

CALL NOTES – DRAFT
GLOS Steering Committee Conference Call – July 14, 2005 – 10 a.m. EDT

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

Dave Schwab
Bob Allen
Eric Barnowski (email: waterplant@iratowship.org)
Rob Bassett (replacing Marcia Weaks)
Keith Bedford
Mark Bobal
Rick Harkins
Dave Holtschlag (for Norm Grannemann)
Sam Batzli (late)
GLC Staff: Christine Manninen, Roger Gauthier, Stuart Eddy, Jon MacDonagh- Dumler,
Dave Knight

II. **Secretariat Reports**

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

Call from Paul Sholz = no grants final yet; he is pushing.
No declared dollars anywhere for instrumentation; earmarks and other funding look like the de facto way to go.

b) Legislative Update (Jon MacDonagh-Dumler)

Comment: Earmark strategy a fragmenting one = not so good for the long term compared with a unified national program. Speak up on the next NFRA call.

c) Incorporation Status (Stuart Eddy)

Local attorney selected: Fred Steingold.

Initial input from him via phone:

The first items to be assembled are Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

He needs the draft bylaws we have so far and a letter describing how we see the organization, its structure, the number of people on the Board, etc.

He can help draft the Articles of Incorporation – it's a publicly filed document and relatively simple, he can provide details rather than having us try to reinvent the wheel.

The Bylaws are more detailed, he's glad he can review and comment on a current draft.

The application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status is definitely the second step – it comes after the organization is formed, often 12 to 15 months.

Our questions about the presence and role of federal agencies on the Board will have to be clarified by lawyers for one or more of the agencies themselves or a real specialist in federal law. That is something we can follow up with.

d) Bylaws (Roger)

SC especially please review section 2, page 1 – Purposes – Proper scope? Limitations? Other items?
Original bylaw template drawn from GoMOOS, but enough edits and modifications have already taken place that this document should be considered in its own right.

Several content points have been highlighted. Steering Committee input is welcome if available. Lawyer input may come from the local attorney or from the state attorney general's office. MI Att'y Gen'l is also expected to clarify state participation clauses – this input will probably apply for all member states.

Federal participation may be limited to observer status. This is to be determined.

Other legal questions: Hold blameless clause? Indemnification covers? Proper disclaimers?

SC review of Bylaws document through end of July; legal interactions can begin already now

Next step in the near future: Board nominations, soliciting of members.

- e) Observing System Components
 - NOAA-NDBC Request (Roger)

Roger to send material to Steering Committee

Potentially very useful for promoting the regional association to others

- St. Clair River – Lake St. Clair – Detroit Monitoring Activities (Eric Barnowski)

“Inter-County Water Monitoring”, St. Clair and Macomb Counties, Michigan

Process started as a result of spills along the St. Clair River.

Data are to be made available real-time – should be fully possible to coordinate with GLOS, and appropriate

EPA Region 5 Surface Water Division

Current extent is St. Clair R. and Lake St. Clair. 2nd grant in to MDEQ (“Phase II”) to add Detroit R.

Sea Grant not involved so far; Eric Barnowski now has Steve Stewart's number to follow up with him.

III. Other Business

Next Conference Calls: The second Thursday of each month @ 10 a.m. EDT (Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13)
