

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

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 2:00 PM CST

Attendance

John Dindo
Bryan Fluech
Sharon Hayes
LaKeshia Robertson
Phillip Hinesley
Christian Ercolani
Sharon Walker
Alison Hammer
Joseph Grant
Doc Smoot
Lee Yokel

1. Roll Call – Lee Yokel

Denise seeing what is going on and try to catch up.
LaKeshia Robertson is assisting all the leads.

2. Alliance Management Team Meeting/Future Planning

At the Alliance Management Team Meeting in November, the second phase of the Action Plan was discussed.

In January the AMT will make a decision on the priority issues that will be included in this Plan and on the makeup of the priority issues teams. The Education team was discussed and no changes were recommended for this group.

From January to April input will be gathered from the priority issue teams, the federal and state partners, the public, and stakeholders (NGOs, business, academia).

A draft plan will be presented at the All Hands Meeting in July

A final plan will be published by January of 2009, in time for the incoming administration.

Formal agreement being put out on table to formalize makeup of the Alliance.

First week of January for AMT – after this, if it is approved we'll move forward.

Potential Meeting Hosts/Locations

Rookery Bay – Florida – Bryan, Christian

Five Rivers – Alabama – Phillip & Amy & Kelly Brinkman POTF

Mississippi - MSU – NGI – Hodge/Walker; Grand Bay

Louisiana – Sea Grant

Texas – Sea Grant – NEP/NERR

Meeting in April – Walker good to set a tentative date and let everyone look at them – set well in advance of April – Piggy back on something.

Hayes – host something at Stennis? April steering – good central location; polycom or telecomm?
Hayes says yes, will look into it.

3. Funding Update

* EPA RFP – don't hold your breath, no movement, maybe before Christmas, draft hasn't gone to region IV; 08 for release of RFP

* NOAA CSC – notice from Todd Davidson – funding opportunity with quick turn around – anything supporting Alliance action plan – intent due Jan 10 at 4PM – full proposal Feb. 8; Hinging on review by Congress

Start date Oct 08 for FY08 funds www.csc.noaa.gov/funding

NOAA update on their funding efforts - ? mid January

Maybe this is what they will use for getting other coordinators

There was no discussion on this by the AMT

Rookery bay model through the states – coordinator to help those

Rookery bay positions – one at rook and one at Apalachicola – no updates at this point; were watching state budget cuts.

4. Website – what is the status of the updates for public site – is with Gary then will go to Stephanie then will advise her staff; Brent Ache does have the updates – Ercolani trying to expedite the process

a. Hodge – position for web person went out last week

5. Public Awareness Campaign

PAC – nutrients and coastal resiliency will be the focus.

Earth Gauge – MSU – long distance learning broadcast

Walker – met with Sara and Ann at Earth Gauge – sent information to them; provided them quite a bit on contacts COSEE NMEA Sea Grant – marine and aquatic venues.

5 Future Meetings – should we make it every other year due to funding? Hayes has written language in RFP for funds to pay travel to meetings – hard to do just need to put in place – Walker if we do with GCOOS has travel for 24 people and no decision made yet – trying to hire coordinator and anywhere in Gulf would be anywhere; what is the best time? (19)21-25 third week is NMEA

Business meeting in July and then separate meeting – need host

6. Other Remarks

7. Assign duties and have deadlines

8. Set date for next call

9. Adjourn

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