

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: August 9, 2006 (1:00–4:00 pm)
Location: SSMC3, Room 10836
Dial-in: 866.453.7960
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AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 1:10 Ed Council Participation in PPBES
- Review of Final POPs/Expectation of Goal Strategic Portfolio Analysis
 - Schedule
 - Aug 23--Goal Team Strategic Portfolio Analysis Due
 - Aug 23-September 7--Council review of Strategic Portfolio Analysis
 - Sept 7--Official Council Comment on Strategic Portfolio Analysis Due to PPI and PAE
- 2:00 200th Celebration Formal Education Piece
- 2:45 Environmental Literacy Grant RFA Priorities
- 3:35 Updates/Announcements
- 3:55 Upcoming Council Meetings: Dates & Proposed Agenda Items
- ***August 30—Scheduled for review of Strategic Portfolio Analysis and development of comments/recommendations for PPI & PAE***
 - September 20, 2006
 - October 18, 2006
 - November 15, 2006
- 4:00 Adjourn

Meeting Summary

In attendance: Louisa Koch (chair), Susan Baker, Kim Benson, Gene Cope, Tom Cox, Katie Dombrowski, Ron Gird, Jennifer Hammond, Bob Hansen, Molly Harrison, Jorgeann Hiebert, Liza Johnson, Meka Laster, Michiko Martin, John McLaughlin, Jim Murray, Frank Niepold, Linda Pikula, Jacqueline Rousseau, Brenda Rupli, Carla Wallace

On the phone: Tina Dakun, Alyssa Gunderson, Atziri Ibanez, Claire Johnson, Paula Keener-Chavis, Jim Lubner, Carrie McDougall, Ali Senauer, Sarah Schoedinger, Shannon Sprague, Usha Varanasi, Carmella Davis Watkins.

Opening Remarks – L. Koch

PPBES – There was an earlier meeting that discussed PPBES where it was clear that goals were not fully understood. Now we are in a much better place. Next week is final push. Must keep going to get to the next goal post. Today we will focus on process from here. Kim will outline.

Ed Council Participation in PPBES – K. Benson

Discussion will focus on the E-lit summary spreadsheet forwarded to the Council and the PowerPoint template provided as guidance by PPI that is to be used as a template was given to all in goal teams in NOAA. This year, PPBES process is designed to try to get everyone to work cooperatively. It is also designed to include more time for us to be pro-active.

In years past, PBA was developed outside Ed. Council, and Council basically gave comments afterwards. This year's process has allowed time and opportunity for the Council to be active in development. Council is expected to provide official feedback between Aug 23-Sept. 7th. These remarks will provide the Council's official assessment of each goal's strategic portfolio analysis.

Strategic portfolio analysis for each of the goals will be based on the final POPs.

Goals will be working with information that summarized in our spreadsheet. We can work with them to identify education priorities.

Question from M. Martin: when is the time when we can influence goals?

Answer: The time is now.

Process is not designed to be adversarial. So, it allows time for collaboration.

Question from J. Hammond: Numbers do not change. So, we are just working on analyzing numbers?

Question from C. Wallace: I thought we had another opportunity to change the numbers?

Answer: Numbers in spreadsheet are for us to analyze and get a feel for the scope of interest in outreach and environmental literacy. Some numbers in the spreadsheet were highlighted to show that we saw anomalies. In the case of an anomaly, we can report this and request that it be changed.

Question from J. Hammond: process is more to justify funds that have been requested, correct?

Answer: Yes.

Spreadsheet highlights a few anomalies. In some cases, these may be typos, such as in a case with climate

Comment from F. Niepold: Climate prediction's negative gap should soon disappear. Had meant to remove 3 million figure from current, but did not get removed.

There are education-related alternatives in all mission goals. This is the first time this has happened. There are 9 in ecosystems (show many cross-program collaborations), 6 in climate, 3 in weather and water, and 1 in commerce and transportation (corals gave quite an effort here).

Comment from C. Wallace: two million should be added for new program in WCM.

Comment from L. Koch – NWS did nice job of reporting all education and outreach. This accurate information is useful and important

Comment from K. Benson: office did quick check that descriptions matched classifications. They were more accurate than ever before.

