

MINUTES

GLOS Steering Committee Conference Call – January 12, 2006 – 10 a.m. EST

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

Dave Schwab
Rob Bassett
Mark Bobal
Helen Brohl
Mark Burrows
Brian Huberty
Melissa Patterson
Jeff Reuter
Steve Stewart
Dick Wagenmaker
Roger Gauthier
Christine Manninen
Elaine Sterrett Isely
Jon MacDonagh-Dumler
Dave Knight
Stuart Eddy

II. **Secretariat Reports**

a. Governance Update (Elaine Sterrett-Isely)

Correction to minutes – In the minutes from the last call, the “advocacy” committee should not have been equated with the “systems oversight panel”, they are two separate entities performing entirely different functions

- Alternative governance structure comments
(none)
- By-laws comments
Draft exists with all changes incorporated that have been received so far; contact Elaine today if you have more you would like changed or added.
The document is going to the attorney tomorrow for review, then to the IRS for 501(c)(3) designation.
Goal: Incorporation before the Steering Committee’s next call.
- 501(c)3 incorporation
Will take place pending review of the bylaws by a private attorney.
Roger is to sign once everything is ready.
- Board of Directors nominations / voting
Nominee list will be assembled by the end of January, after contacting candidates for approval to include their names.
Please suggest any additions today if you have anyone you would like to add.
As planned, the Steering Committee votes by the end of day 2/8 for announcement at the next conference call (2/9).

RG: Candidate criteria we need to be especially careful about: Candidates need to be “above reproach” – no conflict of interest or conflict of loyalty. It is not necessary for them to be from Steering

Committee, nor do they need to have a vested interest in GLOS. The existing Steering Committee will probably morph largely into the Systems Oversight Panel

JR: How many people anticipated on Board?

RG: The Board of Directors in the current version of the Bylaws, as written right now, is not to exceed 12 members. We are recommending that they start with 5 and add more at the Board's discretion as the system grows. The System Oversight Panel will take on the guidance and advising role initially planned for the Board as a means of removing the possibility/perception of conflict of interest. The Steering Committee will be involved in process until the System Oversight Panel is stood up.

MB: Is there any legal requirement that all members of the Board of Directors be US citizens?

ESI: Not that she knows of. The Board of Directors' role is assuring that the GLOS RA runs effectively, appropriately, with proper business management

DS: Looking for people who are able to put responsibility for the RA above their other interests.

HB: All professionals who took on role would do this, would they not?

DS, others: Many cannot legally take on any such role, including federal and state employees, regardless of their personal/professional abilities.

RG: Other organizations, e.g. GoMOOS, are recognizing problems with this now.

ESI: We are also trying to structure this to avoid having anyone from such a small group (GLOS board) have to recuse themselves from discussion

DS: Helen, any recommendations would be appreciated

DS: Each Steering Committee member gets 5 votes, then we will tally the total to determine initial membership.

RG: This will be set up using a secure web site and allowing each person only 5 selections. It should be very easy and only take 2 minutes to do.

ESI: This spring, the Steering Committee needs to do some System Oversight Panel functions:

Review suggested annual plan for year

Review/help prepare Membership materials

Determine Membership classes, rates, roles, responsibilities

Board of Directors will have final approval, but groundwork needs to be done to keep efficiency

HB: Review process for Board decisions about plans?

ESI: Not to my knowledge. The Board is constituted to make decisions and we want to avoid an appearance of conflict of interest by having more influence for System Oversight Panel than its recommendations

HB: Are there special criteria for Board membership?

DS: Yes.

b. Advocacy (Jon MacDonagh-Dumler)

- IOOS Advocacy Meeting

Dec 8 meeting in Washington: RG, JMD, JR present

Ocean Observation Strategy Session

Congressional Panel to secure funding and legislation – to educate and make plans for 2006 session of Congress

Highlights, important items:

- Authorizing legislation introduced, passed Senate and into House. This does not count as full authorization
- Holdup is in the House Resource Committee – not one of Chairman Rep. Pombo's legislative priorities
- Funding secured for IOOS-related activities in this year's appropriation cycle. NOAA's budget was cut but funding for IOOS increased = some success, but several RAs lost funding
 - o 30 people present from RAs and other stakeholders
 - o 3 tasks this year: (1) secure OMB and agency support (mostly NOAA); (2) pass authorizing legislation; (3) work both short-term and long-term goals into the next appropriation cycle

- Challenges: No new money in the budget - Congress wants to cap overall spending, which means new funding must be offset by cuts; it is important to secure a baseline budget request from at least one federal agency – important so that RAs can garner more solid support from the administration and it becomes easier for Congress to improve, plus we need to transition away from year-to-year earmarks.

