

MINUTES

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

Participants:

Dave Schwab
Mark Bobal
Dick Wagenmaker
Keith Bedford
Mark Burrows
Steve Stewart
Norm Granneman
[Steve Coleman late]
Stuart Eddy
Elaine Sterrett-Isely
Jon Dettling

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

II. Secretariat Reports

a. GLOS Industry Day follow-up (Jon Dettling)

Took place November 15 in Chicago at the Gleacher Center

6 hour program, approx. 70 participants

Half to two thirds of the participants were new to the GLOS process, which was one goal of the meeting

Marketed as an “Industry Day”, but aimed at the private, public and non-profit sectors

Proceedings available at <http://glos.us>

Comment: Overall, this was a good effort, but no one was visible from EPA

Jon: 2 people were there from Region 5, but it turns out most the people who might have been interested were in Washington for a federal meeting about GEOS (announced after ours – the conflict should have been noticed on their end).

The participants gave us a strong endorsement to make a regular (annual?) event, something that should be added to the schedule for GLOS standard operations

b. Alternative governance model (Elaine Sterrett-Isely)

Goal = buffer between Board of Directors and planning for day-to-day activities

Page 11 of 17 – comment about “review (SOX) provisions” translates to “review Sarbanes-Oxley provisions”

• Proposed alternative structure (refer to figure attached)

Revision to terminology: Advocacy has become “Systems Oversight Panel”. Wanted something that gave the appropriate impression of a broader role.

Comment: “Oversight” matches the role of this body with that of its federal and state participants, of advising but also monitoring

Question: Other RAs struggling with this? Yes, but national effort not being led by Ocean.US due to possible conflicts of interest by them. Some other RAs are working with simpler structures which may not hold up in the long run – GLOS pretty much in the lead?

Regarding legal advice – There is probably no single lawyer who can advise regarding other states, SOX, etc. We need to take the bylaws to a larger legal firm with existing knowledge of these areas

Again, the Board can modify as needed, once they’ve been established. We need to get to a good level of comfort, then incorporate so Board can take further steps.

Steering Committee needs to endorse the concept of a small Board which reviews and funds requested work by the Systems Oversight Panel, which designs and recommends daily project activities. Recommendations and comments are requested by Elaine. She will send an email around to the full Steering Committee

Keith: Panel as talked about at the last meeting seems to be sitting at 27 people minimum. Is this too many for effective function? We need to build in a governance review after a couple of years to affirm or modify the initial design

The SOP is large for the sake of seeking buy-in, while the Board is small to get effective decision-making. The size might be reducible once buy-in has been developed?

No quorum requirements were built into the initial version because of the size. Maybe also examine this on review.

Steve: Maybe a trend toward subsystems developing subcommittees of the Panel, which might also make the whole system more workable. Smaller gatherings of subcommittees with larger full panel meetings less often.

Already an option in the by-laws because of the size and potential unwieldiness of full Panel.

For next call, work on revisions and begin considering potential participants. Regarding participants, please email thoughts at least to Roger as he is actively considering this.

Board size? Currently working on 7-12, maybe even 5-12. A small, independent group, probably with some expertise in certain areas but not affiliated in ways an RA organization can't accommodate.

- By-laws revisions (submitted under separate email)
- Business Plan amendment (submitted under separate email)
- Steering Committee review

Please review and respond to Elaine by January 6 2006 for consolidation and dissemination prior to the January SC conference call.

c. Observing system updates

- NOAA coastal observations (Wagonmaker / Landon?)
NWS regions are committing to increasing coastal observations. In the Great Lakes, 5 new sites – press release to come to Christine when all is ready, probably by end of month. 3 additional sites for spring.
Joint projects with NOS on water level sensors – 2 going in with one potential one at Ft Gratiot, pending permission.
Optimistic about next year – potential funding for 10 sites plus 10 new NOS sites?
Also 6 GLERL sites to be incorporated into Dick's work?

III. New Business

a. Upcoming meetings

- IOOS Advocacy meeting – 12/8/05 – Washington D. C. (Gauthier & MacDonagh-Dumler attending)
- GLRC Summit II – 12/12/05 – Chicago, IL (Gauthier attending)

- Huron to Erie Corridor Modeling Workshop – 3/14-15/06 - Ann Arbor, MI
- NFRA Meeting – 3/9-10/06 - Washington D.C.
- Regional Data Exchange Conference – 4/4-6/06 – Rochester, NY
- IAGLR '06 – 5/22-26/06 – Windsor, ON
- GLOS Annual Meeting ?

Aim for incorporation to allow 1st Board meeting in April 2006, the Semi-annual in Oct 2006, 1st Annual in April 2007

Next Conference Calls: The second Thursday of each month @ 10 a.m. EDT (Jan. 12, Feb 9)