

GOMA Federal Working Group Call Notes

1.28.16

Participants

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Robin Burns
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Kim Albins
Becky Allee
Brian Spears
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GOMA Updates – Laura Bowie

Events coming up:

- GoMRI Conference – Tampa, FL – Feb 1-4
<http://www.cvent.com/events/2016-oil-spill-and-ecosystem-science-conference/event-summary-52ad0b225ba54cf0960090070e6f8073.aspx>
- Resilience Team Meeting – Spanish Fort, AL – Feb. 2-4
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/goma-2016-coastal-resilience-team-winter-meeting-tickets-20079275654>

- Climate Community of Practice – Biloxi, MS – April 19-21
<http://masgc.org/climate-outreach-community-of-practice/annual-meeting-2016>
- Hypoxia Task Force – St. Louis, MO – April 25-27/28

GOMA All-Hands – Baton Rouge, LA – June 14-17

- Hilton Capital Center, Baton Rouge, LA
- Tools Café
- Cross team initiatives
- Add-on meetings: LCCs, TNC, Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation
 - Will be separate from team meetings so everyone can attend – probably held on Friday
 - Open meetings

Action Plan III

- Four of five Gulf state Governor's signatures
- Great work done by the groups working to write AP III – not an easy process, but very happy with the end result

GOMA 10-Year Report

- Want to acknowledge the great work of the teams, and the funded projects supporting GOMA priorities
- Electronic roll-out of report
- 150 projects by 6 teams during the course of AP1 and AP2 – foundational projects that laid the groundwork for the large-scale work that's happening/about to happen
- Coming soon: www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org

Regional Coastal Resilience Grant

- Project conducted by Resilience Team and Habitat Team with funding from NOAA Office for Coastal Management
- Adopt 10 communities throughout Gulf of Mexico with ~ \$45,000 mini grants and then shepherd the community through the steps to evaluate resilience and see what they can do with grant to increase their resilience
 - Adding signage, developing plan, or making structural changes

- Spread conducted by number of counties in each state, and ability to spread habitat and resilience team members
- Great opportunity to support some hands-on resilience
- Project advisory committee – will look for state/fed agencies to serve if you have information or tools that can help increase community resilience.
 - Call will go through resilience and habitat teams

Barriers and opportunities for landward migration of wetlands in the face of sea level rise and urbanization – Mike Osland, USGS, Nicholas Enright, Kereen Griffith

- Multi-LCC effort that includes the 4 Gulf LCCs
- Coastal wetlands support many ecosystem goods and services – strong interest in protecting these habitats
- Focused on SLR and urbanization
- Sought to identify where coastal wetlands may migrate landward in response to sea level rise
 - Areas of development leave no space for horizontal migration of wetlands
 - Also looking for areas of natural barriers (high slopes, etc)
- Salt flats, marshes, mangroves = Tidal saline wetlands
- Three key questions:
 - Where can landward migration of tidal saline wetlands occur?
 - Where are there barriers for landward migration of tidal saline wetlands?
 - How can protected lands accommodate landward migration of tidal saline wetlands?
- Data from many different sources
 - Then removed those areas that are permanent water bodies or areas that will not actually become wetland
- SLR data
 - Scenarios at 0.5, 1.0, 1.2, 1.5 and 2.0m by 2100
 - Time steps: Current, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, and 2100
- Factors influencing current tidal saline wetland boundary

- Tidal range
- Landscape position
- Watershed properties
- Climate
- Results
 - Abundant room at the regional level
 - South LA and South FL have abundant areas for movement
 - Lower topographic slope for migration
 - Fort Myers to Tampa has high area of current urban and future urban barriers
 - Southeast Louisiana, East Texas, and South Florida have highest concentration of barriers due to levees
- Data Availability
 - 100 raster data sets and 3 feature classes separated by time set
 - Data series report:
 - Detailed information about data and methodology
 - Data download:
 - <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/55f742a8e4b0477df11c0a2b>
 - Via Science Base
 - Can download according to SLR scenario or year or interest
 - Data viewer:
 - <http://gcpolcc.databasin.org/galleries/bbfff0152bb14aa5aea5012d02f3156f>
 - In Conservation Planning Atlas
 - Visual map tool for accessing and using data

Questions

- Really interested in Florida area where there are barriers to migration – how do you determine what a barrier is and specifically in the FL area, what are those barriers?

- We made the assumption that if an area is currently urban, that it would be protected in some way and serve as a barrier to wetland migration.
- Currently urban but at elevation where it would become future tidal saline wetland, it would be classified as a barrier
- Same assumption for future urban
- Could entail a bulkhead or beach nourishment?
 - Yes
- Are you available for presentations elsewhere? Have you reached out to planning groups, councils of government?
 - A couple, but the data was just made available recently
 - Going to Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Steering Committee
 - Contact if you want a presentation!
 - Maybe GOMA All-Hands tool café?