

MINUTES
GLOS Steering Committee Conference Call -- March 9, 2006 – 10 a.m. EST

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

Keith Bedford, Ohio State University
Mark Bobal, U.S. Coast Guard - Ninth District
Mark Breederland, Michigan Sea Grant
Norm Grannemann, U.S. Geological Survey
Paul Horvatin, U.S. EPA – GLNPO
Brian Huberty, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory
Dave Schwab, NOAA-GLERL (chair)
Steve Stewart, Michigan Sea Grant Extension
GLOS Secretariat at GLC: Tom Crane, Jon Dettling, Roger Gauthier, Dave Knight,
Christine Manninen, Elaine Sterrett Isely

II. Secretariat Reports

Elaine Sterrett Isely reported that the GLOS-RA is now incorporated in the State of Michigan as a non-profit corporation. The 501(c)3 certification will occur after we submit the IRS paperwork to receive tax-exempt status. 17 invitations were mailed in February to potential candidates for the GLOS Regional Association Board of Directors. 10 candidates have agreed to run for the Board, four have declined and three have not yet responded. Those that declined the nomination were mainly constrained by other time commitments. The Steering Committee (SC) has several options for constituting the Board, which is open for discussion during this call. The SC needs to decide how many seats will be open for the inaugural board. 5-12 seats are possible according to the bylaws. Dave Schwab suggested that the SC had previously discussed having five representatives on the inaugural board. Pros of five are that this board size would be manageable and perhaps more effective. A smaller board might be better for reaching consensus. Cons are that some skill sets may be lost. Mark Breederland suggested that some current nominees might be alienated if not chosen to serve. Schwab suggested that we wait another week to flush out the final slate of candidates before deciding on the number of open seats. Elaine will send around an update on nominations on March 20 and then the SC will vote on whether to accept the entire slate of candidates or vote on a lesser number of seats.

Jon Dettling reported on the Huron – Lake Erie Corridor meeting, scheduled for March 16-17 in Port Huron, Mich. 50-60 people are currently registered. A 3D hydrodynamic model for the HEC area will be discussed, among other data integration issues. Schwab asked if GLOS is just playing the role of facilitator or if GLOS intends to lead these efforts. Dettling responded that GLOS is playing the role of facilitator so we are making an effort to be inclusive in participation and avoid duplication of efforts/science that has already been done by other parties in this geographic area.

Christine Manninen reported that the slate of Board nominees is now available online. This web site includes photos and bios for all candidates. An updated GLOS calendar of events will be added this week. Schwab inquired about other web-based data integration efforts that are under way. Efforts are being pursued with NOAA CO-OPS to incorporate data from the water level gauging network into a regional application with other data sets. More will be coming online soon.

Schwab attended the American Geophysical Union (AGU) - IOOS meetings in Hawaii in February. He noted that the different IOOS regions still seem to be 'singing their own song' so more coordination is clearly needed. There were a lot of science posters on display from the other IOOS regions. The Great Lakes seems to be lagging behind the other RAs in connecting our science to GLOS.

Given this, a (day-to-day) Operations Council and a Science Advisory Board/Council might be good options instead of the broader Systems Oversight Panel that was suggested in the GLOS bylaws. Keith Bedford noted that the Great Lakes aren't yet reaping the rewards of IOOS because of recent cuts in appropriations. Bedford supported separating out Operations from Science when GLOS gets up and running. Steve Stewart also supported this idea and advised additional focus on Outreach and Education.

Roger Gauthier provided an update from meetings of the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA). He and Sterrett Isely are currently attending the NFRA meetings in Washington, D.C., March 9-10. Among the items on the agenda, NFRA officers will be elected with a one-year term limit until the NFRA is officially incorporated. Immediate issues on advocacy include promoting endorsement letters in the Senate and House to appropriate \$138 million for IOOS in FY 2007. If this level were funded, each RA could receive up to \$4 million each to implement observing system components. Gauthier elaborated on the Great Lakes Commission's appropriations priorities and advocacy, which largely mirrors the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. A proposed \$4 million earmark for GLOS would include ~\$2M for a flow model for the St. Clair River, field measurements and sensors to support a continuing running model that would be run by NOAA-CO-OPS. \$1 million would be used to enhance basin-wide remote sensing observations, built upon CoastWatch, that would include chlorophyll, sediment concentrations and organic materials that are spectrally discriminated, and other systemwide improvements to monitoring systems. Approx. \$0.5M would be targeted for Data Management and Communication (DMAC) activities and another \$0.5M for education/outreach. If the authorization bill and \$138 million appropriations for IOOS doesn't go through during this session of Congress, earmarks would be the only option for sustaining the RAs. If both of these activities do not get through Congress over the next six months, the NFRA and many RAs may cease to exist this time next year. Bedford asked what percentage of GoMOOS (Gulf of Maine RA) funding comes from federal appropriations vs. non-govt. donations and grants. Gauthier said he will get this information and provide it to the SC. Schwab suggested that in California the state has invested largely in the RAs. Roger reminded that the SC should help with the advocacy efforts, if their agencies permit.

III. New Business

Dettling updated the SC on the upcoming Regional Data Exchange (RDX) conference, April 4-6 in Rochester, N.Y. This year's event is being held jointly with the 5th Annual NY State Remote Sensing Symposium. Online registration, agendas and list of exhibitors is available at <http://rdx.glc.org/06/>

The 2006 IAGLR Conference will be held May 22-26, 2006, in Windsor, Ontario. An Education/Outreach session is planned and Manninen will deliver a GLOS presentation. Stewart noted that the new Great Lakes COSEE will also be presented. Schwab will inquire about other sessions focused on monitoring/observing.

Schwab reported that the first meeting of the GLOS Board of Directors is tentatively planned for late May or early June 2006 in Ann Arbor.

Manninen reminded the SC that Great Lakes Day in Washington is March 16, 2006. This event, co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and Northeast-Midwest Institute, will be devoted to the priorities of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), including GLOS. The day will begin with opportunities for networking with members of Congress and staff at the Great Lakes Congressional Reception in the historic Senate Caucus Room. A two-hour hearing later in the morning by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will focus on the GLRC and strategies for implementation of the recommendations. In the afternoon, more than 25 people have registered to deliver the Great Lakes message by taking part in visits to congressional offices in the House and Senate. The results of these visits will be reported during the next GLOS call.

Next GLOS Conference Call: April 13 at 10 a.m. EST. Conference calls occur on the second Thursday of each month.