

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

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

**Steering Committee Attendees**

Linda Broussard proxy for Gaye Farris, USGS National Wetlands Research Center  
Brian Fluech, Florida Sea Grant  
Sharon Hayes, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program  
Phillip Hinesley, AL Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Coastal Section  
Amy King proxy for Hinesley, ADCNR Coastal Section  
Tabitha Stadler proxy for Gary Lytton, Rookery Bay NERR  
Tara Schultz, Texas State Aquarium  
Scott Jones, Galveston Bay Estuary Program  
Andre Williams for Louisiana GOMA Education, USGS/CWPPRA  
Sharon Walker, JL Scott Marine Education Center  
Ann Weaver, NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center  
Lee Yokel, GOMA/DISL

**Others**

Steve Wolfe, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection, ACT Representative  
Joseph Grant, NASA  
Rafael Calderon, The Nature Conservancy

**Current Homework**

- EEC to work with state volunteers to get draft Action Plan II materials to AMT by June 30
- EEC report to ACT regarding EEN needs for GOMA August 2008 agenda
- EEC to draft comments and submit to ACT regarding concerns and recommendations for Fall public input meetings on Action Plan II

**Acronyms**

AMT = Alliance Management Team  
ACT = Alliance Coordination Team  
CWPPRA = Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act  
EPA = Environmental Protection Agency  
GOMA = Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
EEN = Environmental Education Network  
EEC = Environmental Education Coordinator  
JOCI = Joint Ocean Commission Initiative  
NERR = National Estuarine Research Reserve  
NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
PITs = Priority Issue Teams  
UUP = Underserved and Underrepresented Populations

## Agenda General Notes

During roll call it was noted that Susan Testroet-Bergeron has resigned her position as the GOMA lead for Louisiana education. The state was currently going through the proper channels to establish the next representative. Andre' Williams with USGS and Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) represented Louisiana.

### 1. Update from FL Alliance Educators

- a. Tabitha Stadler with the Rookery Bay NERR spoke for Bridget Washburn and Robyn Schoessel who are currently working on several Alliance education issues in Florida as well as the other PITs. They are working with the Florida water quality and nutrient PIT with a meeting in June. They are looking at statewide education programs that might be good for replication in other areas.
- b. The Florida Alliance Educators are contacting PIT leads to assess where they are with areas or: media; engaging local communities; messaging and educational ideas. This work they hope will result in a mini-assessment for planning future work.

### 2. Alliance Blueprint Planning Update

- a. June 30, 2008 deadline Lee Yokel gave an overview of what was required by June 30, 2008. She noted she has queried the group for a meeting in July but learned later that more material was needed for the June 30 deadline making a July meeting moot. The process reviewed and established on the call.
  - i. June 30, 2008 draft goals and actions to go the Phil Bass for the ACT/AMT
  - ii. Timetable
    1. June 13, 2008 for materials to me. Each state will work to refine their notes from the meetings held earlier this year. Draft materials will be delivered to Lee Yokel, Ann Weaver, Sharon Hayes, and Rafael Calderon
    2. Between June 13 and June 24 a subset of the Steering Committee will combine and refine the state results. This group consists of Lee Yokel, Sharon Walker, Ann Weaver, Sharon Hayes, and Tara Schultz
    3. June 24, 2008, 1PM CDT<sup>1</sup>, the Steering Committee will convene by conference call to review the draft materials
    4. June 30 – Lee Yokel submits materials to the ACT/AMT
    5. July 2008 - continue to refine the Education Plan II materials
  - iii. Each state team will look for cross team priority issues in their refining and prioritization process. These will also be considered in the compilation of the materials. Lee Yokel will send ACT guidance to the groups.
  - iv. Everyone is supposed to be looking for how to cross teams with actions. ACT is helping with communication and cooperative efforts. At the same time they are looking to teams to seek these things out. Feed information to other teams what these are doing to look for overlapping activities<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a postponed of the regularly scheduled calls

<sup>2</sup> This is the first recommendation to the ACT for the AMT to consider in the upcoming August All-Hands meeting agenda.

- b. August 2008 deadline – All Hands GOMA Meeting  
August 19-21, 2008, Corpus Christi, Texas – The EEC presented an extremely draft list of agenda items for the August meeting.

Update: Lee Yokel communicated with Terry Teague at the Gulf of Mexico Program who is coordinating PIT breakout needs and meeting logistics. Terry will work to reserve the entire day of Tuesday, August 19, 2008 for an EEN meeting if the agenda develops to need the extra time.