Taking a quick look Goal-by-goal:

Climate -F. Niepold

Working to develop strategic portfolio analysis. What type of activity all dollars are being spent on. Call for data on exact information about categories that programs fits in. Post-doc, grad, and undergrad are main priorities. Some efforts are being given in K-12 that are not yet showing up. Getting better on process, but probably not 100 % in this iteration

Regional climate literacy is the lowest ranked alternative. Takes time to get fully flushed out, but it is there. Building community resilience is highest ranked. Coral and ocean acidification did not get fully flushed out and probably did not get education tagging, but intent was to have education.

Question from J. Hammond: Is this the highest for all alternatives, or for just for education alternatives?

Answer: For all

Question from L. Koch: Building community resilience is important topic for all of NOAA. Please discuss the process of design for how education and outreach is embedded? Would it be easy to remove?

Answer from F. Niepold: It has been a while since I have worked on these, so do not remember entire structure of how they are embedded, but education/outreach was valued and not likely to be cut-out if the budget is lowered.

ACTION: F. Niepold will look into this and give more details about structure later.

Question from C. Wallace: Did resiliency alternative involve working with coast estuaries and oceans?

Answer: NWS component not fully developed. Not sure where it stands.

ACTION: C. Wallace will find out where things stand with NWS involvement in this alternative

Comment from J. Murray: Sea Grant was involved in some initial discussion. So, there is a Sea Grant component.

Commerce and Transportation -

No one here can talk to directly. L. Johnson does not know specifics of the C&T/EC-Corals partnership.

Ecosystems – L. Koch

There is a tremendous amount of collaboration with multiple programs getting behind a single alternative: increasing science education and literacy. Anyone talk about that?

Comment from M. Martin: talked to Darlene Finch. Very pleased since CMRP looks to like it will rank alternative high. D. Finch asked her to bring up at this meeting. There are concerns about how it will rank and Goal level.

L. Koch: Do you know what priority this alternative is?

Answer from A. Ibanez: In one of the first drafts it was 11th for all of ecosystems in CMRP list. Not sure where it is now.

Question: where on goal team list?

Answer from K. Dombrowski: Team is looking at alternatives and rating. Looking at which can be moved forward and which are not ready to move forward yet. Coming up with more definitive list. Can't say which are favorites right now. However, many that rank high have outreach and environmental literacy.

Comment from L. Koch: Feedback from these ratings would be helpful. Would be good to learn perceived strengths and weaknesses.

ACTION: K. Dombrowski will go through ratings and provide feedback.

Question from J. Murray: Can you tell us more about ERP?

Answer: It has high numbers because it involves Sea Grant dollars. Can't tell much more.

Comment: Community resilience should be in ecosystems goal. Possible did not get flagged for education.

J. Murray: Knows there piece in ERP for community resilience.

ACTION FOR ALL: look into ecosystems alternatives that are relevant. Get more detailed information about education and outreach components.

Comment from M. Harrison: Habitat writing alternative for ecosystems goal – lots of education outreach were going into it, but did not get submitted. Will look into what happened.

ACTION: M. Harrison will let us know what finds out. Good to keep our eye on.

Comment from L. Johnson: Of the four alternatives specific to corals: the first one is in the first tier. The second one was carried by EPP. The last two had minimal education and outreach components.

Question: what is Coral Watch (EC-FMP alternative)?

ACTION: M. Harrison: will find out what coral watch is.

Question from L. Koch: What about aquaculture? What is the education component?

Comment from K. Dombrowski: Has long list detailing these alternatives in her office. Can go get it and it will provide more information. It is too big of a file to email out.

Comment from K. Benson: That list has too much detail for this meeting, but K. Benson will be mining this information.

ACTION ALL: report any options that you see are missing to K. Benson.

Question from S. Baker: When need to know by?

Answer from K. Benson: End of this week, beginning of next.

Comment from S. Baker: Some programs may have education pieces that did not get flagged.

Comment from L. Koch: Want to get behind pieces that have a chance to move. So, no need to dwell on programs that have minor education components or are ranked very low.

ACTION: K. Dombrowski will meet with person who mined education programs in ecosystems POP and ask for opinion on which are important.

Comment from L. Pikula: Library does work with aquaculture on web sites and other projects.

Comment from K. Dombrowski: one of major alternatives for aquaculture is a core increase, believes has some education.

ACTION: K. Dombrowski will look into how much education this alternative has.

Question from M. Martin: Have heard rumors ecosystems is considering dropping the goal level outcome to increase stewardship. Correct?

Answer from K. Dombrowski: Has not heard this, and does not believe they would.

Comment from L. Koch: Something that we need to keep an eye on.

