

## **NOAA Education Council Meeting**

Date/Time: December 13, 2006 (1:00–3:00 pm)

Location: SSMC3, Room 10836

Dial-in: 866.453.7960

Passcode: 360528

(Contact: 202.379.6686 in case of telecom problems)

### **AGENDA**

1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks

1:10 NWS/Sea Grant Rip Current Program (J. Murray)

1:30 Xtreme Weather Update (R. Gird)

1:45 SAB EOE Working Group presentation discussion (L. Koch)

2:15 Student Opportunities – Hollings Update (P. Brahma)

2:30 FY07 Mini Grant Update (J. Lilley)

2:45 Updates/Announcements

2:55 Upcoming Council Meetings: Dates & Proposed Agenda Items

- January 17, 2007
- February 21, 2007
- March 21, 2007

3:00 Adjourn

## **Meeting Summary:**

Present: Louisa Koch (Chair), Susan Abbott Jamieson, Janice Beattie, Jen Faught, Ron Gird, Bob Hansen, Atziri Ibanez, Marlene Kaplan, Paula Keener-Chavis, Meka Laster, Jon Lilley, Carrie McDougall, John McLaughlin, Jim Murray, Amy Painter, Dan Pisut, Judy Reeves, Joe Shewmaker, John Simensky, Peg Steffen, Carla Wallace.

On the phone: Jennifer Hammond, Liza Johnson, Michiko Martin, Sarah Schoedinger, Carmella Watkins-Davis.

### **NWS/Sea Grant Rip Current Program – J. Murray**

Question from L. Koch – how local can the weather bug forecast be? Response – can provide forecasts by zip code.

Question from P. Steffen – is it possible to get excerpts of the video to use in other education program? Response – yes, that is possible, please email Amy Painter to get the excerpts to use.

Question from J. Hammond – are there plans to caption the video? Response – yes we have plans but not done yet – Jennifer has a contact for this if needed.

**ACTION: J. Hammond to send Jim Murray information regarding NOAA's captioning requirements & contact details for captioning person.**

Question from P. Keener-Chavis – did the rip current material get included in the 200th package? Response – Sea Grant has been trying very hard to get the information pack printed for the 200th, don't yet have final approval but would like to get it out by then.

### **Xtreme Weather Project – R. Gird & J. Simensky**

Question from S. Abbot-Jamieson – what age is this targeted at? Response – Middle-school students.

Question from P. Steffen – what about the teachers, do we have more developed materials for them? Response – there is an accompanying Teacher's Guide.

Question from C. Wallace – when will it go online? Response – not sure yet.

Question from P. Keener-Chavis – what about teacher Professional Development? Response – not sure yet, would like to do something for this. Comment from L. Koch – this would be a good option to explore. Could maybe think about integrating it in the weather service training session. Requests for copies from M. Martin & S. Schoedinger.

**ACTION: R. Gird to sent M. Martin & S. Schoedinger copies of the material (and to anyone else who requests it).**

Question from C. McDougall – could the material & video go on the new Education website & how does this fit with AMS DataStream? Response – could certainly make it available to AMS. Could either be tweaked to focus it more on formal education or could send it out to the WCMs to use in a more informal setting. Regarding the website – would need to check into the permissions we have to put things on line. Some concern that it's already a bit dated and that it might need updating already. Comment from P. Steffen – web material needs to be maintained; there is also the question of whether the Education site is just a portal site or whether it is a terminal site. Comment from L. Koch – need a date to get the material updated by as there is a lot of material that will be inaccurate if it is not updated.

Question from A. Ibanez – what steps were taken for pre-testing the Teacher's Guide? Response – still have someone on staff who was heavily involved in the setting up of the CD. R. Gird will go to him and get that information.

**ACTION: R. Gird to investigate what pre-testing was done for the Teacher's Guide.**

Question from P. Steffen – is there a need for field testing? Response – yes, the project lead at IEA has since left so it may be difficult to get them to update the CD but Weather Service still thinks there is work to be done.

Question from P. Keener-Chavis – how much coordination is there between NWS, OAR and the Climate Office? Response – there is some but probably at a low-level, would love to see it increased but the reality is there is only two people in the Weather Service working on this material. Question from P. Keener-Chavis – are you involved with the Climate literacy work that Frank Niepold is working on? Response – no but would like to get involved.

