

MINUTES

GLOS Steering Committee Conference Call – October 13, 2005 – 10 a.m. EDT

I. **Roll Call:**

Roger Gauthier
Christine Manninen
Jon MacDonagh-Dumler
Jon Dettling
Stuart Eddy
Elaine Sterrett Isely, GLC-Sea Grant Fellow
Dave Knight
Charles Barker – representing Hands & Associates, Inc. (consultant to Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority)
Brian Huberty
Dave Schwab
Melissa Patterson, NOAA CSC
Mark Burrows
Dick Wagenmaker
Helen Brohl
Sam Batzli
Rick Harkins
Mark Bobal
Rob Bassett
Steve Colman

II. **Secretariat Reports**

a) Year 3 funding (Roger Gauthier):

Confirmation of funding was received immediately before the end of the federal fiscal year. Amount received is as proposed, \$248,332.

There are several commitments regarding portions of that funding for the next year:

15% (\$37,500) is committed to education/outreach programs in direct cooperation with the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network

\$11,000 for travel

\$130,000 for GLOS-RA salaries, including the hiring of an executive director. (Note that this task cannot take place until the RA has been incorporated and the Board of Directors has been constituted.)

Year 4 proposal is expected/required by NOAA based on the three-year plan that was submitted in conjunction with the Year 3 proposal. This was called for as a means of expediting funding for Year 4 and Year 5 if money is available. The recipient for Year 4 funds is not yet clear – the GLOS desire is for it to go to the RA, but NOAA paperwork probably expects it to go to the GLC; this will be addressed as the next project year approaches.)

Year 3 funds are planned for setting up the RA and for DMAC activities, not for buoys, data purchases, etc. Additional monies will be needed for this.

b) 9/19/05 NFRA meeting issues (Roger)

This meeting was well attended.

Federal agency participation within Regional Associations is a big issue everywhere. It is being worked on at the national level and will be worked on by us for the Great Lakes region as well. Ocean.US and NOAA elements were criticized for not being responsive enough with certification elements and for continuing to add elements throughout the process, making it impossible for the RAs to develop their plans and be sure of compliance. More responsiveness was requested.

The NFRA is leaning toward rephrasing requirements for participation by regional associations, so that they need to meet requirements for “qualification” instead of for “certification”. Fewer implied parameters, forms, tests, etc.

There is a \$2500 annual membership fee to be part of the NFRA. GLOS-RA membership fees have been paid. Notice was submitted with payment that the NFRA cannot lobby out of this money due to its original source being federal.

Josie Quintrell (formerly with GoMOOS) is offering to provide interim executive director services for 6 months on a contract basis.

Lobbying done by a coalition separate from NFRA was set up at/after the spring meeting.

Membership fees are charged, but GLOS is not part of this process at present due to its inability to pay without using federal money. Jon MacDonagh-Dumler is assisting with coalition efforts as a means of keeping a GLOS presence in this process.

c) Legislative actions / advocacy (Jon MacDonagh-Dumler)

4 parts:

1. Legislation to authorize IOOS initiative and RAs sitting in House. Gilchrist bill HR 1489 not being considered very seriously for markup yet, may not make it out this session.

2. Appropriations and budget: \$15M appropriation from the House to the NOAA NOA budget with the requirement that it be a competitive program. Senate bill = \$109M, NOAA NOS as lead

3. Process of appropriations: Joy Mulinex of the Great Lakes Task Force is helping at several levels. A letter from her to 14 Great Lakes delegates requesting \$4M for GLOS as part of GEOOS = good momentum going for next spring.

Action requested by Helen Brohl – Joy’s letter should be sent to all on Steering Committee. Copies of other letters will be sent to steering committee members in the future.

(GLC efforts are coordinated with the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG) and include a category about standardized collection of Great Lakes data with IOOS efforts endorsed by the CGLG; the \$4M amount in Joy’s letter came out of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC); GLC’s efforts are not aimed at any particular use until the GLOS Board is established).

Roger to Helen: \$4M being asked for in the 2007 budget; the assumption is that this includes upgrades for NOS COOPS activity. Can Helen tell which line item to place this under in 2006?

Helen: 2006 – COOPS is under Tides and Currents, no specific designation for the Great Lakes.

d) Regional Collaboration update (Roger)

The GLRC process is drawing to closure. As of tomorrow, 10/14/05, all programs are required to turn in their final documents. These are to be vetted by the Executive Committee and made public 12/12/05 in Chicago.

Information and Indicators Strategy Team developed observations and research recommendations including \$4M for GLOS.

Hopefully, collaboration efforts continue. If they do, should members of the collaboration be sought as GLOS board members?

Legislation is in for an appropriate collaboration mechanism.

e) Governance status (Stuart Eddy)

RA Incorporation:

Draft Articles of Incorporation have been received by the attorney and are under review.

