

Federal Working Group Call October 31, 2013

Participants on the call:

<b>GOMA</b> Tracie Sempier  <b>NAS</b> Bethany Mabee  <b>Louisiana</b> Karim Belhadjali	<b>FWS</b> Chris Pease  <b>BOEM</b> Melanie Damour  <b>ACOE</b> David Bauman  <b>Navy</b> Camille Destafney	<b>NOAA</b> Todd Davison Angela Sallis Amy Clark Ann Weaver Robin Burns Kim Albins Laurie Rounds Julien Lartigue Marian Hanisko	<b>USGS</b> Scott Wilson Larry Handley  <b>NRCS</b> Mary Williams James Curtis  <b>EPA</b> Steve Jordan
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**Tracie Sempier:**

GOMA updates:

The AMT is funding one PIT project for each PIT team. The selected projects will be in the Newsletter which will be out next week.

GOMA will be hosting the following meetings

- Convening meeting at the GOMRI conference to discuss ocean observation/monitoring
- Marine Planning Meeting on Feb 11 so the states can discuss planning efforts and data portal usage.
- Marine Reef Fisheries March 18 for states to discuss and compare how they run these programs
- Annual PIT team meetings, tentatively scheduled for the week of May 12

For more information, please contact Laurie Bowie or me at the following email addresses:

[Laura.bowie@gomxa.org](mailto:Laura.bowie@gomxa.org)

[Tracie.sempier@gomxa.org](mailto:Tracie.sempier@gomxa.org)

The first speaker is from the National Academy of Sciences to discuss the Gulf of Mexico Program

**Bethany Mabee**

(Presentation is attached)

The origin of the Gulf research program was the Deepwater horizon spill.

Responsible parties will be levied both civil and criminal fines.

\$350 million has been directed to NAS from BP and \$150M added from Transocean

This money must be spent over 30 years

NAS must comply with what the agreement requires, the media focus has been on the amount of money but there is also an exciting opportunity for advancement of science

NAS is chartered to provide independent, objective advice to congress and federal agencies

Also to educate the public, provide fellowships, and conduct workshops

Gulf Research Program

- Department of Justice structured the settlement directing NAS to focus on human health, environmental protection and oil systems safety
- All decisions about the use of funds must be science based, forward looking and have a long term perspective for the 30 year time frame.
- The program objectives, based on the settlement agreement, are research and development, education and training and environmental monitoring. This is not a funding allocation or priority, must be balanced. The agreements are available on the DOJ website.
- There is a 25 member advisory group with a breadth of experience and knowledge which creates multiple themes and perspectives to build into the vision. This group will guide planning of the program, identify broad opportunities; determine the program focus and operations.
- Funds will accumulate over the next 5 years and must be spent by 2043, \$15-25M per year
- This advisory group has taken ownership of process, and is trying to carefully consider some big dream type projects and engaging stakeholders.
- There will be a virtual meeting on Dec 5 to provide input (see note below)
- Challenges: fitting into the landscape, perceived needs of stakeholders, understanding what is on-going and who is doing what, and finding focus to build lasting impact. We are currently undergoing a strategic planning process and working on the plan. This is a disciplined effort to product clear purpose. For a list of activities and meetings visit our site [www.nas.edu/gulfprogram](http://www.nas.edu/gulfprogram)

Email note from Bethany to the group: Next month, we invite you to join the Gulf Research Program for a virtual listening meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 1pm EST. We welcome stakeholders from around the Gulf and the U.S. to join us to learn about our initial program planning and help the AG understand relevant issues and interests. Please use this link <http://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/1440313/Gulf-Research-Program-Virtual-Listening-Meeting> to register. The meeting will include an overview of the Gulf Research Program and an opportunity for discussion and input from participants. It will last about 90 minutes. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact Maggie Walser <mwals@nas.edu>. We welcome you to share this message with your colleagues.

Questions for Bethany:

- How do you see this program fitting with all the other initiatives currently happening in this area?
- Bethany: Great question. We are working with those involved in identified initiatives to determine opportunities to partner and identifying gaps in programs that present opportunities for us. We are in the process of gathering information and the advisory group is really considering everything that we know of that is occurring.
- Can you tell us what mechanism(s) you will use to get the money out, will there be an RFP?
- Bethany: There will be an RFP component eventually, but not for another year or so as we consider all the mechanisms available. The advisory committee is considering all the options as part of the planning process.
- This is an opportunity to develop a robust long term monitoring program, is that one of your priorities?
- Bethany: Yes this is a major consideration, we have heard that there are many gaps in environmental monitoring and we are considering how to best fill those gaps.

**Karim Belhadjali** Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana  
Louisiana's 2012 Coastal Master Plan  
(Slides attached)

Louisiana is currently in a coastal crisis, losing land at a rate of 16 square miles per year with the potential to lose an additional 1750 sq miles of land over the next 50 years

They need a plan

Legislature requires a plan every five years and the 2007 Master Plan is very detailed, the new plan wanted specificity with directions on how to implement the plan.

Kept objectives from 2007 plan and added another, to identify working coasts business and industry  
2012 master plan identifies investments that will pay off, we are resource constrained (water, sediment and funding) so we need to get something for our money.

CPRA evaluated 100's of existing projects and estimated that it would cost \$200 B to do them all, so they decided to identify projects that are grounded in science, responsive to needs of community, reduce risk and restore land and consider the ecosystem services that will be provided by the projects.

The planning team consists of the Army Corps of Engineers, outreach and engagement and advisory groups.

Local input into the process was prioritized, 120 presentations in 35 locations including navigation, fisheries and oil and gas focus groups.

Public was supportive of the final plan, they knew what it was. The outreach helped us think through the process and projects, hear about issues and concerns, act as a sounding board and develop partnerships. To assist with determining how effective a project might be, we used predictive models that looked at several variables to predict ecosystem services and risk assessments. Assessments were done using optimistic and moderate scenarios. The new plan will deliver a no net loss by the year 2042 if the predictive models are correct and the plan is implemented.

[www.coastal.la.gov](http://www.coastal.la.gov)

Questions:

- Subsidence is variable across the state, how do you factor that into the modeling and predictions?
- **Karim:** We used that information to make some decisions, for example, we modeled over 50 years and determined that it is not wise to invest in area that is subsiding so fast that you will not be able to restore fast enough to keep up.
- I commend your planning effort, is there effort to develop legislation to require the plan is implemented?
- **Karim:** We are using the plan to inform all NFWF and RESTORE projects and all restoration money we receive will be used to implement plan. The Governor is on board and says all state policies there should be consistent with the plan.
- When considering project types, instead of restoration and diversion, are you considering damage reduction by relocation, what are your thoughts on that process?
- **Karim:** We evaluate non-structural options, elevating homes, flood proofing and relocating. It will cost \$10 billion to that. We embarked on an 18 month process to determine how that aligns with missions and agencies doing non-structural road home, working with the parishes, and Sea Grant and conducting risk communication, trying to come up with a program to further refine

data for damages down to the block level so we can communicate about specifics and show future risk. It's interesting; no one was talking about this 4-5 years ago.

**Todd:** Thanks Bethany and Karim for the talks, and to all for joining us. We are looking into the next meeting, which is scheduled for December 21. That's close to the holidays, but if we can get speakers we will have it then. I'll let you know.