

MINUTES

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

Participants:

At GLC Office:

Dave Schwab
Roger Gauthier
Christine Manninen
Jon Dettling
Elaine Sterrett Isely
Dave Knight

On call:

Steve Stewart
Steve Colman
Brian Huberty
Mark Bobal
Mark Brederland
Dick Wagenmaker
Lorelle Meadows
Rob Bassett
Mark Burrows

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

II. **Secretariat Reports**

a) Legislative actions/advocacy (Roger Gauthier for Jon MacDonagh-Dumler)

Authorization bill in the House has not been acted upon yet. Still in Resource Committee, no actions expected during immediate future.

Commerce/Justice/State appropriations are out of conference, passed both houses – funding for NOAA for FY 06 – IOOS ended up at \$87.0M, a slight reduction from FY 05 appropriations. Significant cuts occurred in prior year earmarks for regional systems including GoMOOS.

No earmark for GLOS was included in the FY06 conference bill, but perhaps \$7.5M is scheduled for the NOAA-ICOOS which may have some competitive grant prospects

\$2.0M was included for the GL water monitoring network which has been strongly advocated for by Helen Brohl for quite some time. This includes more permanent gauging structures and more instrumentation at these sites.

The FY 06 budget includes additional funding to support NDBC buoy and C-MAN upgrades.

b) GLOS Industry Day (Jon Dettling)

Scheduled for Tuesday, Nov 15, 2005 at the Gleacher Center in downtown Chicago, IL

Currently we have 12 speakers planned with the event running from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm CST.

Currently there are 70 attendees registered, with a few more expected to arrive on site.

Government – 10-15? Academics – 5-10? Others are mostly from industry or trade groups

Over the Industry and trade groups; half are estimated to be prospective data collectors/ providers while the other half are prospective end users.

There is an increasing demand for us to identify what GLOS membership entails (roles, responsibilities, costs and benefits). This needs to happen with the steering committee

Already have a list of interested parties (on the GLOS-RIG list) but membership will only be defined after an official Board of Directors is constituted.

Industry Day will likely be an annual event. Besides GLOS Secretariat members, other Steering Committee members expected to be in attendance include: Steve Stewart, Rob Bassett and Mark Brederland

c) Governance status (Roger Gauthier, Elaine Sterrett-Isely)

Key topics:

- Draft membership/governance structure (refer to chart)
- RA incorporation
- By-laws revisions
- Inaugural Board nominations
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Key considerations for startup:

Conflicts of loyalty issues for federal and state participants on the Board of Director is significant; they can likely be members but not Directors.

Liability insurance and indemnification for Board members is another sticky problem.

(See draft org chart)

Membership classes will need to be established.

An Advisory committee should be considered – similar to earlier board structure, but with slightly different numbers (e.g., 8-10 state representatives instead of 6, more academics, more end users); this Advisory Committee would focus more on system architecture and priorities and not on administration

The Board should be smaller to reduce the cost for liability insurance; perhaps 5-7 individuals, including traditional officer roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.

Board members should have no vested interest in GLOS expenditures (as contractors or grant recipients).

The Board would have authority to hire, fire Executive Director; implement, modify bylaws; approve annual workplan/budget (1 yr. active plus 4 yrs planned); approve audits.

Steering Committee will get an organizational chart, new bylaw revisions and other background information as it is developed. We need good description of the governance and business models. The Secretariat is to write this up. The GoMOOS model is adequate for their existing function but is not appropriate for an accredited RA. As such, the GLOS alternative governance discussion may impact other emerging RAs

Comments – good that federal agencies can play a role via the Advisory Committee without running into conflict of interest issues.

Probably need to find another title than “Advisory Committee”

Roger Gauthier stated that his philosophy is that GLOS should own no assets except computer servers, etc. to integrate information and serve products; GLOS members would own observing system components and operate and maintain them

Dave Schwab stated that he believe that we should table this discussion, rather than ruling it out at this time, since the RA may need to play some roles in project support/ and startup.

Elaine Sterret-Isley stated that the GLOS-RA will need to define cost/benefits for members as part of determining roles and that this should be addressed in the bylaws. She is still waiting for opinions on state participation in the GLOS-RA from the Michigan Attorney General office.

Dec. 1, 2005 is the target deadline for redrafted Business Plan governance section and bylaws

Also need a question set for the Steering Committee, new Board member qualifications (lawyer? accountant? selection of, interaction with, Executive Director? other skills?)

The Steering Committee members would still nominate prospective Board members. Rob Bassett volunteered to check with SECORA (Rick Devoe) on how they were setting up a similar governance structure.

d) Observing system activities

Traverse Bay, Lake Michigan (Mark Breederland, Lorelle Meadows - invited):

Live data from buoy on Grand Traverse Bay has been transmitted and received on the Internet
The buoy uses a 4-mile line-of-sight data transmission system to a local community college who provides an IP address for the data to be transmitted broadly

- this is an ideal regional system
- it would make a good pilot data element once GLOS goes on line

Popular with charter boat operators who live away from the bay (they know from wave height information when to cancel without having to drive all the way into town)

Popular with sailing community for wind data

Liability = big disclaimer on website

Possible Great Lakes SeaGrant network funding for August 2006 education meeting/summit from Tribal funds sources

e) Education/outreach planning (Christine Manninen)

Great Lakes Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence – proposal included GLOS

Partnered with Mid-Atlantic COSEE (heavy data focus + 3 yrs experience)

f) DMAC update (Stuart Eddy)

OOSTech conference was conducted in Baltimore, MD on 10/24-26/05 with an emphasis on web feature service and web mapping service delivery; Roger Gauthier and Pete Giencke of the GLC attended. This meeting provided invaluable insight on the direction of national DMAC efforts, particularly dealing with instantaneous information exchange between adjacent RAs.

Washington D. C. IOOS DMAC steering team met on 11/1-3/05 with representatives from most RAs (including Stuart Eddy and Pete Giencke representing GLOS). Good results, positive impressions from both sides about the value of including RA input in federal planning and development efforts

Combining inventory of monitoring sensors and (Binational Executive Committee and Great Lakes Commission) would be a very important early priority for the GLOS-DMAC. Mark Burrows is expected to talk with Stuart Eddy about funding prospects for merging and maintaining these inventories.

GLOS remote sensing pilot design was discussed in Green Bay, WI on 11/4/05

III. **New Business**

Steve Colman – University of Minnesota-Duluth owns a defunct fishing laboratory on Lake Superior.

Possible renovations to building, maybe usable as a base for lake observation systems? Seeks guidance for leveraging U of MN renovation efforts as part of GLOS.

Dave Schwab stated that NOAA GLERL instrumentation group led by Steve Ruberg should be contacted to insure that their activities are included in all monitoring inventories.

IOOS advocacy meeting December 8 – reschedule the December conference call? No, but Roger Gauthier and Jon MacDonagh-Dumler will be gone.

Mary Altalo (new Director of Ocean.US is scheduled to call the GLC to check on our local priorities. She will likely be a good channel for connecting with Canadian efforts.

During the last NFRA call, Roger Gauthier and Elaine Sterret-Isley will work with other RA representatives to draft MOU/MOAs for federal agencies to become engaged in the RAs

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