

## **GOMA Federal Work Group Call 4.24.14**

### **Participants:**

Jim Stefanov - USGS  
Marian Hanisko  
Todd Davison  
Ann Weaver  
Laura Bowie-GOMA  
Mike Carron-GoMRI  
Chuck Wilson-GoMRI  
Julien Lartigue  
Melanie Damour-BOEM  
Scott Cross  
Matt Chasse  
Cheryl Brodnax  
Alan Lewitus  
Heidi Stiller  
Delmar Stamp – USDA  
Chris Sinigaliano  
John Bowie-EPA  
Heather Young  
Russ Beard  
Scott Cross  
David Brown  
Becky Allee

### **Agenda**

#### **GOMA Overview**

- Formed by federal agencies and state governors in 2004. Federal agencies were supportive and that's how the FWG started.
- 6 issues were identified that all states had in common and agencies could support.
- Developed actionplans to address priorities and built partnership to include academics, NGOs, business and industry
- We are a regional partnership network. Our teams are centered around water quality, nutrients, ecosystem assessment, education, habitat conservation and restoration, and resilience.
- These teams have accomplished around 50 projects to date.
  - We have 875 members on all 6 teams collectively.
- Good attendance at AI-Hands meeting each year and lots of folks have joined the listerserv voluntarily (3900 folks on listserv!).
- The FWG advises the AMT. It's valuable to leadership of GOMA
- AMT met in Houston last month.

- One of the biggest agenda items was to talk about the future of the Action Plan. We have a 2006 and 2009 documents. The 2009 Action Plan goes from 2009-2014, so it's time to plan for the future.
- Next document might not need to be an Action Plan. It could be a Blueprint, which is a higher level document.
- The reason we are bringing this up today is that we need to discuss with partner networks. The questions we have designed for the call today will give input on this process.
- Input that you give today will be synthesized with input from states, PITs, polls from NGOs, academic and business partners. All of this will be given to the AMT when they meet in the fall to discuss the future plan.

### **Feedback Session (see responses in Adobe Connect)**

- What can GOMA do to help your agency accomplish its existing goals in the region?
- Are there other communication mechanisms we should be using?
- What does your agency think is the most valuable role for GOMA? Networking/convening, regional project coordination, both, other?
- Where do you want GOMA to go in the future? Are GOMA's 6 priority issues still priorities for your agencies? Has there been a shift?
- How can GOMA support up-coming programs such as restoration, marine planning, or others?
- What can GOMA do to enhance the ability of an agency to set future direction? If your priorities are included in the next GOMA strategic planning document, will that help your agency gain leverage for future strategic planning?

### **Next Steps**

- Questions will be sent out after the call, and folks can respond if they weren't on Adobe Connect today.
- GOMA will pull this info together in a synthesis document and bring it to PIT meetings in May. If you want to give further input, e-mail Laura. We want to have it by May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Synthesis document will guide PIT discussions.
- Suggestions will also be presented to Bus Advisory Council for input this summer.
- The Academic community will have input too.
- At fall AMT meeting, all of this combined info will be used to inform discussions and we should have a good idea about future direction.

### **Other Questions?**

- Do you want to provide answers received today so that folks can build from them? Or not?
  - Will give others the same opportunity we had today, so will include these responses in our e-mail to the entire group. If you feel like you didn't have enough space, feel free to augment answers. If you have more to say, use this opportunity to submit to Laura.
- Would it be helpful for agencies to share links to current strategic plans so they are all in one place?
  - Great idea. We can ask folks to send those documents (or links to them) as reference.
- Wonder if there's a way to collect answers these questions on-line as a Google Doc so that it can be a living document. If not too difficult
  - We will consider technology capabilities.

### **Update on PIT meetings**

- Deadline for room rate is Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- PIT meetings will be May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>
- We won't have a plenary this year. We will have more time to focus on project plans and funding sources.
- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate 10 years of GOMA. It will be a fun reception!
- Does anyone have a head count of feds for travel authorization for the meeting?
  - Laura will look up registration info and try to pass along the #s of NOAA, EPA, etc. Todd will send it out with the meeting notes.

**Next FWG call will be May 29<sup>th</sup>!**