

**Minutes for the Alliance Coordination Team (ACT) Teleconference
Held 26 August 2009**

Attendees:

Water Quality – Steve Wolfe, Linda Sedlacek, Jeanne Allen

Environmental Education –

Nutrients – Ann Porter, Laurie Rounds, Lael Butler

Coastal Community Resiliency – Rhonda Price, John Bowie, Heidi Recksiek, Tina Sanchez

Habitat Conservation & Restoration (HCRT) – Drew Puffer

Ecosystem Integration and Assessment (EIA) – Larry McKinney, Seneca Holland, Diane Altzman

Other support – Phil Bass, Bill Walker

Minutes

- **ACT In-person meeting?**
 - Should we have an in person meeting the first of the year?
 - Maybe hold in conjunction with another GOMA meeting to save on costs
 - Could have detailed updates and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each Team
 - Decide at the September call and begin plans
- **Follow-up from All-Hands Meeting**
 - Went well...good report outs...everyone worked hard and accomplished a lot
- **2010 Meeting (All-Hands)**
 - The Gulf of Mexico Program is looking at ways to improve the next All-Hands Meeting
 - Preparing to start the planning process
 - Will send out detailed surveys to decide what each Team's needs are
 - Hoping to have meeting in late June or early July
 - Will be in Biloxi, probably at a casino
 - Please poll your Teams to find dates to avoid
- **Position papers**
 - The Water Quality and Nutrients Teams are preparing "position papers"
 - The Nutrients Team position paper is focused on asserting an aligned position on Gulf hypoxia
 - The Water Quality Team has a number of "GOMA" position papers – they are currently preparing a list of concerns and the logic behind them on the new EPA Recreational Water Quality Criteria and want to present a draft at the EPA Stakeholders meeting
 - Phil Bass: If it represents the "Alliance" then it needs to have AMT approval, like the idea of a position paper, keep the fundamentals of the Alliance in the forefront and should state that we are a non-regulatory, state-led collaborative
 - Bill Walker: As a Team approaches a final draft, send it to Bill Walker and he will send it to the AMT for discussion as well as to help them when talking to Upper Management and while visiting Washington
 - Best if you can get to the AMT a few days before an AMT call so that it can be discussed then, but at least give them a heads up
- **Ocean Task Force**

- Is the AMT submitting comments? Yes. In a final draft stage and will share with the ACT
- Should the Teams submit comments to? No discussion
- **Send latest draft of Tier II document to Phil Bass**
 - Will be an on-line, living document
- **Send Year One Work Plan to Phil Bass when it is ready**
 - Also a living document
- **Team updates**
 - Nutrients Team
 - Working on getting notes together and following up on topics from the All-Hands Meeting – e.g., fleshing out our Action Steps and trying to collaborate with existing programs
 - Developing a position paper on hypoxia
 - Going to work on collaborations with some Educational proposals (NOAA BWEF)
 - Coastal Nutrient Strategy Template workshop September 28-29 at Spanish Fort, AL
 - Water Quality
 - Wrapping up Year One Workplans – hope to finalize them in the next few weeks
 - Creating a list of mercury experts with their contact information and area(s) of expertise
 - Conservation
 - Working on their Tier II Action Plan – will finalize in three weeks at a meeting in New Orleans (Sept 22-23)
 - Federal Standard Working Session – will work on recommendations for developing standards
 - October 13-15 in New Orleans
 - Ecosystems
 - Working on Tier II document (will send out next week) and Year One Workplan
 - Preparing for next meeting in January (around the 27th) in Key West
 - Sea Level Rise Conference in Corpus Christi in March
 - Ecosystem Services Evaluations Meeting which will probably take place in the Fall
 - Report Card
 - Will have workshop with experts (10-15 individuals) who have created report cards around the world to plan a framework
 - Will get someone from Water Quality Team to participate
 - No dates yet, but once finalized will send to ACT
 - Resilience
 - Last in a three part series on Gambling against Mother Nature will air tonight on WKRG at 6:30 pm
 - The meteorologist and director for WKRG and the lady that created the series spoke to the Team and helped them to figure out how best to distribute information in their states
 - Surface elevation tables going in at Grand Bay and Weeks Bay

- USGS may help financially to put more core and sets out across the five Gulf states
 - Cooperative agreements signed between the Gulf states on boating infrastructure which will tie in with our Clean Marina Program
 - Included Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virgin Islands along with North and South Carolina
 - Agreement that they will support each other and that they will get extra partnership points when going for fish and wildlife grant funds
 - Working on displays for Ocean '09
 - Doing resiliency index assessments
 - Planning for some locations in Florida and in Galveston, TX
- Education
 - No one from the Team participated
- **Anything else?**
 - The Army Corp of Engineers is looking at policy issues with how they deal with excess dredge and spoil material
 - Will have a webinar to help develop a value for the material
 - They are working with the Louisiana group
- **Next teleconference – September 30th at 9 am Central/10 am Eastern**