Question from L. Koch: Any thoughts on what to present on ecosystems and why?

Answer from M. Harrison: It would be good to reiterate what the Council wants since is not clearly understood.

Question from L. Koch: Any thoughts on what to say to goal lead on where Ed. Council thinks they should go?

Answer from K. Benson: There is much better collaboration shown this year than last. This represents ability of NOAA to leverage existing strengths.

Comment from L. Koch: Need sense of what alternatives are most strategic investment and why. Want to go through community resilience and see if can partner with water and weather and climate. Need to look into to see if good fit.

Comment from K. Dombrowski: EGT focusing on five key themes, including resiliency. Unsure of exactly what the other four themes are, though.

ACTION: K. Dombrowski to send 5 key themes to L. Koch.

Comment from K. Benson: would be good to see if we can help thread together connections in an articulate way. Help goals to understand what the connections are.

Comment from J. Murray: There are threads in each of the eights programs that relate to the themes that the goals are interested in. It would be helpful to present thematically in one story.

Comment from A. Ibanez: important to tie to particular themes, but also see gap on social dimension. This gap is human element. Our responsibility is to continue to address this gap.

Question from J. Hammond: A question that might come from a goal lead might be how to rank? Question for the Ed. Council is how would we rank? L. Koch, do you enough information on how to rank?

Question from F. Niepold: there is a natural connection between some alternatives, is it possible to weave some together?

Answer from K. Benson: Believes that goal teams have the prerogative to say that they would suggest linking certain pieces.

Question from F. Niepold: Looking at CasaNOSA fields is one thing, but has anyone looked at cost associated with activities and compared with our feelings with what costs should be?

Comment from K. Benson: Goals looked at embedding education in a couple of different ways. Some looked at as support for broader mission focus, others look at education/outreach as separate focus.

Comment from C. Wallace: Weather and water focused on three key themes in strategic portfolio analysis.

Comment from M. Martin: If we know what themes the goals want us to highlight, and we can highlight. Thinks not Ed. Council's role to rank priorities. We can say which are sound educationally and goal teams should rank.

Comment from K. Benson: We think it is our role to work with them identify particular e-literacy investments that would be strategic in view of their priorities.

Comment from J. Hammond: really important that we know which ones we do not want to lose, so that we can argue which should be moved up.

Comment from S. Baker: Important to say which address gaps.

Comment from C. Wallace: Important to show which have partnerships

Weather and Water –

ACTION: C. Wallace will look into alternatives for Coast Est and Oceans and Hydrology

Comment from R. Gird: Science On a Sphere (SOS) has first step in place, but need to develop more coordinated and broader program. Then will be able to link to more programs. This alternative is to make next step.

Comment from K. Benson: currently highest ranked alternative. Will develop coordinated program.

Comment from R. Gird: SOS can tie into all key things that NOAA does, notably GEOSS. Hope to get it to that stage eventually, so far have taken first baby step.

Comment from T. Cox: right now SOS is just at basic level of outreach. Investing lots of money, but are we sure there is payoff? Need to evaluate this product to see if it is worth funding.

Answer from C. McDougall: Each individual installation is required to do evaluation. Having users group meeting that will discuss issues and best practices.

Comment from M. Martin: Ed. Council does not know much about. Would like as topic for future meeting.

Comment from L. Koch: need to move on from SOS, but will add as topic for future meeting.

OEd –

Comment from K. Benson: Added alternative for building community resiliency through environmental literacy. There is also an alternative that were asked to put together for 5% increase in budget. This would increase funding for B-WET, and also requests funding for NOSB, AMS, and ELG. Other alternatives are for continuing partnerships that office has already made.

Comment from M. Laster: Increasing environmental literacy is partnership with coral reef program. Alternative for NOAA education and research is for students getting trained through research. Has some increases.

Comment from L. Koch: Increasing diversity is important for all of NOAA. Can make some broad connections for next year.

Comment from M. Laster: Adding K-12 and post-grad programs for next year, so lots of opportunity for collaboration.

Question from K. Benson: T. Cox, any information about line office head quarters for NOS?
ACTION: T. Cox will look into it and get back to K. Benson.

Marine Operations and Maintenance - J. Hammond

Have 100% funding in FY10, so idea is not to ask for increase in FY09 to show progression. Will see how this strategy works. Also, if possible, it is recommended that Council members go to budgeting meetings to see how dollars circulate.

200th Celebration Formal Education Piece – M. Harrison

Last time presented to the Council, discussed 7 activities. This time will talk about one activity, the one that the council will be involved in.

