

Federal Working Group Notes Jan 31, 2013

Todd Davison NOAA Gulf Coast Services Center welcomed the group to the call as ask attendees to introduce themselves by agency:

EPA Bob Howard Jan Kurtz John Bowie	NOAA David Kidwell Shelby Walker Todd Davison Becky Allee Heather Young Rost Parsons Michelle Finn Ann Weaver Robin Burns Amy Clark Alan Lewitus Charlie Henry Rob Magnien
ACOE Jenny Jacobson	
NASA Duane Armstrong Nancy Searaby Ted Mason	
DOI – BOEM Pat Roscigno Mike Minor James Sinclair	USDA Delmar Stamps
USGS Phil Turnipseed Scott Wilson Kate Spear Larry Handley Alyssa Dausman	GOMA Laura Bowie Navy Camille Destafney BOEM Pat Roscigno Mike Miner James Sinclair

Todd introduced Dr. Shelby Walker and asked her to review the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring and Technology Program (RESTORE)

Dr. Walker thanked the Federal Working Group for the opportunity to highlight efforts on the program. She focused on Section 1604 of RESTORE which will be funded by 2.5% of the trust fund that is established by the RESTORE Act. This will be comprised of 80% of penalties recovered from the Deep Water Horizon oil spill civil penalties to the Clean Water Act and will also receive 25% of annual interest and investment proceeds earned on the trust fund. Dr. Shelby’s presentation is attached to this email and details the requirements and NOAA role and approach.

Treasury is still deliberating on regulations, timeline and this program

At the end of the presentation the phone was opened to questions for Shelby.

Laura Bowie with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance mentioned some NOAA tools available for this work, especially their portal grid and e-data repository. Shelby noted that these would be good leveraging

opportunities and pointed out that the RESTORE Science program wants to take advantage of existing tools and data and not reinvent the wheel.

John Bowie asked if monitoring support for projects that are put forth by the states will be funded by these monies.

Shelby said that there have been a lot of discussions about what this means compared to what the council will be funding. And that ideally all projects funded by the council should have a monitoring and observation component built in. They will be looking for programs that are complimentary to the work of the council.

JB is not thinking of just council projects but also the percent of money that is going directly to the States; these may not have monitoring attached to them.

SW said that projects need to ensure monitoring needs are discussed from the beginning.

Heather Young asked if there is a plan for coordination with the Fisheries Management Council and Commission.

SW said that coordination is on everyone's mind. One of the steps they are taking is adding the council and commission to the advisory body, which meets 2-3 times per year. This will give them and us the opportunity for consultation.

Becky Allee clarified that there have been a couple of misreads of act itself. Money will not go straight to the commission, program implementation in consultation with council.

Todd will send cleared RESTORE Science materials to group.

Next up is David Kidwell from NOAA National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science, Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR). He will tell us about a research project that is looking at the ecological effects of sea level rise.

This project focuses on the ecological effects, but the tools and products will be of use to the build environment.

This project has a large number of PIs to cover all of the disciplines necessary to make the project applicable. A management team works with the researchers to ensure that the products are applicable to their work. David's presentation is attached to this email for details.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Rob Magnien reflected that the EESLR approach that Dave spoke about in his presentation, the management team that discusses their needs with the scientists and influences the project outputs can inform the RESTORE act information we heard in Shelby's presentation about engaging a large group of stakeholders and management team to ensure results are targeted to increase the utility of the research. He hopes the administration of RESTORE funds will follow this model.

A questioner from the phone asked how this project fits with the Global fiducial program, if they are using existing fiducial sites or incorporating these sites.

Not that Dave is aware of.

Todd: Thank you Dave. Laura Bowie, any GOMA updates to be aware of?

Laura: The 2013 All Hands meeting will be held the week of June 24 in Tampa. Please let Laura know if you want to have meetings and she will arrange space for you. Todd will send the announcement to this group for the All Hands.

The Alliance Coordination Team is working on a proposal to submit to NOAA for the Regional Ocean Partnership RFP. The proposal is due next week.

Todd: Thank you all for attending and let me know if there subjects you would like to hear about on this call. The next call will be Feb 28th at the same time.