

Federal Working Group Call October 31, 2013

Participants on the call:

<p><b>EPA</b> John Bowie Steve Jordan</p> <p><b>USGS</b> Alyssa Dausman Scott Wilson Kate Spear Larry Handley Phil Turnipseed</p>	<p><b>NPS</b> Anna Toline</p> <p><b>FWS</b> Linda Walker</p> <p><b>BOEM</b> Pat Roscigno</p> <p><b>ACOE</b> Larry Parson David Bauman</p>	<p><b>NOAA</b> Alan Lewitus Kristen Laursen Amy Clark Chris Sinigalliano Christa Rabenold Marian Hanisko Julien Lartigue Todd Davison Ann Weaver Becky Allee</p>	<p><b>Navy</b> Barbara Howe</p> <p><b>NASA</b> Duane Armstrong</p> <p><b>GOMA</b> Laura Bowie</p> <p><b>Tampa Bay NEP</b> Holly Greening</p>
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Laura Bowie

GOMA updates

- Each PIT team has submitted 4 proposals to the AMT to finalize the action plan. There are many nice proposals, and good ideas. The AMT is looking at them now and will select by Thanksgiving. Headquarters is looking for private foundation funds for the good proposals that are not selected by the AMT.
- Marine Planning Meeting has been rescheduled for Feb 11.
- Registration for the State of Gulf Summit scheduled for March 24-27 will begin this month.
- The business advisory council has been quite involved with some of the team projects, and the Ports Gulf-wide Annual meeting has invited GOMA to speak about the HCRT beneficial use projects.
- GOMA was mentioned in an article from the northeast region that is very complimentary of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and our ability to focus on common interests within a region to get stuff done. The article was very complimentary of the way the Federal and State agencies have built trust among themselves in to support the efforts in the.  
<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/politics/2013/10/how-local-governments-hinder-our-response-natural-disasters/7362/>
- 2014 is ten year anniversary, and we will be contacting you for names of people who have been involved from the beginning.

Holly Greening, Director of the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program (Slides attached)

- NEPs cover 40% of the Gulf coast, from Corpus Christi to Charlotte Harbor
- Federally approved comprehensive plan, and a management plan.
- 20<sup>th</sup> year to restore and protect estuaries
- Fast facts about Tampa Bay
  - In 70's covered with macro algae, poster child for dead estuary
  - In late 70's citizens demanded action
  - Funds through clean water act
  - Treatment plants

- Remove 90% of nitrogen and kick started recovery
- TBNEP One of 28 NEPs
- Regulated and regulators are at same table to discuss ways to improve the bay.
- All agree to use sea grass restoration as the long term indicator of bay health.
- Developed a nitrogen management strategy.
- Managed based on chlorophyll in bay
- Targets total nitrogen loading, and developed a numeric acreage goal for seagrass
- Goals unattainable without private sector, voluntary nitrogen management consortium.
- Reduced nitrogen loading by 50%
- Went from point source to non-point source as the primary source of N
- The sea grasses are responding, reaching our goal as a result of improved water quality
- Consortium agreed to and developed voluntary caps
- Voluntary effort meeting regulatory requirements
- It's not all sunny, we are also facing Sea Level Rise, habitat loss, and population growth which is predicted to be 7million by 2050 from 3.8M in 2005
- Invasive species, lionfish, Brazilian pepper, air potatoe, and even though they aren't here yet, eventually we will probably see pythons!
- Successes so far are because
  - Everyone is working together
  - Science based numeric goals and targets
  - Monitoring to let us know when it's not working so we could adapt

#### Questions:

Steve Jordon \* There is an effective governance network in Tampa Bay, how much do you think that has contributed to the success?

Holly The ability to build trust, to allow local group to develop those as recommendations and working with them instead of coming in at the end has been the key. Trust, strong science and strong management.

Larry Parson, Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (Slides attached)

- Federal lead of the Gulf regional sediment management master plan
- The development of the master plan was a task out of the HCRT PIT.
- It was quite a task; the team struggled to get arms around the project in the context of restoration and conservation.
- We developed a working group with representatives from states, federal agencies and NGOs.
- Army Corps led the effort.
- We knew that any type restoration involves use of sediment.
- How does managing sediment support restoration and we came to realization that in natural system requires a holistic approach
- Spoil is a valuable resource
- Needed to understand natural processes before we could make recommendations and develop guidelines to deal with sediments
- Recognize there are numerous policies that had to be dealt with. Either work with or modify. This turned out to be one of the biggest challenges and still is
- Determining what the plan should contain was difficult

- provide recommendations and guidelines to lead management into using spoil in restoration and management of conservation projects on a regional scale
- Sediment is not jurisdictional, it moves
- We learned how it moves through system
- Provided Links between sources and needs
- Published the framework we developed to get the word out
- Framework presents all that needs to be considered