- Upcoming activities

- (1) Secure support from administration in the FY2008 budget priorities

- (2) Authorizing legislation

It would be very helpful if Steering Committee members could review a draft of a one page letter to Congress for use in the upcoming appropriations cycle. This could then be used by Steering Committee members/agencies in their own funding requests. Contacts to look for: Rep. Mark Kirk, IL; Kristy Cole (Kristy.cole@mail.house.gov) of his staff already listening plus he sits on the House Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee and is in place as co-chair of GL Task Force (\$4M recommended for GLOS in FY2007)

Sen. Kohl serves on the Commerce Subcommittee and is a key for senate appropriations; see Chad Metzler (Chad_metzler@kohl.senate.gov)

Authorizing legislation: Congressman. Ron Kind (WI) serves on the Fisheries and Oceans Subcommittee of the House Resources Committee, contact = Darren Schroeder, Kind's senior policy advisor.

Congressman. Dale Kildee (MI), is a senior member supporting GLOS on the House Resources Committee; contact his staff Adri Jayaratne (adri.jayaratne@mail.house.gov).

The coalition is active compared to last year, so we're in an improved position; JR and HB are also involved.

HB: Secretariat doing things but not seeking any approval from Steering Committee = difficult to do work where any conflict in needs arises. Example: PORTS program cut in half due to earmarks for other RAs. Great Lakes PORTS okay, but only due to earlier work. General impression is mixed signals – should have been recommendations to Steering Committee, consideration, refinement, approval, go. Also, GLC project staff are already into details but there is no priority sheet yet.

RG: Nationwide identification of interests/needs at two IOOS Implementation Conferences. No clean progression of funding, only enough money to maintain development of an organizational structure. '05 budget, \$47-48M of RA earmarks, none for the Great Lakes. Supporting 2\$M incr for COOPS and other req by Steering Committee member groups

HB: Specifically did not support PORTS. Asked for end to isolated program, asked for \$100M for Great Lakes long-term. Need an '07 planning meeting for Great Lakes. Cares about NFRA but can't work strictly to their needs – individual groups need to be parochial, too, and look out for their needs.

DS: RG, JMD – while in Washington, representing GLOS or GLC?

RG: Hard to say.

HB: Representing GLOS.

DS: GLOS doesn't exist, it's a nascent entity...

RG: Grievance not clear; \$2M came through as being worked for, as HB wants.

HB: Not being a team player, though; what to do? Cares about GLOS, but wants as effective a direction as can be built – Steering Committee there to guide, talk to, consult with, get approval even if mostly automatic so all feel included. Otherwise, members like her will go off on their own, too.

DS: as Steering Committee Chair, sees several members who have lobbying interest – HB, GLC, JR, GLERL. Steering Committee not right forum for coordinating right now. Lobbying efforts better on separate forum. Steering Committee needs to get GLOS up as an organization. Board will have to oversee '07 funding.

HB: Then Steering Committee should not be approving '07 funding. Should have no further communication with Congress until draft letter has been reviewed by whole Steering Committee for GLC as GLOS implementer to use in '07 work.

DS, RG: Review okay.

HB: Do '07 letter as well, then?

RG: Will do.

DS: Any communication out as product of nascent GLOS, get Steering Committee approval.

c. Education and Outreach (Christine Manninen and Steve Stewart)

- GLSGN-GLOS needs assessment

CM: MOA with Great Lakes SeaGrant - current grant has a small pot for education, outreach planning for GLOS, transfer of funds also set for transfer to SeaGrants

Outreach working group to do needs assessment, JR and Ohio SeaGrant will probably do outreach.

COSEE fact sheet from JR emailed and linked from website.

- Great Lakes COSEE

SS: COSEE Great Lakes and the national program providing funding to Great Lakes to establish a new center. Collaborative effort among Great Lakes SeaGrant states to enhance ocean science education, strengthen outreach and communication.

New website live yesterday; link sent out in email just before this call.

Circa 3 dozen collaborators regionally, 5 yr grant.

Similar efforts on each lake for the system, plus special/topical programs that travel from annually from lake to lake as special focus projects.

Connections between Great Lakes and world oceans – collaborations with California, mid-Atlantic region, [one other]

Explicit connection to the GLOS education role. New SeaGrant curriculum includes teacher training about GLOS, IOOS.

Michigan has lead for this but it will expand throughout the region.

Point people in each state, see website.

DS: GLOS Business Plan includes education and outreach. Include this in reports as part of highlighting?

SS: Yes, ideas were in mind as both plans were being written.

DS: Maybe also a model for pushing forward on other subsystems – not IOOS legislation but pushing forward through other programs, efforts.

