

## **GLOS Steering Committee, April 21 2004 – Conference Call Minutes:**

### **Roll Call**

Bob Allan  
Sam Batzli  
Paul Bertram  
Marc Bobal  
Joe DePinto  
Stuart Eddy  
Roger Gauthier  
Brian Huberty  
Tom Johnson  
Dave Knight  
Christine Manninen  
Tom Rayburn  
Dave Schwab  
Dick Wagenmaker  
Jennifer Werner

### **Status of National Federation of Regional Associations**

March 28-30 – Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Attended by Dave Schwab, Roger Gauthier, Jeff Reutter.

Overview from Tom Malone – How different parts of IOOS fit together from Fed agencies to RAs

Breakout groups discussed requirements to be sanctioned as a Regional Association:

1. Funding Strategy
2. Governance
3. Business Plan
4. Data Collection and Management

Jeff Reutter and Tom Rayburn will represent GLOS on the Committee that will form the NFRA.

1<sup>st</sup> conference call today at 1:00.

Process being steered by Dave Martin, Applied Physics Lab in Washington (NaNOOS)

Washington discussions focused on what NFRA should be:

- A trade organization for the RAs, separate from the federal system?
- Or a regulatory agency?

The strongest voice was for an independent advisory group outside the federal structure.

Lots of discussion on

- funding sources
- timelines
- roles being covered by RAs vs. federal agencies

Also lots of anticipation of the Ocean Policy report, which came out yesterday.

(Available at <http://www.oceancommission.gov/>)

The meeting produced a draft function statement for RAs, a resolution signed by the people at the workshop which outlines the goals of the IOOS initiative, and an initial list of certification criteria.

Senate Bill S-1400 – Contains authorizing language for IOOS. It is probably not in its final form, but all SC members are encouraged to review.

Quick summary from RG:

Ocean and Coastal Observing Systems Act, passed by the Senate in July 2003  
The House is developing its own version, but was awaiting the Ocean Policy document mentioned above.

Elements contained in the authorizing language:

- Scope being dealt with
- Funding, and where it is coming from
- Caveat: A Joint Operations Center is called for, which now looks as if it is not desirable to the participating agencies. The agencies and RAs are instead developing a data structure to move data from level to level without an operations center.

Also being worked on:

- Provisions to move funds from one federal agency to another
- Indemnification of RAs (This would give the RAs the ability to act as federal employees in conduct of RA operations once the RA had been certified, meaning essentially that the Justice Dept. would provide legal support once the RA is certified as long as personnel are not acting in malfeasance of duties.)

Funding levels as presented by Ocean.US:

NOAA authorization = \$83M per year in 2004 to \$100M in 2008  
NSF = \$24M per year in 2004 to \$35M in 2008  
Nasa = \$30M per year in 2004 to \$34.75M in 2008  
USCG = \$8M per year in 2004 to \$9.75M in 2008  
Office of Naval Research = \$24M per year in 2004 to \$34.5M in 2008  
Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy = \$34M per year in 2004 to \$36.5M in 2008  
Other federal agencies not explicit authorized could be authorized up to \$15M

So 2008 = circa \$240M authorized for federal agencies and RAs, no more than 50% retained by the federal agencies to support the IOOS backbone technologies and resources

It was noted that the Ocean Policy document says \$650M instead, so these are clearly not hard and fast numbers. The GLOS budget estimating exercise will use the numbers presented to Roger and Dave in Washington.

Note: Chapter 26 of Ocean Policy document deals specifically with IOOS – please add it to your recommended reading list.

An additional website for NFRA has been proposed by Ocean.US (Perhaps NFRA.US?)

Costs for GLOS are needed in advance of the normal federal timeline. In addition, the NFRA is starting to convene, addressing requirements for certification as a Regional Association. Revisions to the Business Plan outline are coming as a result of new and changing information.

It's good news also that GLOS is integrated into the process right from the start. Both Dave and Roger say the Washington meeting was valuable.

### **Needs Assessment Summaries**

Dick Wagenmaker is coordinating this.  
4(?) are done. Samples will be sent out by email.

Categories:

Water Supply & Outflow Control – Roger Gauthier  
Hydropower Production – Jennifer Werner  
Municipal & Industrial Water Supplies – Mark Burrows  
Shoreline Protection & Use – Kathy Ballard  
Recreational Uses – Dick Wagenmaker  
Commercial Navigation – Dave Knight  
Fisheries – Keith Bedford  
Other Organisms – Beth Johnson  
Endangered Species – (contacting Rich Greenwood for recommendation)  
Water Quality – Joe DePinto  
Invasive Species Control – Mark Bobal  
Emergency Response – Tom Rayburn, Bob Allen,  
Air Emissions & Deposition – Jon Dettling  
Restoration Planning – Jon Dettling  
Habitat Mapping & Monitoring – Brian Huberty, Ric Lawson  
Land Use Monitoring & Management – Stuart Eddy  
Outreach & Education – Christine Manninen

Summary coming from Dick W.

Finished assessments will be emailed to SC members for review, then compiled when all completed.

### **Budget Estimates for FY2007-2011**

This is a task-specific exercise (as opposed to a user group-specific one).

It is not yet possible to reconcile them with the S1400 or Ocean Policy documents described above. The Steering Committee needs to be looking here for the most critical needs and approximate costs to meet those needs. These may not all be NOAA costs – other agencies may well (will probably) contribute, but the split is probably is not our issue. Needs, tasks and approximate dollar amounts are our concern.

The SC does not yet have whole package. Individual members have been part of separate discussions, some of which have been very active.

Topics: Buoys – good input

Hydrodynamics – good input

Flows in Interconnecting Waterways – so-so?

Remote Sensing – good input

LIDAR – good input

Inflows (USGS gaging stations & NOAA river stations) – weak so far

Science vessels – more input (Paul Bertram, Mark Burrows? Marg Dochoda (GLFC)? Tom Johnson)

Shore stations – input from NOS but need more

Air toxics – good input

Nearshore modeling/ecol forecasting – Joe DePinto, Doug Wilcox good, still need USGS

Mass Balance – Joe DePinto, Paul Horvatin still need to be talked to

Education – good input

Information integration – initial cut done

Governance/administration – initial cut done

Once summarized and distributed, SC will need to prioritize to that the final numbers fit into a reasonable range.

## **Meetings**

Today:

National monthly NFRA conference call. Minute/notes to follow to SC.

May:

GLC Semi-Annual Meeting – Cleveland OH, May 4

EMAP Conference – Newport RI, May 4-7 (EPA – Paul Horvatin)

Coordinating Committee – Burlington ON, May 4-5

Great Lakes Sustainability Conf. – Cleveland OH, May 5-7

Michigan Wetlands Meeting – Traverse City MI, May 20-25 (Ric Lawson)

IAGLR Conference – Waterloo ON, May 25-28

June, July:

NFRA face-to-face meeting will probably be called.

Workshops/Focus Groups need to take place

October:

½-day session planned for SOLEC (Toronto ON, Oct. 6-8)

Regional Data Exchange Conference – Detroit MI, Oct. 26-28

DMAC meeting opportunity? Push for involvement?

## **Next Call**

May 12, 2004 @ 10:30 EDT