
**Minutes for the Alliance Coordination Team (ACT) Teleconference
Held 25 March 2009**

Attendees:

Water Quality – Ellen McCarron, Linda Sedlacek, Jeanne Allen, Chris David

Environmental Education – Lee Yokel, Phillip Hinesley, LaKeshia Robertson

Nutrients – Natalie Guedon-Segrest, Laurie Rounds, Lael Butler

Coastal Community Resiliency – Tina Shumate, Rhonda Price, Heidi Recksiek

Habitat Conservation & Restoration (HCRT) – Drew Puffer, Becky Allee

Ecosystem Integration and Assessment (EIA) – Larry McKinney, Diane Altsman

Other support – Phil Bass, Nancy Wallace, Patti Powell (new state lands director), Michelle Deventeux (Louisiana)

Minutes

• **Action Plan II Update**

- Phil has received several comments back on the Introduction to the Governors' Action Plan. All comments need to be turned in by Friday.
- The Chapters for the Governors' Action Plan are going well
- Printing costs for the Governors' Action Plan are a little less than anticipated and they should be printed in a shorter time
- The AMT wants a 2-page, condensed summary of the Governors' Action Plan. Phil and Laura are working on it and they will finalize it after the Governors' Action Plan is released
- Public comment
 - The survey closed earlier this week
 - Approximately 400 people participated; they provided various levels of information (some filled out personal information but gave no feedback)
 - Nancy Wallace is compiling the information and will try to get it to the Teams by the close of business Friday
 - So far, she has not run into a lot of specific actions that they wanted added
 - It is at the Team's discretion as to how they incorporate public comment
 - A formal summary will be posted on the public website

• **Release of Action Plan II at Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW) in D.C., June 9-12**

- Would like to have the AMT and at least one representative from each state as well as business partners present
- Hotels are filling up so make reservations soon. Phil Bass will send out list of hotel options next month
- GOMA will be an official sponsor of CHOW. As such, we will have a 10x10 booth
- Buck is working with the National Marine Sanctuary on the agenda. Phil Bass will give the kick-off presentation. May have a panel or something
- The official rollout will take place at the All-Hands Meeting where we will start work on implementation

• **Gulf Guardian Award Nomination**

- Look for individuals or partners within your team that you can nominate
- 10th year – give out in 7 categories and have first, second, and third place

- The categories are:
 - Government
 - Individual
 - Civic, non profit
 - Youth and education project
 - Business incentives
 - Partnership partnerships
 - Bi-national award
- Deadline is May 15th
- The award ceremony may take place in conjunction with the OCEANS '09 conference in Biloxi, MS on October 29th
- All-Hands Meeting
 - Will take place in Mobile on August 4-6
 - Hotel contract is being finalized
 - Teams need to let Terry know if they want to meet before or after the All-Hands Meeting
 - The charge for this All-Hands Meeting will be:
 - Develop a workplan for next year
 - What additional thing(s) could you do in Year 2 if you had more funds
- Team participation on future AMT calls?
 - The Restoration Team felt that they would like a better relationship with the AMT. Phil Bass took their request to the AMT, and the AMT agreed to allow one individual from each state and the coordinator to attend their teleconferences
 - What additional teams would like to do the same: EIA, Education (for pertinent information), and Water Quality
 - Please note, only one team will be invited per call
- Team Updates
 - Water Quality
 - On April 18th, a cross-team, 3-hour discussion will take place in Corpus Christi to discuss coordination of IT projects. The goal is discuss what IT projects are planned and to watch out for overlap in projects and leverage where appropriate. A report will be sent to the AMT. (The discussion will be in conjunction with the EIA Team Meeting.)
 - On track for returning the Introduction to the Governors' Action Plan
 - Working on Tier II draft - ~ 2/3 of the way there. Will have a draft by May 1st
 - The Monitoring Forum will take place on April 8th (will discuss coordination of monitoring and needs in a Gulf-wide Report Card as well as our catalog database project). On April 7th, the Water Quality Team will have a workshop
 - Harmful algal bloom workshop coming up in April
 - Working on re-budgeting for the NOAA grant; would love to see some of the stimulus money come our way
 - Ellen announced that she is bowing out as the co-chair for the ACT
 - Resilience
 - Working on re-budget on NOAA grant
 - Working on a few projects:
 - Index

- Surface Elevation Tables, working with Grand Bay
- Met with Sea Grant about creating hazards handbook
- Storm Smart – working on with West; will start with Mississippi because 10th Annual Smart Growth Conference in Mississippi in May and they will have a GOMA Resilience highlight four of the projects at the conference; if you want to attend, let Tina know and she will have you comp'd – Tina will send flier to Nancy to have it posted on website
- Nutrients
 - Working on Year 2 budget for NOAA
 - Estuary Tour workshop completed – received lots of good information and it was a conduit to get researchers involved in GOMA
 - Will begin nutrient studies this year in Mississippi with a workshop that includes a technical study design workshop as well as a workshop to share with stakeholders information about the Team and to get feedback from stakeholders
- HCRT
 - Had a meeting March 8 and 9; at the meeting the talked with Phil about how to get recommendations from the Team to the AMT; mostly talked about technical part of Action Plan II and to develop upcoming workshops
 - Regional Sediment Masterplan will have a working group meeting May 13 and 14 in New Orleans
 - One of the big goals in the working group is to see a change in the Federal Standards in regards to what they do with dredge spoils
- Education
 - Hadn't sent out Introduction for Governors' Action Plan because they thought it was for the ACT, will send it out for review
 - Working on re-budget for NOAA grant
 - Currently releasing 17 subcontracts as a result of the RFP from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Won't be able to have as large of an award next year because of the reduction in NOAA funding
 - Waiting on University of South Florida to give them their first draft on the public awareness strategy. Group that attended meeting in Spanish Fort will review it first and then send it to ACT for input before trying to get buy-in from AMT. Grant deadline for completion is June, so quick turnaround times
 - Auburn University recently received a cooperative agreement from the U.S. GOMP which includes developing a directory of educators around the Gulf of Mexico including Mexico
 - At the All-Hands Meeting, they hope to join with the GCOOS Education and Outreach Council to work on joint issues
 - The Environmental Education website will go live soon. They may not make a formal announcement though
 - Next quarterly call on April 6th at 10 am central
- Ecosystems
 - Workshop on April 15-17 in Corpus Christi
 - Significant meeting – will move from IT focus to talk about what needs to be done to help data access and acquisition

- Plus additional meeting on Friday to discuss among the PITs where we need to go
- **If any Team feels the need for Phil to attend a meeting, just let him know**
- **Next teleconference – April 29th at 9 am Central/10 am Eastern**

Assignments:

Phil Bass	Send out list of hotel options for Action Plan II release in D.C.
Tina Shumate	Send flier for Smart Growth Conference to Nancy Wallace
Nancy Wallace	Send out summary of public comment by close of business Friday (March 27 th) Post Smart Growth Conference flier on website
All PITs	Comments on Introduction for Governors' Action Plan due Friday (March 27 th) Look for individuals or partners within your Team that you could nominate for a Gulf Guardian Award Let Phil know if you want him to attend a meeting