

GOMA Federal Workgroup Call

4/26/12

Attendance

DOD

COE – Susan Rees (Mobile Dist.)

Navy – Barbara Howe

NASA – Ted Mason,
Duane Armstrong

DOI

FWS – Bill Pearson,
Cindy Dohner

USGS – Jerry McMahon
Scott Wilson
Kate ?
Mathew Andrews
Derin Stern
Larry Handley
Phillip Turnipseed

NPS – Carrie Rain

NOAA

Todd Davison
Ann Weaver
Heidi Stiller
Laurie Rounds
Robin Burns
Kristen Laursen
Heather Young
Amy Clark
Miles Croom
Russ Beard
Chris Sinigalliano
Cathy Tortorici

EPA

John Bowie
Ben Skaggs – John Bowie, Troy and 6 others from GoMP
Steve Jordan—Gulf Ecology Lab
Dr. Jacobsen Region 6

GOMA

Laura Bowie

Todd opened the meeting by taking roll and welcoming Ben Skaggs from the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Office. Ben has recently become the new Director of the Program.

Ben Skaggs, Director, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office

Has been with the EPA 20 years

Most time in research triangle in North Carolina piedmont

He is interested in relationship building with federal, state, local agencies and private sector

He is still in the learning phase of the job and is working to determine the best ways to connect

He hopes over time to visit each program and meet everyone at the GOMA All Hands meeting in Corpus in June.

Next, Todd introduced Bill Pearson– FWS Supervisor of the Alabama Office

Bill

- **The FWS Northern Gulf Coastal Program** includes Alabama, Mississippi, and parts of coastal Louisiana. The coordinator of this program is Patric Harper, based at Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Moss Point MS.
- The focus in the last two years has been long leaf pine conservation, pitcher plant bog restoration, invasive species research, barrier island plantings, marsh bird habitat restoration, living shoreline techniques research and a number of other projects. All the money that has come to the program has been applied to these activities and leveraged.
- For more information, please see the one page fact sheet that was sent through email from Todd D.
- Cindy Dohner Coordinates the Gulf Regional Coastal Program
- Cindy mentioned that there are 3 additional coastal programs in the Gulf, Panama City, Florida, another in Tampa Bay and another in South Florida.
- FWS would like to work with all GOMA FWG partners to make sure we are connected through similar interests with other agencies. One important partner we are working with right now is DOD in the Gulf region to help manage lands and buffers.
- Issues that may connect FWS with agencies in the Gulf include:
 - water quality and nutrient impacts
 - coastal resiliency
 - habitat restoration and conservation

Q. Larry Handley: what is the intension for dove tailing or leveraging DWH?

A. Cindy Dohner – We are working closely with Debbie DeVore – we give her input, coordinating to make sure funding in the pipeline is on the DOI list, and provide technical input to NRDA

Next, Todd introduced Jerry McMahon – **DOI South East Climate Center**

- For more details on the talk please see the Powerpoint Presentation distributed by email from Todd Davison
- Background – Secretary Salazar created the centers in March 2009,
- Wanted to study the effects of Climate Change on resources and provide science based information for making resource management decisions
- Created 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
- These LCCs have a conservation and management strategy, partnering with a large number of agencies, who are working with people making decisions

- The Southeast region extends from Kansas to Virginia, down to Oklahoma and Texas and across the Gulf. It incorporates parts of 7 LCCs.
- All DOI CECs are located on a university campus; the Southeast is located at North Carolina State, which provides access to tools and technologies the USGS doesn't usually have access to.
- Recognize and work with overall challenges about the issue and the culture
- The Center has an approved science plan, includes priority science activities
- Each of the host institutions get some money to fund grad students, educating the future scientists
- 12 grad students supported by SE CSC this year
- Better climate change info may not lead to better decisions, needs to be relevant to managers
- Work within adaptive management philosophy, do science, foster learning
- In the last slide of the presentation there is criteria to judge effectiveness of the LCCs so that ultimately resource management decisions are improved

Next, Todd introduced Phillip Turnipseed – Director of **National Wetlands Research Center** located in Lafayette LA

- For more details on the talk please see the Powerpoint Presentation distributed by email from Todd Davison
- 160 people, Web and data visualization applications, researchers, ecologists, etc.
- Focus on Climate science, natural hazards, restoration, some examples:
 - Support the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
 - Radar technology
 - International work
 - Two Landscape Conservation Cooperatives are co-located in the wetlands center
 - Land area change in coastal la
 - Temporal component to show when the land was lost as well
 - Coast wide CWPPR
 - 390 sites collecting data in cooperation with many agencies and organization
- Cathy Tortorici (NOAA NMFS) encouraged that there should be a partnership to develop an integrated science plan for the Gulf since several Federal agencies have ongoing efforts similar to USGS. Phil and other agreed.
- Russ Beard (NCDDC—NOAA) and Phillip recently talked about the need to integrate science plans at the Gulf Climate Community of Practice meeting in New Orleans.
- Steve Jordan (EPA Gulf Ecology Lab) – number of research efforts for the gulf – his office has developed a white paper – gulf priorities – would like to do a presentation for the group and further the conversation.

Todd – Good work in all of our agencies, many are collaborating, there are still some stove pipes. It's important to continue to collaborate and leverage. We hope these calls can assist. Perhaps over the next few months and after the GOMA all-hands we can discuss a face-to-face meeting of the FWG to develop an integrated science agenda.

Laura Bowie (GOMA) – spoke about the Alliance All Hands meeting in June at the Corpus Christi Omni. Discussions will center on how we can work together and not duplicate efforts, and leverage. Register on the website. There is no registration fee. Still looking for sponsors, Harte Research Institute has sponsored a large reception at the TX State Aquarium—all are invited.

Dwayne Armstrong (NASA Applied Science and Technology)--is hosting a Google Geospatial Seminar on May 1 at Stennis to demonstrate some powerful easy-to-use Google geospatial tools. To register go to this link: <http://science.community.nasa.gov/home/workshops/geospatial-seminar-reg>

Troy Pierce (EPA GoMP) – Wonder if the Phil Turnipseed (USGS NWRC), the GoMP and EPA Region 6 can coordinate work on Lake Pontchartrain and Urban Watershed initiatives? Similar efforts in each agency Phillip – Would love to do that

Todd – Thank you all for future calls, please send Todd topics of interest, and ideas about how to involve others on this call.