

## **NOAA Education Council Meeting**

Date/Time: September 20, 2006 (1:00–4:00 pm)

Location: SSMC3, Room 10836

Dial-in: 866.453.7960

Participant: 360528

(Contact: 202.379.6686 in case of telecom problems)

### **AGENDA**

1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks

1:10 Ed Council Participation in PPBES: Climate Goal Team (M. Gregg)

1:40 NOAA Bridge (L. Larkin & V. Clark)

- Attachment: NOAA Bridge.ppt

2:15 ACC Draft Recommendations & Requirements

- Attachment: ACC K-12 draft metrics.doc; ACC Grad & Postdoc draft metrics.doc; ACC Outreach & Informal draft metrics.doc

2:30 NOAA Environmental Literacy Grants FY06 & FY07 (S. Schoedinger)

2:45 Undergraduate Scholarship Update (C. Haskins)

3:05 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Education Component (M. Harrison)

3:20 Coastal Environmental Learning Center Update

- Attachment (Example): Ocean-in-the-News Kiosk description.pdf

3:25 Intergovernmental Working Group Ocean Literacy Survey (J. Lilley)

3:30 Draft NOAA 5-year Research Plan (K. Benson)

- Attachments: Draft 5-Year\_Research\_Plan\_v0-5\_091406.pdf, Research 5 Yr Plan Cover Memo.doc

3:35 Updates/Announcements

3:55 Upcoming Council Meetings: Dates & Proposed Agenda Items

- October 18, 2006
- November 15, 2006
- December 13, 2006

4:00 Adjourn

## Meeting Summary

In attendance: Louisa Koch (Chair), Janice Beattie, Kim Benson, Vicki Clark, Gene Cope, Tom Cox, Ron Gird, Bob Hansen, Atziri Ibanez, Margarita Gregg, Sami Grimes, Lisa Lawrence, Lee Larkin, Jon Lilley, Michiko Martin, Liz McMahon, Christos Michalopoulos, Frank Niepold, Dan Pisut, Judy Reeves, Jacqueline Rousseau, Joe Shewmaker, Peg Steffen, Carla Wallace

On the phone: Jim Murray, Sarah Schoedinger, Jason Chasse

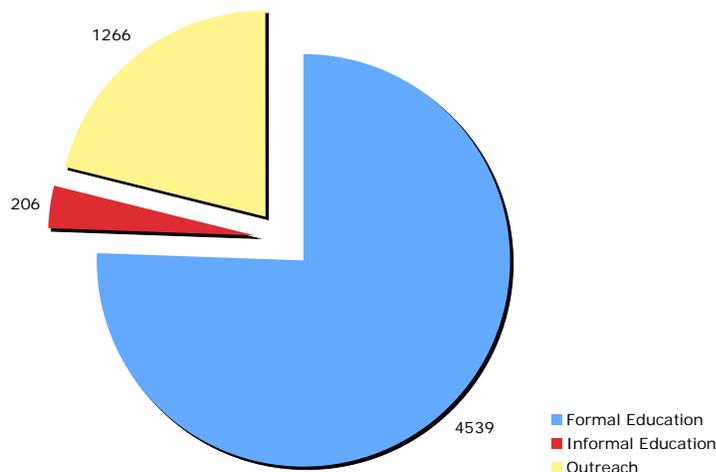
### Ed Council Participation in PPBES: Climate Goal Team – M. Gregg

Comment from F. Niepold as to whether e-lit spending % is understated in reported capacity – could be as high as 8%. (if you redefine the data call criteria to include the decision support work completed in the Regional Decision Support program. The RDS program exceeds 17 million annually)

Question from K. Benson – how can we bring the programs together so they become more strategic? How can the Ed Council work with the goal team to better coordinate activities? M. Gregg responded by suggesting that it would be better to coordinate the budget at a goal level, would capture more fully spending. M. Gregg thought that even if we pull education up to 10-15 % it would still be only a small piece of the overall pie. Comment from F. Niepold that a lot of what we do does not fit into any one of the categories provided in the POP.

Question from M. Martin, is the climate goal doing an assessment on the money that is going into graduate and post-doctoral support? Response from M. Gregg that a lot of this is being done under the Climate Predictions and Projections Program and the Climate Observation and Analysis programs grants program. See the formal education spending breakdown.

Climate Mission Goal Environmental Literacy Spending FY 09



Note: CPP used a formula of 10-15% of our grants funding are for formal education, for Graduate student tuition and stipend, and for post doc salaries. (we are unable to make further distinctions).

Question from M. Martin regarding products – are such products produced in the hope they'll be used or will they actually be used? Response from M. Gregg that she cannot guarantee that someone will include the information – need to focus more on the tools people use, the data they'll want. Comment from F. Niepold – users are involved in the development phase and this should increase the chance of success.

