMPSON: John, I have Jerry Morgan's hand raised, and also Richard Cody.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, go ahead, Jerry. Did Jerry comment?

MR. JERRY MORGAN: Yes, yes, I'm in.

MS. SIMPSON: Okay, thanks, Jerry.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Then Richard.

MR. RICHARD CODY: Yes, John, I just had a minor edit to the minutes for the October meeting, just related to the acronym SEFHIER that's all, it's just a small edit, nothing content related.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay great, thanks, Richard. Julie and Geoff, did you all note that and you'll verify the acronym.

MR. WHITE: Correct, I'll take care of that, Richard, thank you.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Any further hands?

MS. SIMPSON: You're good.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, thank you very much, then we'll consider the minutes approved with that edit and update to the SEFHIER acronym.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Then the next item is public comment, so if any members of the public would

like to make a comment, please raise your hands, and we'll recognize you.

MS. SIMPSON: I have no hands.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Then moving on into our first item of business, this will be Geoff going over the program and project funding items. Geoff, do you want to move into the presentation, please?

REVIEW PROGRAM AND PROJECT FUNDING

MR. WHITE: I've got it, thank you, John. Today we'll briefly review what our October primary motion was, in support of the funding, and a reminder to those who are on the call as well. The items were really to approve the proposals, but to have the Leadership Team review the ACCSP Administrative Grant before approval, and also discussing the savings of prior years, and to redirect those through the leadership team, and bring that back to the Coordinating Council. Those three areas of funding are our primary business today.

The first item with the change in John moving up to Chair in October, and Jason McNamee as Vice-Chair was reconstituting the ACCSP Leadership Team, and so the membership for everyone's awareness is listed on the screen. We had two calls in the middle of November and December, to make progress on the items from the October meeting.

For today, we've got three major bullets, and this is the order I'll be covering them. First part is really the 2016 to 2020 funding extension. We updated the projections through December, and we had some savings on things like VMS project, and overall encumbrances and costs for the program and staffing over the course of 2016 through it's actually February, 2021 that it ends, but the bulk of calendar year 2020. We projected about \$324,000 remaining. Part of that is going to need to be spent on projects that were previously approved, and are just taking a little bit longer to complete.

Really, the highlight item there is the South Atlantic Council and North Carolina fish release application. They've been having meetings virtually, with a contractor right now. There are some App development pieces that need to get done, and instead of being able to complete that by February 28 this year, that has been extended with a timeline of June 30.

Maintaining that prior approval of a partner-ranked project is the first 95K. Another discussion item supported by the Leadership Team was completing kind of the New Jersey 2021 maintenance proposal, for their staff to have the full year, which adds a few months and about \$9,000 cost.

Then the primary one is the SAFIS help desk support. When the Council met in October, it was unknown whether the NFWF proposal for 280K would be approved, and unfortunately that was not. In the meeting materials there was a little bit of a highlight on that, and the rationale that we received back from NFWF about, they thought it was a valid and useful task, but that the funding would not be best supported through the NFWF process.

Refocusing here the use of extension funds of about \$220,000 for the SAFIS help desk, we have a portion of that that will be covered by the ACCSP 2021 Admin Grant. We're a little bit short, but the 220K we believe will support the process. There has been a few hundred help desk calls in January already, with the roll out of SEFHIER, and new SAFIS eTRIPS reporting applications and online systems.

That uptick in activity is certainly true right now, we're hopeful that the 220 will cover us through the remaining portion of the year. That takes up the kind of extension timeline, with specific projects that we'll be able to move forward on with the extension. That helps keep the granting pieces clean.

While that is the focus of this piece, I will add in that we've had, I think about almost 900 trips already submitted in calendar 2021 through eTRIPS. That is

a big nod to the success of all of the partners in the SEFHIER roll out, as well as other activities that are occurring in commercial and for-hire fisheries going up the coast. With that, I will pause and ask John to lead any discussion or questions on the Admin Grant extension.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, so thank you, Geoff. Anybody have any questions so far?

