

Gulf of Mexico Alliance
Environmental Education Network
Steering Committee
Wednesday, October 10, 2007 2:00 PM CDT

Attendance

John Dindo
Bryan Fluech
Sharon Hayes
Tabitha Stadler
Tara Schultz
Sharon Hodge
Sharon Walker
Lee Yokel

1. Roll Call – Lee Yokel
2. Public Awareness Campaign Update
 - a. Earth Gauge – fact development
Sharon Walker
NMEA chapters providing resources & NEEF
Sharon Hayes
3. Website/Clearinghouse Update
 - a. Is there a logo on USGS site?
 - b. Let AMT know about USGS
4. GOMA draft checklist (see next page of this agenda) – Lee Yokel

Not a formal method of dissemination – who does this go to?
Send to Terry or Brent to FWG for approval

5. New Working Group – K-12?
6. Future Meetings
 - a. Face to Face meetings in each state?
 - b. Structure of future yearly conferences

NMEA last week of July

Suggest joint meeting of two groups so much similarity but keep business separate. Have professional development on topic of interest to both groups – assessment, public awareness, something we can collectively use. End of May might be a better time for meeting as a lot is happening in June and July.

There are formal educators on the boards of SAME. May is end of testing; need something of value for formal educators if we bring them in. We need formal educator input to really find out from them what works in the classroom for them so be careful with time. May 24/25 may usually done in MS ... make sure there is a group available.

Suggestion to keep moving around to different places. Take advantage of NERRs for different locations. Pick a state where teachers might be available.

Texas marine educators have two meetings a year – March or early April. Florida marine educators typically meet at the end of April. Clear goals and objectives needed to be developed for the potential meeting. Professional development time?

Is it being done anywhere else? Cosee Florida did some of this

COSEE in Nov scientists coming to talk about global change/ocean and human health

Mixed formal and informal edu

Another option maybe don't have to have teachers there? Maybe train the trainers?

Like separate business from other annual meeting – good to hook up with other group – who's meeting when and go with a decision – like bring in other audiences like teachers or college level – broader we can spread the word.

February 20 2008 informal science education Assoc of Texas; very broad, having teacher panel.

Announcements & Discussions

Experiential learning follow-up from Fluech. Are conducting field experiences in their watershed – what are the effects?

Stadler, community workshops regarding the Gulf. State of the Gulf Conference on Jan 11 – targeting elected officials for SW Florida.

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Program Checklist

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) is a regional collaborative among federal, state, and other interests to address shared issues of coastal ecosystems. In March of 2006, the Governors' Action Plan for a Healthy and Resilient Coast was signed by all five Gulf of Mexico Governors. The Action Plan identified five major issues that need to be addressed. These included:

- Water Quality for Healthy Beaches and Shellfish Beds
- Wetland and Coastal Conservation and Restoration
- Identification and Characterization of Gulf Habitats
- Reducing Nutrient Inputs to Coastal Ecosystems
- Environmental Education
- Coastal Resiliency (New 2007)

This document is a self-assessment to be used by anyone that is interested in tying their project/program to one or more of the GOMA issues. To identify a specific action or step go to this website <http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/welcome.html> and click on "Governors' Action Plan" to reach the implementation matrix spreadsheet.

1. Does your program apply to one or more of the following priority issues?

Yes No

Where possible, check the specific action – OR – go to the above website and note which parts of the plan your program reflects.

- WQ Improving water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish
- R Reducing wetlands loss, thereby restoring and conserving coastal
- ID Providing improved management of Gulf habitats through
- N Reducing nutrient input to coastal watersheds in the Gulf
- ED Environmental Education
- CR Coastal Resiliency

Note specific actions: _____

2. Are you willing to involve GOMA priority issues team(s) or the appropriate Alliance audience (priority issue team members, state leads, recommended contacts, etc)?

Yes No

3. Are you willing to communicate the results of your program to the appropriate priority issue team or similar representative?

Yes No

4. Examples of suitable programs include but are not limited to (check which applies)

workshop field trip symposia displays events mobile exhibit presentation
committee classroom activity monitoring publication
Other

List Other: _____

5. Are you willing to carry a GOMA slogan or logo on your materials?

Yes No

If you've answered yes to questions 1, 2, 3, and 5 then your program is applicable to GOMA. If you would like assistance connecting your project/program to the Gulf of Mexico Alliance or would like to be involved in one other Priority Issue Teams, please contact one of the following.

Information on who to contact List people for each priority issue – federal staffers or state leads or both (this needs to be decided).