

NOAA EDUCATION COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2007

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 1:10 NOAA's Gold Medal for Distinguished Science – L. Koch
- 1:15 NMSP Evaluation Plan & Tool Kit – K. Benson & M. Martin
- 1:30 PA&E PPBES Discussion – J. Chasse
- 2:30 IGES: Earth System Science Education Alliance – T. Schwerin
- 3:00 CoCoRaHS citizen weather monitoring program – N. Doeskan
- 3:30 Updates/Announcements
- 3:50 Upcoming Council Meetings: Dates & Proposed Agenda Items
 - March 21, 2007
 - April 18, 2007
 - May 16, 2007
- 4:00 Adjourn

ATTENDANCE

In person: Louisa Koch (LK – Chair), Susan Abbott-Jamieson (SAJ), Janice Beattie (JB), Kim Benson (KB), Paul Bradley (PB), Jason Chasse (JC), Gene Cope (GC), Dave Ginsberg (DG), Ron Gird (RG), Bob Hansen (BH), Liza Johnson (LJ), Meka Laster (ML), Jon Lilley (JL), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Michiko Martin (MM), Carrie McDougall (CMc), Frank Niepold (FN), Dan Pisut (DP), Peg Steffen (PS), Sharon Walker (SW), Carla Wallace (CW).

On the phone: Atziri Ibanez (AI), Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), Liz McMahon (LM), Ali Senauer (AS), Carmella Watkins-Davis (CWD).

Guests: Nolan Doeskan (CoCoRaHS), Henry Reges (CoCoRaHS), Theresa Schwerin (IGES).

ACTIONS

| Who | Action | Due |
|-----|--|------|
| All | Review NOAA Gold Medal document and send suggestions & edits to LK. | 3/7 |
| JL | Provide PA&E with a template for E-Lit reporting in the Programming process | 3/14 |
| PS | Arrange follow up meeting with T. Schwerin & interested Council members to go through NOAA materials that might be useful to ESSEA | 3/21 |
| JL | Get 'Benefits of CoCoRaHS to NWS' document & send out to Council | 3/7 |
| CWD | Send out web address of North Carolina A&T educators conference | 3/7 |

DISCUSSION

NOAA's Gold Medal for Distinguished Science – L. Koch

- Two awards: 1) Gold Medal for Distinguished Science; 2) Gold Medal for Promoting Public Understanding of Science and Technology
- Each award consists of a \$50,000 prize, a gold medal & a commemorative plaque. Idea is to recognize the contributions that non-NOAA people have made to science.
- Distinguished Science award will be funded through Research Council, either through OAR or other Line Offices. Promoting Public Understanding award will be sponsored by Under Secretary's Office & possibly other LOs.
- Awards will have a pre-proposal process, individuals nominated on contributions to date. Invite winner from pre-proposal to submit proposal for \$50K.
- Idea of award from CoOL – came out of concept proposed by Paul Sandifer.
- Awards are external to NOAA. Can include scientists who have worked with NOAA.
- Another option would be to have a structure similar to AAAS fellowship.
- Suggestion that award shouldn't be limited to just scientists and educators.

NMSP Evaluation Plan & Tool Kit – K. Benson & M. Martin

- Evaluation program will include both formal and informal education.
- One issue is in deciding what makes a program. PART takes NMSP as one program.
- Trying to focus on aspects which are more general – CA B-WET a good test bed for this.

- Suggestion to have a percentage of target audience (in terms of number of people reached) as opposed to a total number – would help put numbers in context.
- Sanctuaries plan to evaluate 25% of total education budget in each year – will take 4 years to evaluate entire program.
- Sanctuaries will have a mandatory set of questions for the programs to use for their evaluations plus some optional questions. Will roll up the mandatory questions and feed into the PART process.
- Time should be a consideration – evaluating a program five years after the fact as opposed to immediately after. Need longitudinal studies to assess long term change.
- Idea of having an evaluation summit – plan to open this up to other educators when better formulated.

PA&E PPBES Discussion – J. Chasse

- See PowerPoint Presentation for greater specificity.
- Ed Council good at providing feedback on time to the PPBES process. Could improve programmatic detail when submitting comments to PA&E
- Earmarks are an issue – when moving earmarks into the budget, need to think whether something else will have to be moved out. Is a certain amount of gamesmanship involved in this.
- Need to address whether the proposed change requires extra funding.
- Issue with tracing Education dollars through the Programming process. PA&E looking at adding Ed Council comments into the fiscal guidance.

IGES: Earth System Science Education Alliance – T. Schwerin

- Role for NOAA – get word out of ESSEA to networks, colleges, universities.
- Question about inclusion of ESS concepts in state standards. NSF did some work into this – IGES working with Coalition for Earth Science Education. ESSEA project has specific goals for teacher PD but inclusion in state standards is a big issue.
- Question about whether courses help teachers meet highly qualified status for NCLB. No answer for this – not done at the program level, might be done at the college level.
- Question about the scientific accuracy update process. Courses updated on an annual basis – also use current scientific materials.
- Funding levels – \$3M from NSF over 3 years. From NASA had 20 colleges that each got \$40K. For NASA ESSEA institutions didn't get second year funding until they provided evaluation data. Currently working on this for the NSF award.
- Any NOAA data would be useful – DataStreme, Corals have some good material. Content review would also be very helpful.

CoCoRaHS Citizen Weather Monitoring Program – H. Reges & N. Doeskan

- Question about whether anyone is documenting CoCoRaHS's ability to influence weather forecasts? Not doing this yet but would be good.
- Have a doubling of hail reports in CO since CoCoRaHS has expanded.
- CoCoRaHS can provide benefits to National Weather Service – e.g. creates potential pool for NWS Co-Op program.
- Could have equipment put into Weatherbug locations – would then feed into Matis network.
- Question about what would CoCoRaHS like to see the WCMs do. Need to make sure WCMs are aware of the CoCoRaHS program. CoCoRaHS limited in that they can't launch across the whole country in one go need to expand on a state by state basis.

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- FN Climate Communications & Learning document now available, will go to NSTA this year.
- RG Earth day activities submitted were rejected – will be working on new activities.
- LJ Next week is the Coral Reef Task Force meeting. There will be an International Year of the Reef mini-summit with the agency and jurisdiction members of the Task Force, as well as several NGOs and other partners. We will have a NOAA follow up in the next month
- KB Chesapeake B-WET draft evaluation report now available.
- JB Reminder that the Library would like copies of any documents that are published.
- BH Ship naming competition still running, currently reviewing submitted essays.
- DP Working on IPY related issues, looking for ideas to get out to the media.
- JM Hosted Elumenati domes last week, Ed Council members will have another opportunity to see it at NASA Goddard later in the spring.
- CWD Working with North Carolina A&T on a conference for Educators in June. – will send the web address to Ed Council members.
- AI 750 teachers have completed online NERRS needs assessment survey, 260 have provided additional comments/suggestions. Has been translated into Spanish – would like help distributing survey to Spanish speakers. Reserve educators will be meeting in Alaska this year.
- PKC Will be an education section in the Ocean Hall web portal.
- LM Have annual Shepherd Elementary James D. Science Fair next Tuesday, Feb 27. Judges still needed from 8am-12pm and fair is open to NOAA employees from 1-3pm.
- CMc Einstein fellows selection due tomorrow. If anyone wants a fellow next year need to let CMc know immediately.

Next Meeting: March 21, 1-4pm, Room 10836 SSMC3