Last time, were asked to develop theme. Developed theme of “Change, Constancy, and Measurement”. Hits 6 of 7 ocean concepts. Comes from NSES.

Comment from J. Hammond: allows us to match projects that we have under theme.

Ed. Council role is to: 1. Identify formal education products, 2. each LO or program choose and submit 3-5 best products, 3. review and approve all submitted products, and 4. identify additional distributions venues.

Question from T. Cox: when do you want recommendations by?

Answer from M. Harrison: Sept. 13th. This is a charge to choose 3-5 products.

Question from M. Martin: Do you mean each line office or each Ed. Council member should submit recommendations?

Answer from M. Harrison: Means each line office or program with Council representation.

Question from F. Niepold: do we need to submit master file for re-producing?

Answer from M. Harrison: Would be extremely helpful if had master file.

Question from L. Koch: audiences for these products?

Answer from M. Harrison: Formal educators and students.

Question from P. Keener-Chavis: Package items for teachers and items for students separately?

Answer from M. Harrison: Actually, these are products for educators. So, targeted at formal educators.

Question from L. Koch: Would intro and link to the BRIDGE be appropriate?

Answer from M. Harrison: Looking more for actual tool rather than links.

Question: Will it be compile into paper product or CD?

Answer: Paper product with supporting material.

Comment from J. Hammond: how compiled determined in part by what is submitted. May have section at back for additional links to resources.

Question from C. Wallace: What is our action item with selecting venues?

Answer: Will not have enough paper product to distribute at all events, so need help to select most appropriate events. Will also have online as a PDF.

Question from T. Cox: If we nominate these products and they get in final kit, what would we get in return?

Answer: A chance to get product distributed.

Question from B. Hansen: What numbers will you produce?

Answer: Have money to produce and distribute, but number will depend on what final product looks like.

Comment from L. Koch: So, groups that have products selected will save money on having to produce those products themselves.

Question from B. Hansen: is there an evaluation piece?

Answer: There will be evaluation of entire 200th and this will be a component of it.

Question from J. Murray: Ballpark for total number of products that you want in final piece?

Answer: Do not have specified number. Council will help decide.

Comment from J. Hammond: If anyone has funding in 07 for assessment, help would be welcomed for assessment of this product.

Comment from C. Wallace: would like to see all line offices represented.

Question from A. Senauer: Had recent meeting with Project Wet. They might be able to help with distribution.

Environmental Literacy Grant RFA Priorities – S. Schoedinger

Want to discuss wrap-up of 06 and plans for 07.

Cannot not give names of those recommended for funding at this time, but were 3 in priority 1 and 2 in priority 2. Represent projects that offer field experiences, programs at free choice learning centers, teacher professional development, and integration of NOAA data into products for use in classrooms. Regional to national in scale.

Letters informing if were recommended for funding, or not, have just gone out.

Changing solicitation in 07 since had so many responses (160) this year. Instead of one big announcement, will have a few small ones. Still figuring out exactly what will be. One will be data visualization for NOAA data. Number of responses to that focus should be manageable so will not have pre-proposal process. Announcement likely by the end of the year.

Still struggling with other focuses. One idea is to request projects that connect ocean literacy efforts and concepts to Earth Science Education. Still thinking about what type of projects this will include.

Will need to issue RFA soon since will likely need pre-proposal.

ACTION: S. Schoedinger will send description of focuses that are selected to K. Benson to send to Council for comment.

Question from L. Koch, idea to give out small grants to community-level efforts. On range of 10 to 15 thousand dollars. Would need third party that would require brief proposal. Sea Grant was one idea that we discussed for this third party. Other ideas for groups that are well connected and can serve as this third party?

Question from A. Ibanez: When spoke about 06 ELG proposals, said would send to both those that are funded and not funded. I had thought letters would be sent out in September?

Answer from S. Schoedinger: Clarification, we sent letters informing if “recommended” for funding or not, but final decisions will be made by grants office around September.

Question from P. Keener-Chavis: This number of proposals (160) is a lot of work. Is it possible to focus announcement more to get fewer proposals?

Answer from S. Schoedinger: That is what we are working to try to do. But tricky to decide what to focus on.

Comment from P. Keener-Chavis: may want to look at teacher professional development, since will get biggest bang for buck.

Question from L. Koch: Can we reach requirement for teachers, such as certification, to get bigger multiplier? Where are opportunities for leveraging?