MS. SIMPSON: I have Richard Cody.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Sure, go ahead, Richard.

MR. CODY: Yes, Geoff, I was wondering, you mentioned about 900 trips so far reported in eTRIPS. That seems like quite a few, given how early we are in the year. Do you have a feel for how that compares to, you know with previous years productivity?

MR. WHITE: We looked at it briefly. It's definitely an uptick in what reports are coming in through eTRIPS, but of course SEFHIER added 6,000 fishermen, so it's a higher number, and we're aware of several hundred other trips coming through other vendors that we expect to have entered in this system in the next week or two that will cover January. It's a significant uptick, in terms of user base and trips coming in. On the other hand, it's certainly not stressing the computer systems.

MR. CODY: Yes, thanks.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Julie, any others?

MS. SIMPSON: I have no other hands.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, Geoff, I think you can move on to the next slide.

MR. WHITE: This is a highly shortened version of the long Admin Grant proposal that was provided in the supplemental materials. As you recall, the October Operations Committee and Advisors supported Option 1, included both

their backfilling of the Data Team lead, and the addition of a Software Team member.

Alternate Option 2 was not to add a Software Team member at this time, and leave some additional funds there for contract software development and support. Through the discussions with the Leadership Team and some suggestions of where we could find some savings, and what happened with that SAFIS help desk, as we just talked about.

We came up with kind of an Option 3, which is kind of lowest cost overall, highlighted in green on the screen, the \$2,122,916. That does backfill the Data Team lead position, which is fantastic. We've got that out and are working on an approach for that. It delays the software staff addition, pending some further justification of what the tradeoffs are between staff growth, capabilities to handle things in house.

What happens when we release all these different software products, and we're calling on partners to review those? Not every partner has time to review things at the schedule of releases. What is the kind of timing in the outreach, and the cascading handoffs that occur out to the partners because of that?

We reduced the help desk support by about \$30,000 in Option 3, and again we saved a little bit of funding on some travel, and some reconfiguration of internet line fees, which had to do with implementing our FISMA regulations and requirements, in a more flexible and cost effective way. We're not losing capability; we're just finding a new way to do it that costs less. With that I will pause again, and ask if there are questions on the details here.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All righty, thank you Geoff. If you have questions, go ahead and raise your hand.

MS. SIMPSON: I have no hands raised.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, Geoff, let's move on to the next one.

MR. WHITE: Okay, we'll take that as good news that we're doing our jobs right here. For looking forward to our third funding item. The 2021 project support item. Here we've filled in the Admin Grant at the leadership Option 3. We are expecting level funding through National Marine Fisheries Service, Sustainable Fisheries, and Office of Science and Technology.

A big bonus and thank you here to the state of Florida, who recognized that they were not able to complete the head boat sampling due to COVID in 2020, but also had a little bit of savings from prior years, and were able to de-obligate and return approximately \$150,000 to the program. That allows kind of a redirection of.

The reason that South Carolina, the Southeast Fisheries Science Center portions are there, is we're trying to be efficient, and not bouncing money through too many accounting hops, and as it gone back to the Southeast Regional Office, kind of have that get pushed back out to other Southeast projects that are coming up to start in the next fiscal year.

The South Carolina one actually starts in, I want to say September, and so we do have time to redirect those types of things. Therefore, there is the potential and suggestion to support all of the maintenance and new proposals from last year, and the blue coloration is kind of a suggestion of how we technically go through it.

What we've done here is highlighted in yellow where the Admin Grant ended up. There is a GARFO administrative fee that gets added into that, or added to that. With the return funds from Florida, we highlighted the 3.56 funding level, and those light blue projects are the functional suggestion of how that would help out and redirect.