Two issue areas are receiving attention right now:

1. Tax status if RAs participate in advocacy/lobbying efforts – not clear that 501(C)(3) is acceptable, so we have a local non-profit lawyer and the Michigan AG’s office advising

2. Federal (& state) agency participation issue also not cleared up yet. Stephanie Showalter is continuing to work on this and we are in touch with her.

Articles probably can be filed in next several weeks, but this will depend on rate at which questions get answered

By-laws revisions:

By-law content will also get refined as legal questions get answered. Again, the two areas we are working on clarifying right now are tax status and federal/state agency participation.

Inaugural Board:

Board constitution / nominations – very little additional input has been received. State and federal positions may be difficult to propose, but nominations for academic or at-large members could be submitted.

Secretariat staff was assigned to act as a nominating committee.

Voting for academic and at-large members will take place in written form so that the secretariat receives written returns.

In the at-large category, commercial navigation has already been assigned positions

Action: Repeat request for nominations

Action: Draft of articles of incorporation and bylaws to nominees as they are determined

Board can help draft bylaws as one of its inaugural tasks.

f) Observing system activities

Huron to Erie Corridor (Roger):

Coordination around the Lake St. Clair light and addition of instrumentation at that site.

Activities are motivated by possible downcutting of the channel and the need for 3-D modeling capability – there is a meeting next week regarding this. Roger will attend.

Conference last month on Lake St. Clair, unveiled a new integrated coastal management tool developed by NOAA CSC.

Based on recent meetings, GLOS may serve as coordinative body in the long term for warning systems for water intakes for Macomb/St. Clair Co., maybe Wayne.

Traverse Bay, Lake Michigan (Mark Breederland – not available):

A new buoy has been deployed by the Marine Hydrodynamics lab at University of Michigan. It collects observations similar to Lake St. Clair – specifics were not known for the call. It is already being billed as a component of GLOS – good press.

Output is linked under “lake conditions” on GLOS.US

New items:

Menominee water level gauge should be up and running shortly.

Dick Wagenmaker – new met sites in Lake Michigan at 3 locations, plus several more sites in the UP and Wisconsin to improve nearshore weather forecasts.

g) New web pages (Christine Manninen)

New, independent GLOS site up in mid-September: www.glos.us

Much of the information displayed was transferred from the previous project webpage on the GLC website, but the design is new and GLC references are now gone.

Some GLIN content has been incorporated, other elements are being built.

NOAA, CoastWatch, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers forecasting efforts are among those currently incorporated.

Industry Day – Nov 15, 2005 – registration form, etc. are on the site. The Steering Committee is encouraged to attend.

Action: Ocean.US needs to be contacted to point here instead of at www.glc.org/glos.

h) Upcoming meetings

Industry Day (Jon M-D / Jon Dettling):

Industry Day is free, lunch support received from the Alliance for Coastal Technologies

There also may be a lunch presentation from Marine Aquatic Technologies Education program

Purposes:

Introduction to GLOS.

Encourage industry participation in designing, building the system.

Users of GLOS, esp. economic supports.

Current invitee sources: GLOS Regional Interest Group, other regional groups, energy sector, water

Please pass along any additional suggestions.

Other events (Christine/Roger):

Many over the next couple of months – this is almost certainly not an inclusive list:

October

17-18: Huron to Erie modeling workshop

24-26: NYS Ocean Commission and Pugh Commission reports

27: OOSTech05

31: Meeting with GLPF

November

1-3: DMAC ST

1-3: EPA remote sensing workshop

2-3: SOLM/Beaches

4: GL Remote Sensing roundtable

15: Industry Day

December

12: GLRC unveiling

Next year:

April 4-6, 2006: Rochester – RDX06 (Regional Data Exchange Conference)

Annual meeting planning (Christine):

Steering Committee/Board of Directors in-person meeting probably timely in spring – perhaps

March or April? Wait for constitution of the Board? Begin choosing a focus? (Very little feedback at this point. Only comment: Avoid March 8, as that is Marine Community Day in Cleveland.)

III. New Business

a) Education and outreach activities

Great Lakes Sea Grant Network support (Christine):

Partnering with Sea Grant for outreach and user needs assessments. The process includes a meeting this Friday with people from Michigan Sea Grant. A meeting with GL Sea Grant Network will take place in November.

Guest presentation – Detroit / Wayne County Port Authority Education Center (Charles Barker):

This is envisioned as an “environmental monitoring station and Great Lakes education center”.

New public docking facility for research vessels, tall ships, cruise ships, plus an administration center on the waterfront.

The designers see synergies with GLOS for public access, information displays – maybe a prototype for sites across the lakes?

They want to also build in aquatic nuisance species awareness as a particular focus.

b) Other

Steve Colman - Asked that the word be spread that they are about to start a search for a new director for Minnesota Sea Grant.

Next Conference Calls: The second Thursday of each month @ 10 a.m. EDT (Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12).