- i. ACT is communicating agenda needs for the PITs and making sure agenda time is available. Make your request to the ACT. EEC will follow-up with the cumulative requests from this call.
- ii. EEN All-Hands agenda request<sup>3</sup>: Cross-team actions to include PIT leads
  1. The EEN is requesting a discussion to tease out cross-team actions
    - a. Items to discuss include how to engage cross-team actions, what do they like it, look at who is doing this as a model.
    - b. Also include the linkages of the ACT and their charge. Have ACT give a presentation at some point to discuss mechanisms to increase communication as they are still defining their role.
      - i. ACT presentation
      - ii. Cross-team PIT Discussion
- iii. EEN All-Hands agenda request<sup>4</sup>: Have the AMT discuss resource commitments for the action plan
  1. Request commitments be put in draft action plan II for the AMT to review; EEN requests AMT comments for EEN review at the August meeting
  2. Request a panel at the All-Hands meeting to discuss commitment issue – make metric for leveraging and partnerships
- iv. EEN All-Hands agenda request<sup>5</sup>: How to capture community involvement in a meaningful way. The concept of local community involvement was briefly discussed. How do we incorporate GOMA into what we are doing? How do we incorporate this into the next five-year plan? What are other states doing? Examples noted were the UUP programs and the JL Scott MEC student and teacher programs revolving around thematic issues that were GOMA related.
  1. Put concept of local community involvement on the All-Hands agenda
  2. If this item doesn't make it into the overall agenda, it will be moved to the EEN breakout session of the meeting

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<sup>3</sup> This is the first agenda request to the All-Hands Agenda

<sup>4</sup> This is the second request to the All-Hands Agenda

<sup>5</sup> This is the third request to the All-Hands Agenda – if not included here then this issue will move to the EEN specific portion of the August break out agenda

- v. Suggested Agenda Items for the EEN meeting component of the All-Hands meeting (see sample agenda at bottom of these notes)
  - 1. The first action plan had items everyone could do; we need a process where commitments are made and this discussion could be held on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>
    - a. Will attempt to put commitments in first draft for AMT review so we will see ahead of time their comments
    - b. Can still have discussion in August on commitments
    - c. If an overall panel discussion is not held in the All-Hands meeting then it will be held in the EEN break-out
  - 2. Steering Committee members which will help with the August EEN agenda but are not leading the effort include: Sharon Walker, Tabitha Stadler, and Rafael Calderon

### 3. Fall Public Meeting

- a. EEN Requested to host General Public Meeting for all Priority Issues. The EEC gave a brief overview of the requests and Steve Wolfe with the ACT was on hand to discuss the request of the AMT to the EEN. The two points requested were that the EEN work with each state's PIT leads to hold a minimum of one public meeting in each state and for the EEN to make a recommendation for the structure and format of that meeting.
  - i. The AMT feels we need public input before finalizing action plan
  - ii. The AMT had wanted the input before August to review but time didn't allow it
  - iii. The ACT was tasked with figuring out how to make this happen
  - iv. Causes problems in how do we do this – how do we incorporate this? How would we incorporate new things?

There was quite a bit of discussion revolving around 1) why or why not to hold fall public meetings and 2) how to get public input in the plan. Everyone agreed that public input was a good idea but the mechanism was in question.

Problems identified with fall public meetings:

- 1. How will public's input be used at that advanced stage of Plan development?
- 2. Will the public understand the process?
- 3. Can be bias in location with large states which would require additional meetings and thus more planning and time
- 4. Attendance burnout
- 5. Hosting workshop burnout
- 6. Local hosts are constantly gathering public input on their activities
- 7. Failure to respond back to the community on their initial input
- 8. One voice issues make the plan reflecting a localized but not regional issue
- 9. Feeling that there are already too many meetings
- 10. Concern for time, travel costs, and gas prices for attendees
- 11. Daytime meeting will garner "the usual people" who have already had input
- 12. Evening meeting may create "one voice issue" problems
- 13. Some PITs feel they have already reached their public and stakeholders

Recommendations for accomplishing Fall public input to Action Plan II

1. Purpose: Needs to be more tightly defined: may include approval of draft actions to date, input toward missing items, input regarding new items
  2. Utilize Technology – vet draft through the internet, email, and a survey type mode.
  3. Work through: regional newspapers with public notices of online availability, existing non-profit networks, existing NEP, NERRs, CELCs, Sea Grant, and similar connections, reach to first set of community meeting participants.
  4. If web-based recommendation is accepted will need specialists to help with this activity.
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4. State Education Standards – This agenda item was moved to the next call.
  6. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 11, 2008 1:00PM CDT was the original schedule however it was postponed to Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 1:00PM CDT.
  7. Adjourn

To view other Priority Issue Team Activities: <http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/>

**Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
Governors' Action Plan  
Implementation and Integration Workshop  
August 19-21, 2008  
Corpus Christi, Texas**

**DRAFT Agenda  
Very Tentative Schedule – Draft Proposed Items**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2008**

12:00 – 1:30            Lunch

1:30 – 4:30            Review Goals and Action for Action Plan II

**Wednesday, August 20, 2008**

9:00 – 12:00            All-Hands Report Action Plan I Successes

12:00 – 1:30            Lunch

1:30 – 5:30            Priority Issue Team Breakout

1:30-3:30            Action Plan I Updates  
                         Florida Alliance Educators  
                         EEN Website  
                         UUP  
                         Public Awareness Campaign DISL  
                         Other?

3:30 – 5:00            Environmental Education Network Structure  
                         Organizational review  
                         Restructuring  
                         Responsibilities

5:00 – 5:30            Summarize Meeting  
                         Verify report out information to PITS  
                         Identify next steps

**Thursday, August 21, 2008**

9:00 – 12:00            Priority Issue Teams Report