Answer from P. Keener-Chavis: Can have proposers partner with school district or state Dep. Of Ed.

Question from M. Martin: Sanctuaries has lots of local partners that would be glad to share. Also, is evaluation still a focus?

Answer from S. Schoedinger: Initially this was a main focus, but then decided we are not ready to define what we need yet.

Question from M. Martin: Can we suggest topics for focus?

Answer from S. Schoedinger: Yes. Need to get to S. Schoedinger by a week from today.

Comment from K. Benson: If we do small scale experiential learning, one possibility would be to develop mini-B-WETs. There are a number of programs that could step-up and be hosts. Have not spoken with B-WET folks to see if they would see this as a complimentary effort. Also, have been having talks about Mini-Grants for this year. Hoping to have two priorities for that. One priority may be for existing programs to fund evaluations, and then another priority to serve as catalyst for new programs. Would like to talk wit M. Martin about ideas for assessment.

Question from J. Murray: Large number of proposals with few funded is a problem not only for us, but also for PIs. Sea Grant faces this same issue and addresses through use of pre-proposals. Thinking of integrating into ELG?

Answer from S. Schoedinger: Yes, we are considering in FY07, especially if we do not make the priorities more specific.

Comment from J. Murray: We try to narrow the field in the pre-proposal phase to twice the number that we eventually expect to fund.

Question from J. Hammond: Have you looked into letters of intent?

Answer from S. Schoedinger: Did this year, but it just served as an FYI. It did not whittle down numbers sufficiently.

Updates/Announcements

P. Keener-Chavez: Ocean Exploration and NURP are being merged. Looking at how will coordinate the education components. Also, launching new ship with new technology for studying current patterns in Arctic.

C. Davis Watkins: Nina met with a group in finance and looked at rejected NESDIS min-grant proposals, and some were added in for funding (believe 3).

J. Hammond: Have draft of third book at teacher at sea book. Will be glad to give to anyone who may be interested in reviewing.

L. Koch: ACC academic principles have decided any education efforts going forward in 08 funding process will have to have a memo on assessment being used. Have also developed an

assessment type hierarchy. Meeting to see what they think of B-WET Chesapeake assessment. Most of current assessments surveyed did not score highly. Remember, purpose is not to evaluate programs, but rather interventions undertaken by program. Recommend use of administrative records be leveraged.

Comment from K. Benson: test scores can be difficult to access.

Comment from L. Koch: With NCLB, more schools are becoming flexible with releasing scores for evaluation.

ACTION: L. Koch will send information on assessment types to everyone

Question from M. Martin: did they include examples?

Answer from L. Koch: Yes, NIH did, but they are not that satisfying since many did not get complete results.

M. Martin: Recently concluded 6 week cruise that had education component and education PI. Third such cruise in series. Have been well received, but difficult to get education as main component.

Question from L. Koch: When did the cruise end?

Answer from M. Martin: End of July.

ACTION: J. Hammond or M. Martin to send information on this cruise to L. Koch for use as an item at administrators meeting.

A. Ibanez: Broadcast from Monitor recently ended and was a success. Also had online expedition with over 800 viewers watching for over 15 minutes.

Comment from T. Cox: can provide with DVD of broadcast of monitor expedition. Email T. Cox to request

M. Harrison: Coordinating with Sanctuaries on Oceans Live

J. Murray: Educating extension agents in decision making for climate issues. Goal is to give them enough climate information so they can discuss with stakeholders. Climate office will then have network to get information out.

Question from L. Koch: Possible to involve educators from other groups?

ACTION: J. Murray will look to see if availability for other programs to be involved

R. Gird: NWS training for the "rookie" AMS Science Teachers (Atmospheric Education Resource Agents-AERA) was recently completed at the NWS Training Center in Kansas City, MO. NWS Director, DL Johnson, conducted a 1-hour listening/wrap-up session for the 23 teachers attending the 2 week course.

J. Hiebert: went to Nauticus with 20 students and was a great tour.

T. Cox: Peg Steffen brought on board to coordinate education at CED and NOS.

F. Niepold: Just got back from GLOBE Annual Conference and Symposium. Coral products well received and GLOBE moving more into ocean. All four recently announced IESSPs have NOAA connections. Also, working on Mauna Loa observatory celebration. 5 teachers in the field were part of aerosols study. IARC Center will film teacher professional development opportunity with teachers going across arctic sea. Will be filmed in high definition.