

**CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES**  
**GLOS Steering Committee – June 16, 2005 – 10 a.m. EDT**

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call (Dave Schwab)**

Cathy Ballard	(Secretariat:)
Rob Bassett (w/ Tom Landon)	Tom Crane
Helen Brohl	Stuart Eddy
Mark Burrows	Roger Gauthier
Paul Horvatin	Dave Knight
Melissa Patterson (for Paul Scholz)	Christine Manninen
Tom Landon	Jon MacDonagh-Dumler
Lorelle Meadows	
Jeff Reuter	
Dave Schwab	
Dick Wagenmaker	

**II. Secretariat Reports**

a) Status of Year 3-5 Funding, NOAA-CSC Grant Cycle (Roger Gauthier):

Roger:

A proposal is in final review at the NOAA Grants Office for GLOS project years 3, 4 and 5 (by NOAA's timing). The supposed start date for this round of funding/projects is July 1. Final word is expected very soon.

An executive director and a DMAC specialist are first priorities for hiring after the establishment of a Board of Directors. Year 3 funding includes provisions for this.

An enhanced user needs assessment is also planned for the coming year.

The suggested first area of concentration in terms of general activities is nearshore user communities (public awareness, bang for the buck).

Other urgent tasks include:

Cost/Benefit assessment (Suggested key items: high-frequency radar systems, currents-wind-waves monitoring and forecasting)

Initiate the regional DMAC.

System-wide current conditions data should be the focus for distributable data.

The DMAC needs a geographic focus area. The St. Clair River/ Lake St. Clair/Detroit River corridor is a critical artery with many reasons it would fit well as a first area of attention.

Outreach/education – The SeaGrant Network will be part of the Year Three activities and will play a significant role in this area.

Dave S:

Initial bang for the buck will come mostly from a DMAC demonstration, the GLOS website and integration of existing systems with the DMAC framework. We should let cost/benefit and user needs studies be second-tier priorities (generate enthusiasm within the region first).

Mark B:

The St. Clair region is a good choice. Linda Schweitzer at Oakland University has connections that need matching funds to get a real-time MSGC-type monitoring system going for water

plants. This includes some Canadian participation. Can we tie in to this? Try to arrange a presentation at next conference call.

Roger:

Meteorological observations at the St. Clair light are also a hot topic. Dave Holzschlag wants more – he might be another good partner. It's a very visible operation and would get good attention.

Mark B:

Maybe also something at Traverse City?

Helen B:

Also thinks the St. Clair area is a good starting location. The river pilots now have a Canadian model laptop navigation system and intend to use more NOAA tools. Navigation tools via wireless that tie into this would be used. We need to determine data requirements and how they would integrate. This is good timing for the salty trade in region 2.

b) NFRA meeting and Second IOOS Implementation Conference (Roger, Steve Stewart)

Roger:

February 16-18, 2005:

Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Christine Manninen, Roger Gauthier – attended a NFRA organizing meeting in Washington, D.C.

May 1-3, 2005:

Jon MacDonagh-Dumler, Christine Manninen, Roger Gauthier – NFRA inaugural meeting/IOOS Industry Day.

The proposed structure for NFRA includes 4 committees. Currently, GLOS is represented as follows: Governance – Roger G., Operations – (no GLOS rep), Advocacy – Jon MD, Communication – Christine M.

IOOS Industry Day – included 160 people

Jon MD:

Can we/should we host an industry day in the Great Lakes region within 12 months? Purposes – develop a network base among non-academic, non-recreational, non-governmental users, educate/communicate with them about GLOS.

Dave S:

Are there any existing meetings we could integrate with? Lake Erie Days? Sustainability Conference? Day after Marine Community Day, March 8, 2006? Survey for such events as a first step.

Melissa:

What desires do we have from Industry Day activity?

Christine M:

Inform about GLOS, get them involved.

Roger G:

Industry can't be just part of an end user community. They are needed as part of overall system. They can play a role in implementing Information Technology, as a platform for information acquisition and delivery, ...

Dave S:

Let's get a prospectus from Jon MD for next conference call.

Mark B:

The IJC got a reference to hold public consultations to review the meaning of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. 5 meetings will take place around the basin on Annex 11. GLOS comments from partners in the audience would be good/useful – the Secretariat could show up...

The IOOS Implementation Conference dealt almost exclusively with national implementation issues, most of them headline-based (inundation, flood hazards – all non-lake issues). Lake issues were completely missing – water levels, gauging, etc. Themes and issues seemed very opportunistic.

Helen – Glen Mandigo claims “no legislative lobbying is necessary because funding is coming anyway”. But it seems like the Great Lakes (Commission?), GLOS and the NFRA need to lobby, need to see to it that issues are represented and that authorization bills pass.

