

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

Attendees:

Water Quality – Steve Wolfe, Linda Sedlacek, Jeanne Allen

Environmental Education – Lee Yokel, LaKeisha Robertson

Nutrients – Kim Caviness, Ann Porter, Richard Ingram, Laurie Rounds, Lael Butler, Troy Pierce

Coastal Community Resiliency – John Bowie, Heidi Recksiek

Habitat Conservation & Restoration (HCRT) – Drew Puffer

Ecosystem Integration and Assessment (EIA) – Seneca Holland, Diane Altsman, Becky Allee

Other support – Phil Bass

Minutes

- **Senate Bill 1311**
 - This bill was sponsored by Senator Wicker (MS) and co-sponsored by Senators Cochran (MS) and Landrieu (LA)
 - It would authorize the Gulf of Mexico Program Office and increase their budget, which would fund more projects in the Gulf of Mexico
 - Still trying to get other Gulf Senators to sign off on it (especially Texas and Florida)
- **Implementation Meeting (All Hands)**
 - ~231 people confirmed
 - Terry will send out an e-mail later today with details
 - Will try to send a list of who plans to attend each Team's meetings
 - **Mexican Participation**
 - Four confirmed so far
 - Three from Campeche
 - One from Veracruz
 - At least one will attend the Water Quality portion, but not sure of others
- **Calendar of events for remainder of 2009**
 - National Non-Point Source Monitoring Conference
 - 2nd week in September in New Orleans
 - Primarily to support nutrient reduction efforts
 - Oceans '09
 - Last week in October in Biloxi
 - On October 29th – will give Gulf Guardian Award
 - AMT might meet there
 - Habitat Team will have a Federal Standards Workshop
 - October 14-15 in New Orleans
 - Regarding dredging in the Gulf of Mexico
 - The draft Regional Sediment Management Master Plan framework document is out for review to the Habitat Team – will have summary document at the All Hands Meeting
 - Let Education Team know if one of your activities needs a press release
 - Let Laurie Rounds know if you want an announcement or press release of what happened at a workshop in the Gulf of Mexico News
 - Nutrients Team plans to have a Nutrient Reduction Workshop

- September 22-24 (but may be pushed back)
- Will create nutrient reduction strategy template
- **Cross-Team Coordination**
 - Hope that we can highlight these at the Report Outs at All Hands
 - Feel that the ACT is filling this role
- **Team updates**
 - All Teams
 - This administration is trying to develop an Ocean Policy in the next 90 days and Nutrients is taking the center stage
 - All Teams need to be ready for a potential infusion of money by having projects ready for proposal opportunities
 - Nutrients Team
 - Preparing for the All-Hands Meeting
 - Contractor lined up to help create the Coastal Nutrient Reduction Activities Template
 - Working on St. Louis Bay nutrient study
 - Getting started to identify how to complete other parts of the Action Plan; Laurie Rounds is checking on current activities and reports to see where they can leverage efforts
 - Working with Gulf Hypoxia Task Force – determined that need to develop new FY2010 Workplan and hope to create even better cooperation
 - Water Quality
 - Working to establish time estimates for each Task and an overall Timeline
 - Have four workgroups – most have one state and one federal Chair. The Monitoring Workgroup was chaired by Ellen, but she is looking for a new Chair
 - Pathogens – worked out a cooperative with local and state agencies to understand if beach closures are due to human or non-human sources – will field trial MST methods have been developed over the last few years
 - HABs – developing plans for implementation
 - Monitoring
 - Developing project-level metadata
 - Developing enhanced Monitoring Program Catalog
 - Mercury – developing monitoring plan to examine total and methyl mercury fluxes from various rivers and estuaries around the Gulf of Mexico
 - Hired a coordinator that will coordinate Florida's efforts in all of the Teams (cross-team coordination) and identify and engage new partners
 - Her name is Becky Prado, and she will be sitting on your teleconferences – an FYI
 - Conservation
 - Larry Parsons with the Army Corp of Engineers developed the Regional Sediment Management Master Plan Framework that is being internally reviewed
 - Planning Federal Standards Workshop (see above for details)
 - Will develop Action Items to see what the Team wants to do in that aspect
 - Trying to secure speakers

- Developed two SLAM Models (Grand Bay NERR and Jefferson County, Texas) to look at sea-level rise and how it would affect marshes
 - Draft results are available
 - Will present to the Team and to the Resiliency Team at the All Hands Meeting and discuss next steps
- Freshwater Inflows Subcommittee
 - Will meet in February in Corpus Christi
 - Workshop entitled “Freshwater Inflows Beyond 2010”
- Ecosystems
 - Trying to see how to coordinate with the other Teams
 - Russ Beard will present the Data Management Committee concept at the All-Hands Meeting
- Resilience
 - New version of the Resilience Index that the Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant was the lead on will be unveiled at All Hands
 - The Storm Smart Coast Network is coming along
 - The Mississippi and Alabama studies are online
 - Texas studies are under review right now and might go live next week
 - Joint project with Restoration Team on SLAM modeling
 - Some discussion with NOAA, NGS, and Rhonda last week about getting the projects with the research reserves moving to try and do some of the spatial work that they wanted to do there
 - NOAA’s Coastal Services Storm Program has a 3-part series on coastal community resiliency that will be aired beginning tonight on WKRG out of Mobile – can download from their website
- Education
 - The Florida Alliance website is up and running (www.SupporttheGulf.org)
 - The Education Team’s website is available for all states and all Teams to post information on current projects
 - The partnership with What About Blue was approved!
 - As they near their goal (arriving in New Orleans) the Education Team will be talking with the Teams about press releases
 - Working to get a press release for the All-Hands Meeting (some have already gone out) and some AMT members will have some time on PBS
 - Rookery Bay group will host a small group of people to draft a communication strategy and decide on long-range goals
 - At the All-Hands Meeting – members will come to the Teams to help draft key messages
 - Also, Robyn Schoessel’s position at Rookery Bay has opened. If you know anyone qualified, let them know!
- Need to put together Tier II Document
 - Send the latest draft to Phil
 - Phil will send a reminder e-mail after the All-Hands Meeting
 - The Teams can determine what level of detail to include, but it should be readable by someone outside of GOMA who is a subject-matter expert

- **Next teleconference – August 26th at 9 am Central/10 am Eastern**