

**Gulf of Mexico Alliance
Environmental Education Network
Steering Committee**

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Steering Committee Attendees

Tabitha Stadler, Rookery Bay NERR
Amy King, proxy for Phillip Hinesley, ADCNR Coastal Section
Sharon Walker, JL Scott Marine Education Center
Chris Simoniello, GCOOS Education and Outreach Council
Tara Shultz, Texas State Aquarium
Sharon Hodge, Northern Gulf Institute
Flinda Hill, Mississippi Power
Rafael Calderon, The Nature Conservancy
Linda Broussard, USGS NWRC
LaKeisha Robertson, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
Ann Weaver, NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center
Alison Hammer, NOAA Special Projects Office
Sheri Fields, National Park Service
Lee Yokel,
Valerie Kleinschmidt.
Richard Gonzales, Gulf of Mexico Foundation – Nutrient Team

Current Homework

- Send at least 2 high quality photographs to include in new plan and for new EEN website. Be sure to send with photo: Caption, names (of people in photo), and credit (who took the photo).
- Review Draft Plan II and make sure goals are captured then general edits. Have comments ready for 1/30 call.

Acronyms

AMT = Alliance Management Team
ACT = Alliance Coordination Team
COSEE= Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence
CELC = Coastal Environmental Learning Center
DEQ = Department of Environmental Quality
EPA = Environmental Protection Agency
GOMA = Gulf of Mexico Alliance
EEN = Environmental Education Network
EEC = Environmental Education Coordinator
NERR = National Estuarine Research Reserve
NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSTA = National Science Teachers Association
PITs = Priority Issue Teams

RFP = Request for Proposal
NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration
UUP = Underserved and Underrepresented Populations

Agenda General Notes

1. Introductions – after attendees had joined the call, Lee Yokel introduced Valerie Kleinschmidt who would also be working on GOMA environmental education through DISL. Valerie can be reached at vkleinschmidt@disl.org or 251-861-2523.

2. Update on Action Plan II

a. Status- All drafts have gone to a professional writer. Tier I will be a glossy document that will come out in Spring; date not set.

i. Draft of action plan will be received Fri.1/16 and then sent out to steering committee.

ii. Parts of Action Plan:

-Tier I: Policy Maker

-Tier II: Details

-Tier III: Commitments.

iii. Comments are needed to evaluate Tier 1: Is the writer capturing goals? Edit anything that's glaring.

iv. Conference call to discuss new plan is set for Friday, January 30th at 1 pm. It was established that a separate conference call is necessary. Before call everyone will have an opportunity to review Draft plan and make any edits. Advised to think of possible organizations that would be able to make commitments to actions and bring up those suggestions on the 30th call.

b. Public Input- Florida's Public Input Meetings.

i. It was expressed that a final input meeting would be occurring tomorrow January 14th.

ii. Alabama and Mississippi plan to join together for an on-line Survey Monkey to gain public input on new plan. Waiting on MS DEQ to give go ahead. MS/AL Sea Grant's Survey Monkey will host the survey. Survey is open to all for comment.

iii. If Louisiana and Texas are interested in participating in an on-line survey then let Lee know. Scuttlebutt can be used instead of Survey Monkey if needed.

iv. Any feedback from public input meetings or surveys will be available to members of the steering committee and GOMA members.

v. Tech guy (Andrew Schatzle) contracted by NOAA Coastal Services Center will be compiling all input results from each Gulf state.

c. Action Plan Commitments - how to?

i. A separate conference call that edits & gives commitments was set up for Friday the 30th of Jan. at 1 pm CST. Lee will be sending out agenda & securing a line.

d. Need pictures –

i. Two high quality pictures requested from each state.

ii. With pictures include: Caption, names (of people in photo), and credit (who took the photo).

iii. Current pictures in draft plan are place cards.

3. State Reports

i. Alabama – Amy King

- Discussed the Education & Outreach Taskforce meeting at Five Rivers on 1/8. She relayed that many spring & summer teacher workshops are planned as well as student experiential opportunities and information will be sent out. Spring & Summer Opportunities from: DISL, Alabama Coastal Foundation, etc.

ii. Florida –Bridget Washburn

- St. Pete held a Water Quality Meeting in Feb. and it was successful.
- Greg Ira's LIFE Program received funding to continue.
- Feb. 2nd a Habitat Mapping Workshop will occur.
-GCoast will be having a recreational boaters/divers meeting; gives GOMA a chance to pass on initiatives.
-April 23th-24th and April 30th-May 1st Teacher Workshops on GPS & Real-time data will be held. Open slots for 30-35 teachers per workshop.