But that leaves us, if we focus our eyes on the column second from the far right, the 3.56 amount remaining. We have the capability to

fund all of the maintenance and new projects, and we've heard from Rhode Island that they'll be able to be successful in the Economic Efficiency Project, with just a slight decrease in the funding there. With that I'll ask for any questions, and John, we've prepared your request for a motion when you're ready to move to the next slide.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay. Yes, sounds great. I did ask that we should probably get a motion to approve this Admin Grant, given that it wasn't approved in the earlier October motion. But we are able here, with this proposed Admin Grant level, as Geoff is showing, to achieve the other aspects of that motion, which is full funding of the projects for 2021. Julie, any questions? Any hands going up yet?

MS. SIMPSON: No, Sir.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, so I think it is good that looking closer into the Admin Grant and making a few of those changes, has allowed us to fully fund 2021, and I think resolve the issues raised by the Council back in October. If no questions to be had, I think go on to the next slide, which is a proposed motion. Hopefully someone will make this to officially wrap up the Admin Grant values.

MS. SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, I have a hand from Cheri Patterson.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, Cheri.

MS. CHERI PATTERSON: Good morning, yes. I would like to make that motion if I can get a second. Let me read the motion. Motion to approve the 2016-2020 Administrative Grant extension tasks as presented, and approve the revised 2021 ACCSP proposal at \$2,122,916.

MS. SIMPSON: I had a second hand go up by Mel Bell.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, thank you very much, Cheri and Mel. Is there any objection to the motion?

MS. SIMPSON: I have a hand raised from Lynn Fegley.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes Lynn, go ahead.

MS. FEGLEY: No, I'm sorry, my hand should be down. I actually raised it to make the motion or second. I'm going to try to lower it now, thank you.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, thanks, Lynn.

MS. SIMPSON: I have no other hands.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, so hearing no objections that motion stands approved. Thank you everybody, we have an Admin Grant approved.

MR. WHITE: Thank you, John. That really concludes our major items, but if you'll give me leeway, since we have a little bit of time. It was an intent not to go through a full program update, but I will note that last week we put out a Committee newsletter that had information on what the Committees have been and are about to be doing.

It included a fair amount of information on the program activities. I just call your attention to that, and if there are any questions, I think we've got time to entertain those. One of the other things we've done, as kind of a minor item. To prepare for the RFP and every year that ACCSP staff pulls together a calendar of events.

It includes all the different council and commission meetings, as well as the ACCSP items. This year, we're really trying to take work that we do and make it a bit more useful. We've put that calendar, instead of a static document that we tend to forget about, actually populated that onto the full ACCSP website calendar. It includes things like the beginning of our fiscal year, when the RFP dates are, as well as when the Commission meeting

weeks, the Council meeting weeks, and ACCSP Committee meetings are slated for. In places where it's going to happen sometime that month, those meetings are listed as the first of that month, and will shift as the doodle polls and other things are coming up. Just a highlight on activities we're doing, but didn't want to take a full time for a presentation during this particular meeting.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, Geoff, thanks. I think that effort was nice. It certainly shows the many, many things that are going on every week related to ACCSP, which is always a good reminder for those of us at this level. I think the reports you've been putting out about committee activities are pretty helpful, just to see at a glance what all is going on.

It allows people to dive into the things that are of more interest to them, and useful to them without necessarily occupying time here. I think that's been a good effort that you guys have put into that. It certainly helps us. Julie, do we have any questions on things so far? If not, Geoff, did you have anything else to add?

MR. WHITE: I think we're set. Maya, if you would move one slide forward. That would give us just our opportunity for questions. We'll look for hands from Julie.

MS. SIMPSON: Yes, I do have a hand from Bob Beal.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, Bob.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROBERT E. BEAL: Since we have time, and would it really be a Coordinating Council meeting if I didn't chime in about my nervousness about future funding? I feel obligated to do that. You know I think looking forward, I think I call it the funding bottleneck in the future of, you know continued administrative support, and the Maine project for lobster reporting coming back to us next year, most likely. You know we cobbled together money for the help desk this year, and we hope the help desk expenses are a lot lower next year, once the whole suite of 6,000 vessels kind of gets up to speed, and is able to

use all the tools, and they know how to do it. But the help desk is something that I'm concerned about, in that we have to find money to fund that. There are really only two sources.