Roger G:

Another topic: Coastal Services Center workshop in Chicago – 2 to 3 days with states and Coastal Zone managers. CSO pages contain results <url from Roger?>

Cathy:

Yes, there's interest and need there. Managers want continued involvement.

[GLC will review, including material Kevin Yam has posted]

c) Legislative Actions/Advocacy (Jon MacDonagh-Dumler)

2 items:

Appropriations – Summary from Glen Mandigo presented to group.

House approval of \$15M for next fiscal year, but the breakdown of distribution is unclear; Senate action is pending

Authorizing legislation – S361: The hold from placed by Sen. Sununu was removed, but one of the senators from Oklahoma raised objections and is seeking to block the bill.

In the House, Weldon's bill and Gilchrist's bill are being worked on; no report.

Helen:

\$15M in the House is for continued integration of real-time systems with the required recognition of maritime needs/interests. \$2M is supposed to be there for the Great Lakes region but is not specifically identified – this needs continued pressure.

Roger:

The region needs to be ready in September for the competitive process. The language is all simple and vague, so there's no clear understanding of strings at this point.

Dave S:

Can GLOS get worked directly into legislation?

Mark:

This will probably be difficult because of how far along the legislation is, but the water plant subsystem offers a lot of potential. There's no big picture provided by the creators, it's mostly a reaction to spills – a water treatment monitoring network along the St. Clair to Detroit corridor. Still, support correspondence is possible.

Roger:

It's a good place to be present and supportive.

Dave S:

It's good PR for integration.

Mark:

It's also probably useful to beach managers.

Dave S:

Can we get a presenter from the group to speak to the Steering Committee? Maybe at the next conference call?

d) Legal Establishment of the GLOS Regional Association / By-Laws (Stuart Eddy)

By-law draft material will be provided to the Steering Committee in advance of next conference call. The Secretariat has permission to start with available lawyer as a channel for legal advice.

Activities this month will include contact with Mike Leffler, Michigan Attorney General's office.

e) Constitution of Initial Board of Directors (Christine Manninen)

A structure and schedule are posted on the GLOS project site at [http://www.glc.org/glos/pdf/glosBoD\\_061505.pdf](http://www.glc.org/glos/pdf/glosBoD_061505.pdf)

Input from the Steering Committee is requested by the Secretariat.

The role of federal agencies on the Board is still not confirmed. It may not be legally acceptable to have them full members of Board of Directors. This will be explored with legal advisors throughout the process of establishing by-laws.

f) Communications – New Web Site (Christine)

The Secretariat has purchased the “glos.us” URL and has developed a preliminary web page design. The Steering Committee will be kept informed as the page becomes live and starts to incorporate content.

Do we need a Steering Committee subcommittee for web site design/demonstration?

Web presence feedback will be provided by one of the Board committees once a full Board of Directors has been formed.

g) Observing System Update (Roger)

Tom Landon:

NOAA has 52 water level stations on the lakes. 15 have various configurations of meteorological sensors (2 kinds of wind sensors, water temperature, barometric pressure, relative humidity...)  
12 stations share some resources with the Army Corps of Engineers

8 upgrades are in process through the Corps (none have been awarded yet, but the process goes completely to Corps hands once awarded, then becomes uncertain as far as NOAA is concerned.) 2-4 upgrades are to be added this year

There will be a new station at Menominee, WI (mid-July? August?)

Upgrades of platforms at GL stations:

St. Clair River

Lower Lake Huron

Detroit River

Western Lake Erie

Observation and forecast models for Erie and Michigan are to be developed this year. Superior, Huron and Ontario are scheduled for next year.

There is an exhibit at Sault Ste Marie that will include NOAA, GLOS and other regional efforts next Friday.

Dave S:

This would be good content for the GLOS website. Maybe it can added to the NOAA amendment w/ GLC for next year.

GLERL activities (Dave S:)

NOAA IOOS buoy package development – this is real time data, with radio contact over 10 miles. Three sites are being handled by NOAA right now, Alpena + western Lake Erie + central Lake Erie; two more are supposedly being put together by MSU. Daisy-chaining capabilities may add to the broadcast/communication range.

### **III. Other Business**

CSC report from Melissa – Needs assessments for RAs are a regularly mentioned topic. Training for this is available from the Coastal Services Center.

Dave K – GLC NOAA Service Center role can also include being a gateway for this. There is general interest in meeting facilitation services and other training roles, as well.

### **III. Conference Call Schedule (Dave S)**

Conference calls will be held the second Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. EDT.

Planned dates:

July 14, 2005

August 11, 2005

September 8, 2005