CM: Cross-link websites? SS will check with his director.

CM: A lot of GLOS data will be used in COSEE.

MP: New regional CSC Needs Assessment Coordinator: Chris Ellis

RG: Coastal States Organization engaged?

MP: They did their own assessment, but she's not sure whether they are involved with this. She will check. Contact phone = 843-740-1327

RG: Needs Assessment underway already with CSC and GLC, interest from CSO, need to know what's going on with all these programs.

d. Observing Systems (Roger Gauthier)

- Huron to Erie Corridor prototype development

RG: Discussions about using GLOS and SEMCOG (SouthEast Michigan Council of Governments) resources to coordinate model development for St. Clair River-Lake St. Clair-Detroit River corridor.

Meeting planned for Port Huron 3/16-17 with federal agencies, counties, Canadian federal/provincial agencies if possible. Hydrodynamic modeling within this stretch. Prospective prototype area, planning work going on right now, meeting should result in approaches, benefits document.

DS: Keep the Steering Committee advised.

HB: Relative to NWS regions, committee to increase coastal region observations? Sounds like different initiatives.

RG: New NWS sites are lake sites. Broad list for whole lakes went in last year, predicated on DW's list. Recommendations to National Bouy Center included Lake St. Clair light, so one site is within the list.

MB: Call from Diane Desotelle setting up needs assessment for GLC for February. Relationship to anything?

DK: Diane is a contractor, stems from initiative by CSC to explore greater regional presence. 1st step in process, 3 focus areas – coastal management, data management (handled by contractor - Diane), ports and navigation management (handled by DK). 6 month study, done in June?

MB: Confused with this and NOAA request for conceptual design for IOOS – how do they fit?

RG: This is looking at need for observations, systems in Great Lakes while the RFQ is to address IOOS as a broader system and its needs for implementation (backbone).

MB: Could refer some people to results of Future of Open Water Technology workshop from end of 2004 – lots of good background work and insights about technology; proceedings are on the web. Good opportunity to integrate CGLRM work, GLRC. Interest in white paper, multi-board discussion about enhancements to current systems. Need Steering Committee discussion to engage, not waste resources?

MP: Wants CSC to be a better regional presence. Their assessment pointed at that.

MB: For Great Lakes, a lot has been done in the business plan, lots of infrastructure in place, yet this is a huge contract.

HB: Does this determine IOOS structure? What about existing 17 federal agencies?

DS: Anticipates that the Ocean.US RFQ is to suggest a design for a backbone. Hopefully in the process it will examine differences among regions.

RG: Redundant with CSC and other work?

RB: This new RFQ is to look at the technical side, for entities like Raytheon, Boeing to look technically at how they would implement something like this – systems architecture, DMAC backbone. Carol Hood's presentation at Industry Day dealt with it well.

RG: RB, MP asked to note that a lot has already been laid out regarding Great Lakes elements that don't fit neatly into global ocean environment. Ongoing struggle to figure out how Great Lakes elements compare to other systems. Ocean.US had not really examined GLOS business plan during last contacts – hopes contractor reviews this well.

III. New Business

- a. Upcoming meetings
 - NFRA Meeting – 3/9-10/06 - Washington D.C. : RG, JR and/or another Steering Committee member
 - Huron to Erie Corridor Modeling Workshop – 3/16-17/06 – Port Huron, MI
 - Regional Data Exchange Conference – 4/4-6/06 – Rochester, NY
 - IAGLR '06 – 5/22-26/06 – Windsor, ON
 - GLOS Board of Directors Meeting – April/May 2006
 - IOOS Public Health meeting, 1/23-25/06
- b. Other – none
- c. GEOS white paper from IJC – difficulty finding someone to do it

DS: More about this?

MB: Need to coordinate with others, trying to get good product out that GLOS, CSC etc. match on

DS: Coordinate with CSC if at all possible so products complement/enhance each other.
- d. NOAA RFQ

See discussion above under Huron-to-Erie Corridor topic.
- e. Millenium Network, Lake Erie

JR: GLSGN putting together a proposal for regional coordination bodies throughout Great Lakes, research focus.

Network in place around Lake Erie, coordinating research needs, wants to incorporate outreach. Leadership: 4 people, US and Canadian – 1 academic from each country and 1 federal employee from each country.

Goal: 6 networks/entities, one for each lake plus a coordinating body for region.

150 to 200 research scientists? Voluntary, so good participation.

To date, no one from GLERL, USGS, EPA GLNPO

f. New proposal for region? Jeff R.

Not discussed separately.

Next Conference Calls: The second Thursday of each month @ 10 a.m. EDT (Fed 9th, Mar 9th)