



RBS Finance & Grants Committee

2020-2021 Final Committee Report

Date: August 16, 2021

Committee Charter

NASBLA's Recreational Boating Safety Finance & Grants Committee focuses on best practices and resources for state RBS grants management and financial interactions with the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division.

NOTE: COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the productivity of the committee despite the hard work and attention from the committee's leadership and many of its members. Members have had to either step back or significantly decrease their volunteer hours to the committee due to restrictions and state workloads related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee was still be able to deliver significant products/deliverables to advance the goals and charges but many charges will be recommended for carryover for further development and work.

The **2021 Finance & Grants Committee** is assigned a total of four (4) charges for the 2020 – 2021 Committee year. Tom Guess (VA) serves as Chair of the committee. Joe McCullough serves at the NASBLA Executive Board Liaison.

FG 2020-1 : Program Positions

Document the importance and requirements of key boating program positions related to finance and RBS grant management.

Deliverable(s): The sole volunteer charge team member for this charge left the agency during the committee cycle. This charge addresses Objective 5.1 of the NASBLA Strategic Plan 2012 - 2022: "Document and promote, on both a state and national level, the importance and requirements of key boating program positions (e.g., BLA, education, financial, registration, BARD)."

Next cycle recommendation: There are elements of this charge that compliment or overlap with Charge #3: Training and Charge #4: State Guide. As these two charges continue to develop, there will be crossover in committee work that will go towards deliverables for this charge.

Charge Leader: Bryan Young (VA)

FG 2020-2 : Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

Examine the historical successes of the national RBS program and recommend marketing materials to aid in the reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and the State's understanding of where the money comes from, where it goes and how it is working for the States.

Deliverable(s): **[[Appendix A]]** Building on the work done by the committee in 2020, the charge team continued to work on the Boating Safety Dollars at Work document. This document is to serve as a one-pager for states to use in promoting their program and its impact on the state. This updated version (2021) pulls more data directly from reports already in the public domain which contribute to consistency of information across states, while still allowing room for the states to highlight specific projects, programs, legislation or priorities. Work is now being done to collect feedback and information for all states.

On demand presentation on the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to further the State's understanding of where the money comes from and where it goes. Produced and narrated by Tom Guess, VA BLA and committee chair. Uploaded to the NASBLA eLearning Center for on demand access.

Next cycle recommendation: Recommend as a **carry-over charge**. The charge team will continue to collect the needed information for all states and territories, provide to the states for customization, and publish through numerous NASBLA channels.

Charge Leader: Melissa Kelts-Martin (NY)

Charge Members: Olivia Drown (AK), Tom Guess, Chair (VA)

FG 2020-3 : Training

Develop and facilitate virtual and in person training for financial and grant management staff. Develop and launch a training survey for financial and grants management personnel on what training they need.

Deliverable(s): The charge team developed a list of topics based on membership feedback that were identified as priorities for training. The USCG BSX worked with the committee to develop content in these training topics. The USCG then provided grants training during the **2021 NASBLA State RBS Workshop**. These presentation topics included *Understanding Allowable Costs, Using the Budget Tool, Program Grant Reporting: Performance Report Part II, Reading the Allocation Table and Grant & Narrative Writing*. Recordings of these presentations are now available on the [NASBLA eLearning Center](#) under "grants training". USCG Representative Gary Jensen worked with the committee in great detail to review the membership training survey with the committee and assist in identifying particular training modules the USCG could address.

Based on the feedback and evaluations of the 2020 State RBS Workshop and the committees additional discussions with the USCG, the USCG and NASBLA also identified RBS State Finance and Grants training topics needed for **the 2021 NASBLA Annual Conference**. Topics on the agenda include *Writing a Better Application Narrative, How to Get the Most Out of Your State Dollars, Working the Magic of the Budget Tool, How to Prepare for a Desk Review and Site Visits, "Z" Numbers: What are they really for and a discussion on Multiple Use Waterways*.

Next cycle recommendation: Recommend as a **carry-over charge**. The charge team will continue to get feedback from the states on training needs and assist in content development and opportunities to bring training to the states both in person and virtually.