Question from L. Koch – how do we get the resources of Sea Grant, Sanctuaries, NERRS to work with the climate goal – need to try and capture the synergy of working together and drive it to something we can measure? Response from M. Gregg that we must try to leverage the gaps between different programs. Definitely interest on the part of climate goal team to work with the various networks we have. Comment from J. Murray that Sea Grant are very interested in working with climate goal.

**ACTION: K. Benson to contact J. Murray about utilizing the training modules OEd has developed to train NOAA staff.**

#### **NOAA Bridge – L. Larkin & V. Clark**

Question from P. Steffen whether the links on Bridge are 508 compliant? Response from V. Clark that all Federal sites have to be 508 compliant but the Bridge cannot control it on non-Federal sites. It is one of the criteria that is considered but it would not necessarily be a show-stopper.

Question from F. Niepold as to whether there is a ranking system in the search response? Suggestion that the Bridge could include teacher rankings and recommendations.

Question from L. Koch as to how are materials chosen? Response from Lisa Lawrence that they need to get an average score of 3/5 to be considered for posting.

Question from P. Steffen as to whether the materials are linked to national standards? Response from L. Larkin that materials on the Bridge don't have to be linked – the idea is promoted but not required. If it was then there would be very few materials on the Bridge. Teachers tend to look for content and if anything they look to state/district standards and text books. Suggestion from K. Benson that including standards might be something we want to look at in the future, after the resources are established – might be a way to make the resources even more useful. Comment from F. Niepold that you can't teach everything, there is supposed to be an unburdening of the curriculum – we need to understand the time constraints that teachers have on any one particular topic.

Question from M. Martin as to whether the Bridge can share their statistics regarding visits to NOAA sites through the Bridge. Response from V. Clark that the Bridge can share the information, don't have it to hand though.

**ACTION: V. Clark to send the Council statistics on hits to the NOAA pages that are on the Bridge.**

Question from B. Hansen regarding NOAA projects that might not be on the NOAA site – would these show up on the site? Response from L. Larkin that they will show up as long as the nomination form is filled out correctly.

**ACTION: Council members to nominate NOAA education sites to the Bridge for posting and to distribute request to educators/scientists within line offices.**

Question from L. Koch whether Sea Grant has any expectations to participate in the Bridge. Response from S. Grimes that she believes so and that all Sea Grant programs have a Sea Grant educators network which would be a good connection. Comment from S. Grimes that we could feed the NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> data into the Bridge – should be done by November.

**ACTION: S. Grimes to pass on 200<sup>th</sup> information onto Bridge staff.**

Suggestion from A. Ibanez that there should be different requests for information written for educators and scientists. Comment from M. Martin that in parts of NOAA that have dedicated educators this will be quite easy but for parts that do not it will be much harder to get information out to the people on the ground.

Suggestion from M. Martin that anyone who receives NOAA funds should have a requirement that they fill out a web nomination form either for the Bridge or OceansLive.

#### **ACC Draft Recommendations & Requirements – L. Koch**

Comment from L. Koch that OMB is very focused on this effort. Response not yet turned in as we have not yet received the database tool. Effort focused only on standalone education programs, not education components of larger programs. OMB is asking for information on programs that have undergone rigorous evaluation and results/suggestions for improvement. Most aggressive interagency evaluation effort that L. Koch has seen in 15 years. L. Koch believes that this will have an impact on 2008 budget.

Question from F. Niepold as to what kind of impact this will have? Response from K. Benson that the process could have significant positive and negative impacts on the budget. In 2007 NSF did lose money that was transferred over to the Dept. of Education.

Comment from M. Martin that the metrics that have been published do not fit with the Sanctuaries program Congressional mandate. Response from L. Koch that there are areas where Sanctuaries could fit in to e.g. student engagement. Comment from C. Michalopoulos as to how much our programs need to focus on ACC as they have other priorities. Response from L. Koch that Dept. of Education is chairing this and they are focused on No Child Left Behind. Question from M. Martin as to whether we have an argument that NCLB is not the appropriate measure to use for our programs. Response from K. Benson that we have little opportunity to state this – most of the drivers of the ACC have been predetermined.

Comment from F. Niepold that the problem with this is that our mission is broader than NCLB and that if you asked teachers whether NOAA has a role in general science education, the answer would be an overwhelming yes.

Comment from P. Steffen that part of this comes from the fact that OMB has been getting some pretty bad evaluation data and that we need to show a good faith effort and provide better evaluation to OMB.

### **NOAA Environmental Literacy Grants FY06 & FY07 – S. Schoedinger**

S. Schoedinger stated that OEd is now in a position to announce the winners of ELG FY06 – S. Schoedinger will send details via email to anyone who is interested. The five awardees are: American Museum of Natural History; Camp Sea Lab; Seattle Aquarium + partners; Colorado State University COCORAS; U.S. Satellite Laboratory.

Question from F. Niepold regarding how many projects we hope to fund? Response from S. Schoedinger that we're looking for 2-5 projects per Priority. Funding range \$200k - \$750k per project. This year OEd will be requiring pre-proposals for Priorities 1 and 2.

