

GOMA Federal Workgroup

Meeting Notes 10/25/12

Gulf Regional Planning Body (RPB) update from Camille Destafney, Dept. of Navy

- The RPBs are specifically for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)
- Revisions of the NOP Implementation Plan and the CMSP Handbook are due to be released mid-November by the National Ocean Council (NOC); the revisions should take into account the comments received when the draft plan was out for public review. To see the draft plan and public comments received go to www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans
- NOC and Navy have been in close contact with the five Gulf States about their nominations to RPB. NOC Director Deerin Babb-Brott recently indicated that AL, MS and LA are ready for their NOC letters requesting who to appoint to the RPB; however FL says that it does not have the staff resources to participate at this time. TX is waiting to see if their comments to the draft NOP Implementation Plan and CMSP Handbook were incorporated before they name their representative.

Todd Davison sent the GOMA FWG a list of the Federal Agency reps named to the Gulf RPB.

EPA Gulf of Mexico Program—update on FFO and Gulf Guardian Awards—Diane Altsman

- GoMPO's budget for Gulf awards this year is going to be \$2.5-\$3.5M;
- There are 30 active projects from previous awards
- GoMPO Director Ben Scaggs recently notified applicants of last year's RFP that he does not intend to make awards on that RFP as there is no money to do so. Instead, he intends to "make good" on existing multi-year awards.
- EPA intends to conduct a series of webinars with potential applicants (states, locals and NGOs) to find out what their needs are. Based on this input GoMPO anticipates another RFP in the spring of 2013.
- EPA will again be sponsoring the Gulf Guardian awards in 2013. For details and both English and Spanish nomination applications see www.epa/gmpo. Nominations are due March 8, 2013. The Guardian awards ceremony will be held at the GOMA All Hands meeting.

Update from GOMA—Phil Bass and Laura Bowie

- Transition of GOMA leadership from Bill Walker (MS) to Jerome Zeringue has been seamless and effective. Bill Walker's term on NOC ends in March and GOMA will likely nominate Jerome Z. for that position.
- GOMA is prepared to assist RESTORE Act Council however they need us to.
- GOMA held its first Business Advisory Council meeting in September; elected co-chairs --Kent Satterlee from Shell Oil and Flinda Hill from MS Power; still need reps for 3 industries (transportation, seafood, and agriculture.) Delmer Stamps (USDA) mentioned that he could help GOMA with an Ag rep. First meeting of Business Advisory Council went well. Shell, in particular, might fund some GOMA projects. Council wants to track RPB, NRDA and RESTORE Act processes. They recommend RPB and CMSP should stay non-regulatory. Also interested in the Rigs-to-Reefs initiative.
- GOMA has been asked to adopt the EJ Ambassadors from EPA. In the past EPA and NOAA have supported environmental justice ambassadors. Represent underserved communities. One involved in each PIT. The current support from NOAA and EPA is diminishing with budget cuts. They're proposing that GOMA sponsor this group. The Ambassadors have served the Alliance well. GOMA AMT has taken this under consideration. Hope to make decision by end of the year.
- Reminder about the GoMRI Conference in January 21-23, 2013 in NOLA. There are over 700 registered to date and over 1,000 are expected. The meeting will be the most comprehensive science gathering to date on the Gulf oil spill. See <http://gulfofmexicoconference.org/> for details.

The next GOMA FWG call is Thursday Nov. 29 at 10:00 Central/ 11:00 Eastern