Charge Members: Yolanda Cooley (CT), Danny Rodriguez (AZ), Robert Lewis (VA), Gary Jensen (USCG)

FG 2020-4 : State Guide

Review the updated State Guide. Determine and develop resources to be made available to state personnel for the understanding and implementation of the State Guide.

Deliverable(s): The committee worked in great detail with the USCG BSX and USCG Representative Gary Jensen in reviewing and discussing what changes were expected to come in the next version of the State Guide following the state's comment package that was submitted in 2020. In discussions with the USCG, it seemed that most of what was taken out in creating the draft (prior to the state comment period) were sample report forms, CFR & U.S. Code references and copies of grant agreements. The committee felt that it is important that the resource documents that have been removed be posted somewhere where states can still easily access them, and they can be monitored if there is a need to update them as new versions are available. Gary Jensen, USCG, sent the committee a list of the resources (and links) that were removed from the state guide for the committee's reference. These are currently collected in the committee Basecamp page. Continued conversations are needed to be able to present a report on the outcomes of the state's comment package to the USCG on the DRAFT State Guide.

Next cycle recommendation: Recommend as a **carry-over charge**. The committee would like to continue to review what was removed from the State Guide and work with NASBLA to house important references and resources effectively. Potentially developing a webpage or section in the NASBLA eLearning Center where states can access the State Guide, additional resources and host a FAQ section or page. The committee will also continue to discuss with the USCG the outcomes of the state's comments package on the DRAFT State Guide. The committee would like to continue to get feedback from the states on the training or resources need to be developed regarding the state guide – overlapping with FG - Charge 3: Training. There are discussions of also developing different courses or resources based on the content of the State Guide, for those with responsibilities in different roles: BLA, boating safety education program, enforcement program and the marine casualties reporting and vessel numbering system (all required programs for state programs and performance review). Activities would overlap with FG-Charge 1: Program Positions.

Charge Leader: Trevor Carbo (VT)

Charge Members: Deborah Holmes (CA)

Appendix A

OKLAHOMA

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY \$ AT WORK

Legislative Priorities

- Enhance penalties for OUI convictions, especially when minor children are present.
- Require boating safety education for persons “born on or after” date.

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| <p>\$1.9² MILLION</p> <p>Federal dollars brought into the state via the USCG Stage Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program</p> | <p>SUPPORTING¹ JOBS: 6,413</p> <p>SUPPORTING¹ BUSINESSES: 312</p> | <p>\$ 1.6¹ BILLION</p> <p>Annual Economic Impact of Recreational Boating</p> |
| <p># of individuals participating in recreational boating in Oklahoma.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">984,000³</p> | | |

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| <p>26%</p> <p>³ Overall participation of state population in recreational boating</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION CERTIFICATES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3,127⁴</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of persons attending a State/NASBLA Approved course</p> |
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| <p>SEARCH, RESCUE & RECOVERY CASES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">413⁴</p> | <p>194,966⁵</p> <p>Number of Registered Boats</p> | <p>Lakes: 896,640 acres</p> <p>Rivers: 167,600 miles</p> |
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PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

- **Bobby the Boat and B-OK** (Boat Oklahoma) in-school boating and water safety education programming provided for students age pre-k through adulthood.
- **Have a Drink (of Water) on Me** program. Using private labeled water with special Operation Dry Water message and Wear It messages on the label to encourage persons enjoying boating to substitute water for an alcoholic beverage and to wear a life jacket.
- Oklahoma is a NASBLA BOAT program accredited partner moving toward uniformity among U.S. states as a force multiplier and participate in marine law enforcement training opportunities to **respond to requests for assistance during natural and man-made disasters.**

Sources

- 1) 2018 NMMA Economic Impact Infographics by State
- 2) USCG State Boating Safety Grant Program Allocation Table (FY21)
- 3) USCG National Recreational Survey (2012 Table 21)
- 4) PRPII (2017)
- 5) USCG State Boating Safety Grant Program Allocation Table

