

Administrative/Budget Committee Report
August 7, 2017
Robin Riechers – Vice Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda and minutes of the June 2017 Administrative/Budget Committee meeting as written.

Council staff reviewed the 2017 proposed budget with expenditures through June (Tab G No. 4a). Staff stated they were notified in July that the final funding for 2017 should be \$3,681,000 for the administrative award. Staff provided a revised 2018 and 2019 budget that included carry over projections through the end of the five year grant. The 2018 and 2019 projections are estimated based on a possible 1% increase in funding each year. The final budgets will be impacted by likely increases in health insurance costs, meeting activities, and the necessary relocation of the Council office space. Relocation of the Council office in Tampa was unexpected, but will be needed before July 2018 because the building has changed ownership. The new owners have proposed a rent increase at the lease renewal of over \$140,000 per year (82%). The Committee requested an update on the office space search at the October meeting and revision of the 2018-2019 projections as more information is available.

By a unanimous vote, the committee recommends and I so move: **To approve the budget as shown in Tab G, No. 4(a).**

Staff requested clarification of the verbiage in the Statement of Organization Policies and Practices, (SOPPs) relating to Advisory Panel (AP) Appointments, whether the verbiage in the SOPPs should indicate if violations associated with reporting requirements are to be considered serious enough to disqualify an AP applicant, and if the violations to be considered for AP appointments include species managed:

- a) only by a regional fishery management council;
- b) all federally managed species (this would include HMS species); or
- c) both state and federally managed marine species.

No Committee motions relevant to this request were made, consequently, the status quo of considering violations on item b) above would remain in effect. That is, violations related to only federally managed species, including HMS species, will be considered in AP applications.

Under other business staff requested guidance from the Committee on specific verbiage in the SOPPs in section 3.2.2 (pages 12-13) regarding Council Members participating or voting at meetings via webinar.

The committee recommends and I so move: **to modify the SOPPs so that Council members must be physically present to participate, motion, or vote.**

Madam chair, this concludes our Committee report.