One is coming out of the general funds available for ACCSP, which will likely mean less money available for maintenance, and/or new projects, or it will have to come out of the Admin Grant, which causes problems as well, or we knock on the door of the federal partners, and they maybe find some money to help us support that. I'm not being critical of the federal partners, it's just that help desk is really to support federal initiatives from the Councils, and some of the electronic reporting initiatives.

It's completely consistent with the direction of ACCSP, and it's a good thing. But I just wanted to keep my placeholder out there, for kind of concern over future funding. You know we're going to have to have some potentially tough decisions in the next couple years, on what the priorities are and where the funding that is available, you know where it should go. Not really a question, just sort of my, I'm the broken record on financial worries.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, thanks Bob, thank you for that. We did talk about that some at the Management Group meeting, I forget officially what we call ourselves. But yes, I think everyone should be aware that next year could be pretty tough. I think all of us here know, depending on what budgets do in the future, a lot of things may get pretty tough. This year we've been able to pull off everything, Bob said next year might be a bit tougher. We just need to be prepared for that.

MS. SIMPSON: I have a hand now from Cheri Patterson.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Go ahead, Cheri.

MS. PATTERSON: What would be the benefit to having projects include help desk work in their

budget, to support the help desk, especially when it pertains to these upcoming improvements to reporting and such? Would that be helpful? I know it's literally just taking money from ACCSP in the general pot.

But it still kind of holds those projects that are going to be needing a large support from the help desk initially, to kind of offset some of the just general help desk budget on an annual basis. It would just help support it during these tough times. I agree, I think lobster reporting is really going to be a big pull for the help desk coming up. Just a thought. Thanks.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, that sounds reasonable. I wonder, Geoff, if maybe that isn't something to be considered by that funding group, and sort of routed up through the Ops Committee and others along the way. You know I think I see the point there of sort of keeping that with the project that is initiating it, and avoid having some great big lump sum as we're dealing with now.

MR. WHITE: Thanks, John, and Cheri, I very much appreciate that, and these are things that we've been struggling with. The thing like the help desk is a multi-partner, multi-project need, and its growth has been offered up as one of the things that goes with the ACCSP reporting tools, and yet I'm thinking more of making that its own ranked proposal for awareness, instead of putting it only inside of the Admin Grant.

But these types of tradeoffs are what we'll be working on between now and your May meeting, to provide a little more clarity on what the future tracking is, and the potential approach to putting that into, to creating the Admin Grant what does the staff support in the Admin Grant. What are the tradeoffs with the help desk, because it's difficult to put that into individual projects, when those projects might be short- or long-term funding?

But the help desk really supports every partner using SAFIs in kind of any way. Right now, that is focused on the trip reporting side. But this year

we'll be making changes to the dealer reporting side as well. Those are certainly on the table. I had been planning those items more for preparation for your May meeting.

MS. SIMPSON: Cheri, your hand is still up. Did you have a follow up?

MS. PATTERSON: Yes, I did, thank you. Geoff, now I understand that the help desk is going to be something that's necessary into infinity with the program. My thought was, if somebody is going to be presenting a proposal, like we're expecting through the Lobster Reporting Program, to have them include some help desk support, because of the uptick.

That's all. I'm not denying that the help desk is going to need to have stability funding. But when there comes a time when we know there is going to be a surge, it would be nice to have that, in my mind, into the proposal to help with the surge. Thanks.

MS. SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, I have another hand from Kathy Knowlton.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, Geoff, I want to see, did you have any follow up to that? That sort of sounds like to me there is potential for two ways to look at this. You know one would sound like their support for is definitely getting the help desk out of the General Admin grant, and looking at it. Then I think you know Cheri is talking about including some of that initial surge that you anticipate from any new program, as part of grants. I think it would be good to have our other committees look at both of those avenues.

MR. WHITE: I agree. As with all things funding, a multi-pronged approach is usually what's best.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, thank you. Kathy.

