

MINUTES
GLOS Steering Committee Conference Call – Sept. 8, 2005 – 10 a.m. EDT

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

Sam Batzli
Mark Bobal
Mark Burrows
Steve Colman
Stuart Eddy
Rick Harkins
Paul Horvatin
Brian Huberty
Lorelle Meadows
Steve Stewart
Dave Schwab
Dick Wagenmaker

II. **Secretariat Reports**

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

Three RAs recently received funding for the current cycle. We still have received no negative news regarding the GLOS RA, and to the best of our knowledge, none of the other RAs have been denied funding. So our assumption remains that paperwork delays at NOAA are the reason we have not yet received approval notification.

b) Governance

• RA Incorporation:

Legal advice is coming from several channels. The Sea Grant Law Center is actively participating in national conference calls and helping the NFRA clarify federal participation issues, some of which will apply to GLOS. And the GLOS secretariat is working with a local attorney with non-profit/small business experience, a SeaGrant fellow at the GLC and the Attorney General's office for the State of Michigan.

Formal incorporation of the GLOS RA will take place as paperwork is completed with the local lawyer. This is a benign process that simply gets the organization on the books. More effort will be needed on bylaws and composition of the Board of Directors.

• Process for determining inaugural board:

A slate of candidates will be assembled from the Steering Committee, beginning with a seed list distributed for today's call and updated for redistribution with these minutes.

Once the slate of nominees has been assembled, the secretariat will contact nominees and to determine their willingness/availability to participate. At this point, draft bylaws need to be ready so they can be used as support material.

Academic and At-Large members: The Steering Committee will elect the academic and at-large members of the inaugural Board from the final list of nominees. Each SC member will probably get a set of votes for each of these membership categories, with the top vote-getters being asked to serve.

Federal representatives: On the NFRA conference call last week, there was still concern about federal employees serving as Board members. Several strategies may be used to allow their full participation, but until those are worked out, it may be a conflict of interest if they are allowed to vote. Therefore, federal agency slots will initially be filled by suggestion rather than by vote (in essence, they will be treated as consultants). However, the SC could help determine desired people by submitting “nominations”. Also, SC members may be asked to help with the letter to Interagency Task Force.

State representatives: The states will be approached directly via the GLC delegations to acquire people, since there is already extensive state participation on a number of Great Lakes-related bodies and, probably, a logical choice or preference from each state.
SC members, please submit additional names for the list

(Paul H:) EPA and other federal agencies have assistance agreement relationships with a lot of academics. There may be a conflict of interest even at level of suggesting academics due to funding relationships.

(Dave S:) Geographic diversity was also considered for academic candidates, but it may not be possible depending on areas of expertise. Basic question: At the final election for the initial board, do we want to prohibit two individuals from same academic institution?

(Mark Burrows:) How long will the initial board be in place? (In the current draft of the bylaws, the goal is a staggered turnover. Members of the inaugural board would be assigned one-, two- or three-year terms. Successors would all receive three-year terms.)

- Bylaws:

Several edits already necessary due to comments from SC members or legal clarifications. These will be made so the bylaws can be distributed again before the next conference call (sooner if possible).

c) Regional Collaboration

Paul H asked to comment by Dave S:

The draft strategy out and open **until tomorrow, Sept 9**, for comments (at <http://www.glrc.us/comment.html>). All six public meetings are now completed. Positive comments and feedback, including congressional representatives present. All in all, the response looks favorable. Strategy Team meeting in Rochester in October. The entire process should be wrapped up in December in Chicago. The concept of Observing Systems is in the strategy, but **comments will help influence the direction.**

The Regional Collaboration’s view of federal presence on RAs – Paul H will suggest to Gary Gulezian that GLOS be on a Regional Collaboration conference call (weekly, every Friday – the group provides advice to the Inter-Agency Task Force) to brief all on GLOS. This Regional Collaboration conference call would be a good way of getting GLOS in front of significant individuals, a good way to pave a path for a formal letter. Paul can arrange, but don’t try to do until draft bylaws are ready to be distributed and can be used there.

(Mark Burrows:) Can the rest of the SC listen in?

(Paul H:) Calls are limited to federal agencies; he will ask if the GLOS part of this one can be opened up to broader audience.

d) Other priorities

- Legislative Actions/Advocacy

(Dave S:) JMD not on call but wanted to remind all that on 9/19 is NFRA meeting in DC

- Upcoming Meetings

Sept 21-22 – Lake St Clair conference; Roger will attend, Dave will see about representation from GLERL; others on call not available

Oct 4-5 – CGLRM meeting, Chicago, IL

Oct 6-7 – Regional Collaboration meeting, Rochester, NY

Oct 21-22 – GLACEO meeting at Notre Dame field station in Wisconsin

Nov 2-3 – State Of Lake Michigan/Beaches conference, Green Bay, WI

Nov 4 – GLOS Remote Sensing Workshop, Green Bay, WI

Nov 9-11 – NALMS meeting, Madison, WI

Nov 15 – GLOS Industry Day, Chicago, IL

Dec 12-13 – Regional Collaboration wrap-up ceremony, Chicago, IL

(Paul H:) 5th National Monitoring Conference – San Jose, CA May 7-11, 2006

<http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/monitoring/>

Themes involve designing monitoring programs and networks at varying scales...all right up the GLOS line. Abstracts are due quickly (Sept 16), but would be good to put one in for GLOS.

Abstract info: http://www.tetrattech-ffx.com/nwqmc06/abs_call.cfm

III. Other Business

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

Action items:

Submit comments on Regional Collaboration - <http://www.girc.us/comment.html> (all)

Send out seed list, solicit additional nominees (GLC)

Send partial revision of by-laws around as quickly as possible (GLC)

Revised bylaws by next call (GLC)

Abstract for conference (GLC)