Comment from J. Rousseau regarding the pre-proposal process as to what language will be used when responding to non-recommended pre-proposals. Comment that in the past, EEP has suggested a particular proposal should not apply only have it reapply and get funding. Response from S. Schoedinger that the language OEd will use is that unsuccessful pre-proposals will not be eligible to apply for the full proposal (rather than just saying the P.I. is not encouraged to apply). S. Schoedinger currently in discussion with Ed Sharp regarding the appropriate legal language to use.

Question from A. Ibanez as to whether the successful abstracts for ELG FY06 will be posted? Response from S. Schoedinger that they will go up on the OEd website next week.

Question from A. Ibanez as to whether we are getting any evaluation results from the projects that have received funding and whether this has been incorporated into the process? Response from S. Schoedinger that it is still a bit early to get evaluations back for ELG FY05 projects, expect to have more information sent in to OEd over the course of the next year.

Question from A. Ibanez regarding the Mini Grants, especially in relation to evaluation projects? Response from L. Koch that there will be an update on Mini Grants at the next Council meeting.

### **Undergraduate Scholarship Update – J. Rousseau**

Question from B. Hansen as to whether we have received the reviews from the students? Response from J. Rousseau that we have received 75% of them to date and that EPP will be able to compile the student responses and provide feedback to the Council.

**ACTION: J. Rousseau to compile feedback and provide it to the Council.**

### **Coastal Environmental Learning Center Update – L. Koch**

Request has gone out to NOAA for sharable resources to the Coastal Environmental Learning Center. NOAA has so far provided three offerings - data visualizations (Science on a Sphere and Magic Planet); the Ocean Exploration Science Command Center; and the Ocean Hall News Kiosk. L. Koch wants to give the Council an opportunity to submit suggestions to the aquarium directors. No requirement to provide funding, but programs will need to provide content if their material is chosen. Suggestion from L. Koch that the TsunamiReady kiosk might be a good opportunity to put forward.

**ACTION: R. Gird to provide a write up to L. Koch for the TsunamiReady kiosk**

**ACTION: L. Koch to set up a kiosk meeting to ensure coordination between the different kiosks NOAA has.**

**Intergovernmental Working Group Ocean Literacy Survey – J. Lilley**

Survey is being conducted by the ICOSRMI Ocean Education Interagency Working Group. Requests information on current federal agency ocean education activities, including formal and informal education and outreach. Survey due to J. Lilley by September 29. OEd is currently compiling as much information as possible and will send out to the Council by the end of the week for review of information.

**ACTION: Council members to review survey and submit changes/corrections to J. Lilley by September 29, 2006.**

**Draft NOAA 5-year Research Plan – K. Benson**

Noted that NOAA has published it's draft 5-year research plan. Comment from L. Koch that the main item to look at is whether education is appropriately represented and whether it focuses on environmental literacy.

**ACTION: Council required to provide comments to K. Benson on 5-year research plan.**

**Updates/Announcements**

L. Koch – Claire Johnson is working on California's Environmental Education Initiative. K. Benson will send around presentation to Council members. L. Koch asked Council members to provide C. Johnston with any support she might need.

M. Martin – This week was California Oceans conference. Oceans campaign launched [thankyouocean.org](http://thankyouocean.org). Tonight there is a Jean-Michel Cousteau program that was filmed in a number of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries and another program on next week (September 27).

R. Gird – AMS Weatherfest coming up. Sea World San Diego-San Antonio has agreed to participate, R. Gird will look to place NOAA wetside exhibits close to the Sea World exhibit.

P. Steffen – NOS currently working on retooling Discovery Center materials for middle schools. Also redesigning their website. Need to ensure this fits with [education.noaa.gov](http://education.noaa.gov) website redesign.

A. Ibanez – EstuaryLive coming up next week (September 29). Last year had approximately a1million viewers and 300 teachers. Concern that we might lose EPA's partnership next year due to funding levels and internal pressure due to evaluation. Also NERRS has a contractor on board to work on needs assessment for NERRS education.

**ACTION: Request from L. Koch for A. Ibanez to get any info (number of viewers/participants) on EstuaryLive to L. Koch for the NOAA staff meeting on the morning of October 2.**

J. Shewmaker – Working with F. Niepold on IPY projects.

F. Niepold – Working with AAAS Project 2061. Found that their strand maps needed updating. IPY planning moving forward – recognized need for federal agencies especially NASA & NOAA to be more engaged. Recommendation that NOAA should either dedicate more resources or should be given more resources to commit to IPY.

S. Grimes – Sea Grant working on their strategic plan, should be out by end of the year.

B. Hansen – Next ship naming contest underway. Final product for "Xtreme Weather Project" consisting of 2 CD's, Lesson Plan Material and a Teachers Guide now ready to be distributed.