MR. KATHY KNOWLTON: Hey, good morning. Geoff, I'll be really interested to hear more from you in May about a possibility of pulling the funding out for the help desk, to possibly be ranked on its own. First blush of thinking about that, that seems like that will be very difficult to rank it, in that it is kind of like how we have the component in like the plus two points, or whatever it is for metadata, when people specifically talk about how they are planning to handle metadata. It's just like an addition to being within a proposal.

Again, just hearing this for the first time today, and thinking about it, I really like Cheri's suggestion to start thinking of ways for proposals to concentrate on their needs, and how to goad that in, because I think it would be exceedingly difficult to rank something like the help desk, because like you say, it helps every partner. I'll be really interested in hearing about that. I know you've given it a lot more consideration, and I want to hold my mind open to hear the point. That is a pretty cool thing to start thinking about, thank you.

MS. SIMPSON: I now have a hand from Lynn Fegley.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: All right, thank you, Kathy, and Lynn up next.

MS. FEGLEY: Yes, this is going to be a great conversation in May. I'm not asking this question for an answer now, but just maybe my understanding is not quite complete. But if a project was to place budget for the help desk within its own proposal. The question kind of becomes, you know the projects are on a step down, so if it got help desk need in their project, and then they get stepped down, it seems like at a certain point as those projects phase out, the help desk is going to fall flat again. You know that is just sort of one of the dynamics that I wonder, you know how that would all work.

MS. SIMPSON: I have a hand from Richard Cody.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Thanks Lynn, thanks for that Geoff. I think you're getting some good feedback

on issues to be addressed for May. Richard, if you want to go ahead.

MR. CODY: Yes, I just wanted to echo, I think Lynn's sentiment there. I think we would have to give careful consideration to the makeup of all the proposals. We have some changes coming, where some of the maintenance proposals are dropping off the radar for a year or so at least, coming up.

We might end up in a situation where the help desk funding could be very variable from year to year, depending on the makeup of the proposals. Then, I would imagine also that some states might have some thoughts on how much they use the help desk at this point. Relative to other states they may not use it quite as much, and why should they be penalized as part of their proposal. I think there are a lot of considerations for the May meeting.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes definitely, thank you, Richard.

MS. SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, Lynn's hand has been re-raised.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay Lynn, come back around?

MS. FEGLEY: No, I'm just confused, I'm so sorry. I did not mean for it to be up. Sorry, guys.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Yes, it's counter intuitive. We always struggle with this. You see it as a green arrow, you think your hand is up, but it tells you what your hand can do, not what your hand is doing. It's kind of weird that way. No worries.

MS. SIMPSON: I have no other hands this time.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, Geoff, does that conclude our business?

MR. WHITE: Yes, Sir.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Does anyone have any Other Business to raise before the Council?

MS. SIMPSON: Mr. Chair, I have a hand from Sarah York.

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Sorry, go ahead, Sarah.

MS. SARAH YORK: I just wanted to ask about the project partner grants for the ones that are underneath in the second table that says, includes carryover from maintenance projects. The one that does go into a deficit at the end of those, but those ones are also being funded. If you have a question, then I'll just for business, sorry.

MR. WHITE: That's all right. Sarah, could you go up, I think it's just one slide. Sorry, Maya. There we go. The item in red in the middle that says includes carryover. If you look at the top of the screen, the split between maintenance and new is a 75 percent, 25 percent. If \$1,044,496 is not used for maintenance projects, then any remaining does move down into the new project in the lower half of the screen.

All the projects would be funded at this point. The actual timeline for distribution would be up to NOAA Grants Office. But only one project, the Rhode Island Economic Efficiency would be funded, not at \$61,384, but at \$5,000 less than that, so \$56,334.

MS. YORK: Thank you very much.

MS. SIMPSON: I have no other raised hands.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR CARMICHAEL: Okay, I was just going to ask, thank you, Julie. Seeing there is no other business before the Committee, we stand adjourned. Thank you everybody for letting us get through this very efficiently this morning.

(Whereupon the meeting convened at 11:50 a.m.
on Wednesday February 3, 2021.)