

Federal Working Group Conference Call
March 29, 2012 10:00-11:00 am

Todd Davison welcomed callers

- Thanked everyone for joining
- Roll call
- Purpose of Federal Working Group is support of GOMA
- Changes and activity in the Gulf has necessitated regular calls

Todd introduced the three Federal leads for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance

- Gloria Carr – EPA
- Linda Kelsey – FWS
- Russ Beard – NOAA

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Update – Phil Bass

- Alliance appreciates federal support
- Phil began GOMA coordination role about one year ago through EPA IPA
- Change since we first started to form the alliance,
 - 10 different governors have been involved
 - 7 gubernatorial changes since inception
- Alliance Management team (AMT) with representatives from each state communicate regularly on monthly calls
- Alliance Coordination Team with leadership from states and team leads, maintains connection between the AMT and the Priority Issue Teams (PITs)
- Each PIT has an EPA and a NOAA representative for support
- Began with some priorities and white papers
- Developed an action plan
- Developed a structure to reflect what we do
- Partners asked for something more formal. They write a letter, and we accept the partnership. Recent partnerships include the Agricultural and Extension Research Centers, SARP, LCCs, GCOOS, Sea Grant, HRI, NGI, and many others are critical to the success of GOMA
- In 2011, GOMA lost dedicated \$5M NOAA funding
- Received \$250,00 for administrative support, PIT coordinators
- GOMA teams are still getting things done because of the Federal partners
- August 2010 decision to form a 501c3 organization
- Sept 2010 BP asked GOMA to manage a \$500M research fund over the course of 10 years.
- Formalized by-laws and completed non-profit status
- Hired Laura Bowie, no federal funds are used to support the alliance office.
- Mike Carron hired to manage research institute
- Agreement was reached by all five states and BP granting GOMA management of the research funds

- Agreement requires that proposals undergo an independent review
- In order to avoid being considered a 'captured charity' [i.e. when a non-profit receives all/most of its funding from one source], the GOMA 501(c)3 could not administer the money directly, so the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) has been hired to handle peer review and majority of the money.
- GCOOS and HRI handle data management
- Leadership of GOMA began in Florida under Jeb Bush, with Kacky Andrews as the chair.
- Rotated to Mississippi, Haley Barbor with Bill Walker as chair.
- In December, the lead rotated to Bobby Jindall with Jerome Zeringe as the new chair. Jerome is easy to work with and the move has not changed the way the alliance is working.
- Universities in the Gulf formed a research collaborative with 70 research institutes from around the gulf, GOMRC. Andy Sheppard is coordinating from USF, good opportunity for future and opens doors for research, breaking down competitive barriers
- Meeting with Shell oil to form business and industry advisory council.
- Hope to become a regional planning body
- June 19 corpus Christi annual meeting, need sponsorships.

Questions from group:

- Doug Jacobson – is GOMRC broader than NGI?
- Phil – yes, NGI has only 5 university members
- Heather – do we have a bulleted timeline of the alliance progression?
- Phil – Pulling some institutional memory items together to document

Todd asked Camille Destafney for update on Regional Planning Body for CMSP

- Federal co-lead is Navy region southeast – Bruce Cwalina is lead Navy with Camille Destafney assisting
- States will choose a State co-lead.
- Regional Planning Body will be formed in response to the National Ocean Policy recommendation for a National Ocean Council. CEQ has formed the council with the objective to implement Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning across 9 regions of the country with a RPB
- Federal co-lead is the Navy
- Each state will have a representative on the RPB, and a tribal member if appropriate.
- Next step, NOC to send out letters requesting Point of Contact and membership for each state and tribe on the RPB.
- RPB needs to coordinate with GOMA without duplication.
- CMSP handbook has a capacity section which points to GOMA pretty strongly.
- Navy will stand up RPB in next two years.
- No additional resources to do this work, challenging.
- Would like to have a Federal member RPB meeting at all hands
- If RPB membership identified before All Hands, a full RPB meeting may be possible.

Questions from group:

- Todd – how will RPB coordinate and integrate with management team and federal working group?
- Camille – agree list of federal work group and RPB list do not have lots of overlaps, we will need to find the intersections, and reduce duplication
- Linda Kelsey – will hand book out with the letters, will we have access
- Camille – will be posted to the CEQ website
- Linda – will help us determine who the right people are
- Phil – Four states have sent letter to president for clarification and understanding
- Camille – there has been controversy. The guidance directs the process to be a consensus based decision making process. People at the table will need to discuss.
- Todd – GOMA put together a great proposal for ROP funding which focuses on CMSP activities, how will this play with the RPB efforts?
- Camille – Corpus as a start for a discussion about this
- Larry Handley – Oil spill restoration plans are on-going, lots of data being generated and plans for pulling together restoration efforts, RPB needs to be fully enveloped into the process

Todd gave an overview of the NOAA FFO for regional ocean partnerships, focuses on CMSP

- FY 08-10 NOAA got \$5M to distribute in Gulf States to implement the GOMA action plan
- In FY11 the FFO became nationally competitive and was funded nationwide at \$6M.
- GOMA only received support money, but not CMSP implementation project funds.
- FY12 funding is only \$4M nationwide.
- GOMA is working on CMSP proposal, appears to be a well thought out good proposal.
- Proposals are due by Monday next week.
- Decision will be made May 7, before all hands.

Questions from group:

- Linda – Do each of the regions get money
- Todd – Competitive, No formula, given funding level, probably no more than half will be funded

Closing business

- Todd asked the group how they would like to conduct these calls, frequency, format, topics?
- Todd proposed monthly on the last Thursday
- Keep calls topical and talk through issues as they come up.
- Linda agreed that monthly is good with current activities and ramping up
- Todd promised notes from calls when people can't attend.
- Russ Beard and Gloria Car agreed as well.