-Arnie Shapiro- from COSEE net ocean world is assisting with Marketing & on-line information and is a good resource.

iii. Louisiana- (no one on call to report)

iv. Mississippi-

- COSEE 2 Day workshop for scientists and teachers will be coming up on a weekend soon; focuses on GOMA priorities for teacher workshops.

- A program has begun that deals with geology (in AL too). Program works with 7th-8th grade teachers to give oral histories of places in MS.

- Habitat resiliency will be working closely with issues involving Global Climate Change.

v. Texas-

-Ocean Literacy project was successful with Greg Ira; hope to keep collaboration.

- High School School Boards will be voting on State Standards Provisions for a Capstone Project centered on Ocean Science.

4. Issues for the Alliance Management Team- Anything to be brought to AMT?

i. Nothing was brought up.

5. Announcements and Other Discussions-

i. Sharon Walker discussed rotating exhibits being held at CELC's within the American Alliance states and in Mexico. An NSTA dinner or luncheon meeting is being held to discuss these rotating exhibits being used for two years. Vera Cruz is set to have exhibit first. Exhibit being constructed in Mexico is a smart possibility, but hasn't been decided. CELC's will be receiving equipment from SONY.

ii. Open requests for proposal-

a. B-WET- Grants open: \$500,000 to Gulf. \$50,000-\$100,000 per applicant is available.

b. Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant- RFP for next funding cycle found on masgc.org

c. Gulf of Mexico Program- Jan 30th accepting application. Due date March 31st. \$2 Million total available funds. \$13,000-\$330,000. Focused on Alliance details. Once released call LaKiesha for any questions.

d. Dauphin Island Sea Lab- This Thursday 1/15 we will start accepting applications. Due date Thursday, Feb. 5th. Grant funded through the Alliance & NOAA Coastal services. \$5,000-\$20,000 possible awards. Project start dates March 1st. Objectives of grant include:

- o Provide \$45,000 per U.S. Gulf State – grantors may change allotments if there are not enough qualified applicants for that state
- o Produce outcomes relative to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governors' Action Plan environmental education priority issues.

e. NASA RFP is open- Highly competitive, open for whole nation.

f. Dep. Of Defense RFP Open- Might not be applicable to education interests.

6. Veracruz Summit-

i. Who Plans to Attend: Sharon Walker, Lee Yokel, and Dr. Dindo. Chris Simoniello is waiting to hear from higher up. Jerry Benniger will be attending in LaKeisha's place. *ALL are welcome.*

7. Reviewers for Education Directory-

- i. Includes 5 US Gulf states and partner in Mexico. Who is interested in reviewing information for feedback? Sharon Walker volunteered. Flinda Hill offered as well.

d. Additional discussion –

- i. The participation of the Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) was discussed. They want GOMA to address Global Climate Change in the priorities. They are writing a letter request Alliance members to include Global Climate Change in the next plan. It was noted that the current GOMA issues do relate to climate change. The Habitat and Coastal Resiliency groups are holding workshops to expose these issues and discuss further within the teams. One of these is being held on Jan 24, 2009.

8. Next call - Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10am CST

- Let us (Valerie or Lee) know if there's anything you'd like included in the next agenda.
- On Mon. Feb. 2nd at 1pm central standard time- Education Information Quarterly Call will be held. Updating communities on opportunities in the area. Must RSVP to be included in call. Open to any suggestions for agenda/theme of call. Valerie will be contacting people to speak during call.

- Chris Simoniello offered a teacher from COPUS Year of Science program to speak on above call; will be confirming.

Draft Agenda

Call-In Number 866-299-3188
Code 228-688-1172#

1. Roll Call
Introduction – Valerie Kleinschmidt Vkleinschmidt@disl.org 251-861-2523
2. Update on Action Plan II
 - a. Status
 - b. Public Input
 - c. Action Plan Commitments – how to?
Review of tier I draft
 - d. Need pictures – high quality – caption, people named, credit
5. State Reports
 - Alabama
 - Florida
 - Louisiana
 - Mississippi
 - Texas
6. Issue for the Alliance Management Team
7. Announcements and Other Discussions
 - a. Open requests for proposal
 - a. B-WET
 - b. Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant
 - c. Gulf of Mexico Program
 - d. Dauphin Island Sea Lab
 - b. Veracruz Summit
 - a. Attendance
 - c. Reviewers for
8. Next call