Question from M. Kaplan – how do we expand this out to other states, what needs to be done to correlate to state standards? Comment from P. Keener-Chavis – why not just correlate to the national standards? That way the states could then work out what they need to do rather than NOAA having to navigate through 50 different state standards.

Comment from L. Koch – not clear we have a dissemination mechanism for this, what is the strategy to get it out so that it's used in the classroom? This needs to be thought through so we have a strategy all the way to usage. Comment from C. McDougall, that's why the AMS connection is very helpful as they're training teachers. Comment from L. Koch, there is good synergy between the two, not sure how it would work but it would be a good conversation to have. Comment from A. Ibanez – could also have strong connections to the Estuaries 101 workshops, should look to see how they relate to each other. L. Koch – we do need to get this onto the website.

Comment from B. Hansen – why are the videos so small, should be bigger (that kind of stuff really bugs Bob). Comment from D. Pisut – if we have the flash files could maybe make the files bigger.

Question from J. Beattie – wanted to check that this is a NOAA product and that it's

copyright free? Response – yes.

Comment from P. Keener-Chavis – think this a great product for the Agency that can be offered in a number of different ways e.g. could do a virtual teacher workshop, or do short workshops at conferences. Could offer it as a short course at the AMS meeting. Comment from C. McDougall – the NSTA Sci-Guide usually references other online materials so we could get them to reference this and then have a built in dissemination mechanism.

### **SAB EOE Working Group Presentation – L. Koch**

Question from P. Keener-Chavis – would it be better to change the word Education to Environmental Literacy given the budget situation? Response – L. Koch tends to use them interchangeably – doesn't have a problem with using both. Education does have more resources focused on it. Comment from C. McDougall – see E-Lit as cutting across formal, informal and outreach, see it more as an umbrella term that cuts across everything we do. P. Keener-Chavis' take is that we'd get a more positive response from more audiences if we were talking about E-Lit rather than education? L. Koch agreed to look at the use of the terminology in the presentation.

Comment from J. Murray – it appears one of the main questions of the working group is how we connect with our key stakeholders, think this SAB Working Group will be interested in the connection with the users and we're not really set up to do that. Might be worth putting something in about this, comes back to the need for more support in the agency. L. Koch happy to include a 5th issue – how should it be phrased? Murray – NOAA is weak on people assigned to interact directly with the public, to achieve our goal of E-Lit we need more people on the ground – there is a lack of capacity on the ground. Could have a slide showing amount of money spent on outreach as compared to the whole NOAA budget.

Comment from A. Ibanez – could include something on the importance of doing research. Comment from P. Keener-Chavis – one possibility could be to look at the JSOST report that has recently come out. Looks at transfer of research between NOAA and the research community.

**ACTION: Keener-Chavis to send site with link to the JSOST report to the rest of the Council.**

Comment from C. McDougall – could make the point that we work across education, outreach & extension.

Comment from A. Ibanez – NERRS system does do some extension with it's CTP program but don't refer to it as such, comes under broader the Education & Outreach definition. NMFS Port agents might also do some extension work. Comment from C. McDougall that the definition of extension probably isn't being used in a uniform fashion across the Agency. Comment from L. Koch – have a lot of people that are on the ground in different line offices, if we can tap into this network and get them talking about NOAA as well as

their line office work it would greatly help spread the word about NOAA.

Suggestion from C. McDougall – drop the term education from the slide headers as not all programs just focus on education.

Comment from J. Murray – at least 2 members of SAB working group were on a committee that previously looked at what NOAA should do regarding extension. Louisa has a copy of this.

Comment from M. Kaplan – if the SAB could make the point that, not only do we need education authority but that science agencies have a role to play in education, that would be very helpful.

Comment from A. Ibanez – looking at the slides sees that there is a lot of difference between the programs. Think it would be worth at a later date getting together to talk about how we're addressing performance measures and evaluation mechanisms.  
Response from L. Koch – K. Benson is working on this with Sanctuaries.

Comment from P. Keener-Chavis – slides still look wordy & could be slimmed down further. Response from L. Koch – the idea of the presentation is for it to be a resource for the working group to refer back to later, not the intent to talk about every point on every slide.

