

**Minutes for the Alliance Coordination Team (ACT) Teleconference  
Held 29 April 2009**

**Attendees:**

**Water Quality** – Steve Wolfe, Linda Sedlacek, Jeanne Allen  
**Environmental Education** – Lee Yokel, Ann Weaver, LaKeshia Robertson  
**Nutrients** – Kim Caviness, Laurie Rounds, Lael Butler  
**Coastal Community Resiliency** – Rhonda Price, John Bowie  
**Habitat Conservation & Restoration (HCRT)** – Jim Paul, Drew Puffer, Becky Allee  
**Ecosystem Integration and Assessment (EIA)** – Larry McKinney, Seneca Holland, Diane Altzman  
**Other support** – Phil Bass, Nancy Wallace, Bill Walker

**Minutes**

- **Action Plan II Update**
  - Most comments from the Teams have arrived
  - On schedule for final document for the first of next week
  - Working on where and when to release the Governors' Action Plan
    - Possible reception in the afternoon. Want to get some congressional members and agency heads to attend
  - Jim Paul has a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers later today about Action Plan II. He will send any changes to Laura Bowie (Nancy Wallace will send Jim her e-mail)
- **1<sup>st</sup> Year Workplan and Commitments**
  - At the All-Hands Meeting, we will complete our first year workplan (runs from July to June), commitments, and measurable tasks
  - Members from each of the Mexican states have been invited to attend the All-Hand Meeting. These individuals are supposed to participate the Team break-outs
- **Thank you Celebration for Teams at All Hands**
  - Cooking Team from the Water and Marine Resources will prepare food – Dr. Walker made arrangements
  - Planning an evening at Five Rivers with good seafood and social time
- **Logo Change?**
  - Have gone through several iterations. The one on the agenda is the one that we will use for the Governors' Action Plan. There are two main versions. One with a white background and one with a blue background. Different sized versions will be made available. Thank you Jeanne Allen for creating it.
- **Participation at Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW) in D.C., June 9-11**
  - Not expecting a lot of GOMA people
  - Would like to have AMT there, and any others if you can attend
- **All-Hands Meeting in Mobile**
  - Planned for August 4-6
  - Please respond to Terry on the number of individuals in each break-out room
  - Get ready to have some way of reporting successes
- **Make list of successes**

- Make a list of all successes that can be attributed to GOMA. They do not necessarily have to items related to an Action Item. The AMT needs these to get funds from congress. Send them to Bill Walker as soon as you can (definitely before CHOW Week).
- **Team Updates**
  - Water Quality
    - Started some of our Action Plan II items in December
    - This month:
      - Held out Annual Monitoring Forum
        - Attendance a little low compared to last year
        - Spent a day working on detailing the Action Plan
        - Other day, had speakers on two key Monitoring Issues
          - Gulf-wide Report Card – one of our Action Items is to create the framework for the Report Card. Want to have it to bring to light issues within the Gulf and to highlight some of the work that GOMA is doing. Will invite other Teams to participate in time
          - Database for information regarding monitoring programs
      - HABs workshop
        - To get the types of information that users of harmful algal bloom data need as well as how far in advance they would need the information. Enlightening to the types of data users and the variety of information needed
      - Ellen attended the IT workshop hosted by the EIA – will let them talk more about it
      - Action Plan II Activities Matrix, which includes specific tasks with deliverables, leads, and timelines
        - The Pathogens and Monitoring Workgroup are pretty much complete
        - The Harmful Algal Blooms and Mercury Workgroups are still working
        - Want to have them completed and to the AMT by the end of May so that they can field questions at CHOW and see that we do indeed have clear ends to our Action Steps
    - Education
      - Draft Public Relations Strategy is being worked on with the University of South Florida. Once it is ready, will go to the ACT
        - Will have the components of what the strategy should contain and then up to us to decide which pieces and how to implement that strategy
      - Planning an Underserved and Underrepresented Population Symposium June 4-6 at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA
        - Sponsored by the Barataria National Estuarine Program – one of the commitments that they have with a U.S. Gulf of Mexico Program Grant
        - Will have some travel stipends
      - Gave out 20 Sub-awards through the NOAA grant

- The Weeks Bay Watershed group put together a Watershed Wagon that they can take to activities – has GOMA logo on back
- Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm central – will have quarterly call for all PITs
- Website has been launched:
  - <http://gulfallianceeducation.org/index.php>
- Working with GCOOS Education Outreach Network to have a joint workshop in Mobile
- Nutrients
  - Moving forward with Nutrient Criteria Framework pilot studies
    - This year – pilot studies will be carried out at Bay St. Louis and Tampa Bay
    - Getting ready to selection approximately two sites for 2010
  - Benthic Index project getting started
- Resilience
  - Getting ready for Smart Growth Conference on the 10-12<sup>th</sup> of May in Biloxi
    - Will highlight :
      - Resiliency Index
      - Storm Smart Coast
        - Spent a lot of time working on it
        - Biloxi will be the first community to be featured
  - NGI conference coming up – will present some of GOMA's work
- HCRT
  - In March – had a planning meeting for Action Plan II responsibilities
  - Gulf Regional Sediment Management Team workshop coming up in New Orleans
    - Plan to have a draft final document by the end of the year
  - Working on one of the more contentious pieces of their Action Plan, which calls for a revision of the Federal Standard
  - Supporting half of Rafael Calderon's work to do some sea level rise modeling use the SLAM (Sea Level Affecting Marshes) Model on the Northern Gulf
    - Two sites that he is working on right now: One site in Texas and one in Alabama
    - Will have 3-8 more sites later
    - Working with the National Wildlife Service who is planning similar projects. May hold a joint technical/policy workshop at the Harte Research Institute
- Ecosystems
  - Just held their first Team meeting of the year
    - Worked on Action Plan II outcomes and activities
  - Held an IT meeting for all PITs in conjunction with the Team meeting
    - Want to set up an IT Team
      - Need PITs to commit two individual from their Team (one substance and one technical) to make sure that IT work is coordinated across the PITs
      - The EIA team is willing to facilitate
    - Had discussed putting together white paper to present to AMT

- Gave out several sub-awards
- Interested in participating on the Report Card with the Water Quality Team – may have some funding to support it. The Harte Research Institute has wanted to develop one as well, let's work jointly!
- **Next teleconference – May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am Central/10 am Eastern**

### **Assignments:**

Jim Paul	Send changes to Governors' Action Plan to Laura Bowie
Nancy Wallace	Send Jim Paul Laura Bowie's e-mail
EIA Team	With the help of the other PITS, create white paper concerning IT needs of GOMA Teams and present to AMT
All PITS	Make a list of all successes that can be contributed to GOMA and send to Bill Walker ASAP