#### **Hollings Update – M. Laster**

Comment from S. Abbott Jamieson – could expand Social Sciences disciplines to include anthropology, archeology is a subset of anthropology

Request from M. Laster – EPP looking for reviewers for the Hollings review process.

Question from C. McDougall – how many reviewers is EPP looking for? Response – a lot, basically as many as we can get – ballpark 50-100. Comment from M. Martin – can get some reviewers from the Sanctuaries program.

Question from C. McDougall – will there be a physical panel review? Response – will check into it. Comment from M. Martin, with Nancy Foster didn't discuss the applications in a panel and that made it difficult to finalize the final list. Comment from C. McDougall – do we need a minimum of three reviewers per applications? Response – not sure whether we need to do this for scholarships or not, will look into it. Question from L. Koch whether we need external reviewers? Response – will get back on this. Comment from J. Murray – think we could get some volunteers from the Sea Grant network if needed, question is whether they are eligible to be reviewers. Comment from P. Keener-Chavis – everyone from Ed Council should be a reviewer. L. Koch would encourage everyone to do so (although it is not required).

**ACTION: M. Laster to send Council an email that could be forwarded to appropriate networks outlining the requirements and what is needed for the reviewers.**

**ACTION: Council members to send EPP names for reviewers.**

Comment from D. Pisut –the request for reviewers email should go out to all of NOAA. By focusing on just the Ed Council the reviewers will tend to be ocean focused & we should get more people on the dry side.

**Mini Grants Update – J. Lilley**

A number of issues were discussed regarding the mini grants. It was suggested that we hold an optional meeting for any Council members who are interested in discussing the mini grants further.

Specific issues included: concern over the number of proposals; proposals from NOAA HQ offices; concern over the broad nature of the target audience; motivation for a regional approach; why evaluation and assessment is not included; concern over the funding range.

**ACTION: J. Lilley to arrange a mini grant discussion for any interested Council members in early January.**

**Update of regional priorities – L. Koch**

Have regional leads identified – teams area being put together, should look to get education reps on the regional teams. Regional Priorities need to bubble up through the regions.

Question from P. Keener-Chavis about the national messages? Response – the messages listed are Louisa’s draft messages – she is Chair of the communications group. They might well change, no discussion has yet been had on them but they are available to the regional teams.

Question from P. Keener-Chavis – is anyone here thinking about this regional approach and how to work within it? Comment from P. Steffen – we should take a two pronged approach, how can we coordinate across the regions and what can we do in specific regions.

Comment from A. Ibanez – can Louisa have a role to communicate national priorities to the Communications & Outreach group? Response – the communications group is very broad & L. Koch doesn’t want to push education too hard. Would rather have education activities come up through the regions – another reason linking this in to the mini grants. L. Koch sees the national effort as not telling the regions what to do, rather sees it more as a coordination roles rather than top-down management role.

### **Updates & Announcements:**

- A. Ibanez – now have a communications person on board, have produced an accomplishment report & will look to do this on an annual basis.
- C. Wallace – NOAA 200th kickoff Dec 19th.
- P. Steffen – moving ahead on demonstration project on problem-based learning in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- M. Kaplan – working on interagency strategy on ocean education. At NSTA met with representative who would like to see more NOAA people involved – especially Sea Grant.
- J. Reeves – back from Salt Lake City, did another IPY presentation which went very well.
- B. Hansen – Salt Lake City NSTA last of 3 regionals – gave out all of our materials. NOAA presentations well attended. Ship naming competition names are due Friday, currently in the 20-25 range.
- J. Murray – placed 44 Knauss Fellows last week.
- J. McLaughlin – working on upcoming funding opportunity for data visualization for educational use.
- C. McDougall – Ocean Hall 95% review completed yesterday. Captured highest level comments & included edits that Carrie received. Edits are available on the Council’s website. Very disappointed with the way the Words are turning out.
- R. Gird – Bill Polenza is the new Director of the National Hurricane Center. R. Gird just got accepted to the NAST national conference.
- D. Pisut – NESDIS recently created a Strategic Communications & Outreach team – looking for ideas on collaboration across the lines.
- J. Beattie – NOAA 200th mentioned in Admirals last email, 200th website is up and running. Would like to remind people that library is a resource of education & educators. Library recently got a request for information from a ship out at sea.
- C. Watkins-Davis – Co-sponsoring with NC State University a workshop for educators.