

**NOAA Education Council Meeting**

Date/Time: January 17, 2007 (1:00–4:00 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 ELG Pre-proposal Update – S. Schoedinger

1:25 Mini Grant Update – J. Lilley

1:30 Interagency Working Group Implementation Plan – M. Kaplan

2:45 Ecosystem Goal Team PPBES Discussion – E. Menashes

3:30 Alaska Education Activities – T. McTigue

3:40 Updates/Announcements

3:55 Upcoming Council Meetings:

- February 21, 2007
- March 21, 2007
- April 18, 2007

4:00 Adjourn

## **Meeting Summary:**

Present: Marlene Kaplan (Chair), Susan Abbott-Jamieson, Susan Baker, Gene Cope, Tom Cox, Jen Faught, Bob Hansen, Liza Johnson, Jon Lilley, Emily Menashes, Christos Michalopoulos, Frank Niepold, Dan Pisut, Sharon Walker, Carla Wallace.

On the phone: Kim Benson, Jason Chasse, Jennifer Hammond, Atziri Ibanez, Paula Keener-Chavis, Michiko Martin, Carrie McDougall, Liz McMahan, John McLaughlin, Sarah Schoedinger, Carmella Watkins-Davis

### **Welcome/Opening Remarks – M. Kaplan**

M. Kaplan announced that the COoL report on it's way to the printers.

L. Koch recently presented to the SAB Education, Outreach & Extension Working Group. The SAB is looking for NOAA to come up with a vision statement for EOE & a list of NOAA constituents of NOAA to see where there is any overlap.

NEP reviewing all the Councils & will be looking at our Annual Management Plan – OEd will be sending round a draft

### **ELG Pre-proposal Update – S. Schoedinger**

S. Schoedinger provided a summary of the pre-proposal process. Thirty proposals will be invited to submit full proposals. All applicants will be sent letters, letters to those who did not get through to the full proposal stage were sent out last week, letters to successful applicants will go out in February.

Question from D. Pisut – will the funding for data visualization funding go ahead? Response from C. McDougall – currently working on the announcement, expect it to come out in February.

Question from M. Martin – what about the worst case scenario (i.e. no money this year) do we have a contingency plan regarding the applicants partners? Response from S. Schoedinger – is an issue & not sure how we would deal with it, would probably have to look at the proposals on a case by case basis and renegotiate as necessary.

S. Schoedinger also mentioned the call for papers for NSTA's high-school teacher journal. If any Council Members would like to submit a paper they should send them directly to Steve Metz & Jennifer Henderson at NSTA.

**ACTION: Any interested Council Member to send papers for consideration to NSTA**

### **Mini Grant Update – J. Lilley**

J. Lilley explained that the Mini Grants have been put on hold for now due to the CR. OEd will wait to see what happens over the next few weeks and look to revisit in February.

Question from A. Ibanez regarding taking a regional approach – is this still the intent? Not sure yet – regional priorities not yet set so it would be hard to link the Mini Grants to them.

Question from S. Baker about advertising the Mini Grants and letting people know that there may or may not be funding? Thought about this but given the number we received last year we

decided we wouldn't want to waste people's time unless we were relatively confident of having the money.

### **Interagency Working Group Implementation Plan – M. Kaplan**

M. Kaplan provided an introduction to the IWG and announced that she is now a Co-Chair of the group. Intent of the plan is to be large scale, multi-agency and strategic. No new resources will be coming along with the plan.

Question to the Council from M. Kaplan – what should the purpose of the document be? Should it be a strategy or should it be an implementation plan. IWG felt it should be more of an implementation plan.

S. Baker – thinks we do need a strategy but once we have that we'd also want an implementation plan outlining how the strategy will be implemented. Need both but need to start with the strategy.

S. Walker – feels that the USCOP gave us 17 recommendations in Chapter 8 – can look at that as a collective strategy. Can collapse them down into 7 or 8, 17 is really too much to take on. For the last few years there have been people that have worked on strategies – just need the money to put the ideas into practice. Seem to keep doing this over and over again and yet to have any money to move it forward. The agencies are working well together and have their boundaries defined and seem to work well together but we're just lacking the money to do anything.

M. Kaplan – idea of this document is that this is where the existing resources are.

S. Baker – should look to see what we do have money to do and focus on those areas.

F. Niepold – spent 10 years in the classroom and didn't consider himself part of the education community. Larger educational initiatives seem to be where we need to focus on connecting to rather than come up with a whole other area. Climate has the same issues that they're working on.

M. Kaplan – currently we're riding the wave, the White House wants to talk about ocean education. This effort does need to tie in to other activities – listed under Task 2. Nobody wants this to be a stand-alone effort but this is where we have traction right now and this is where we're getting input from higher levels.

C. Michalopoulos – Earth System Science (ESS) community has been working on these issues for a while and although we can't wait for them to finish we should ensure we work together on these issues. IWG should state that we already have a strategy and put that front and center for funding. On the other hand we'd be missing an opportunity if we don't do anything on this ourselves.

K. Benson – typically we don't get any new resources so we have to include things that are already happening to ensure we have some success. But we should look to include those things that aren't funded and state that these things won't get done due to a lack of funds.

F. Niepold – looking for something even broader than this – why is priority 2 focusing on ESS? Where is the biology, chemistry – other high-school science classes? M. Kaplan – who will do this? F. Niepold – no reason why it can't be done in these classes e.g. when talking about

photosynthesis – always talk about land-based plants, why not ocean plants? Could weave ocean literacy into many areas in the curriculum. M. Kaplan – not sure who is doing this. Focus should be on things that are happening that can have success or that we can see how we can get to there easily.

S. Baker – thinks that the material for the high-school science is there.

P. Keener-Chavis – all of this should be interdisciplinary, not going to offer an program solely based on biology – need to include, chemistry, geology, ESS – that's the beauty of ocean science, it is interdisciplinary by nature. Producers of these materials must be interdisciplinary, that is our charge. Need to look at the professional development offered to teachers and see how interdisciplinary it is.

S. Walker – would be that everyone who is developing curriculum materials are interdisciplinary – materials are being aligned with national standards, state standard & incorporating fundamental concepts of O-Lit. A lot of people talk about ocean science as a way to incorporate ESS because it's so big. Could reword Task 1, Priority 2 to include ocean sciences. Can be really easy to teach about the ocean because it is so interdisciplinary.

C. Wallace – question of whether there is anything in here on rip currents? M. Kaplan – wanted to stay away from individual programs otherwise document would get out of hand. Trying to focus more on the national, inter-agency projects.

M. Kaplan – Priority 2 – collaborate with other agencies. Have a number of big-picture interagency projects, what else goes on that list?

P. Keener-Chavis – is an Environmental Science AP course. M. Kaplan – correct, proposal is to expand that to include earth sciences, proposal is to modify the existing course. Should we add NOAA to the list of agencies involved in this project? M. Kaplan – if we get past the initial phase, NOAA should be involved.

F. Niepold – Climate Office, NOS & NWS working with AAAS on refinement of climate literacy standards. Put together 32 page document – guide to teaching about climate change. Workshop coming up in April to define these. M. Kaplan – thinks that would fit well on the list.

M. Kaplan – Priority 1 – strengthening regional networks. NPS has developed an ocean strategy paper – neither A. Ibanez or M. Martin have yet seen it. Proposal to develop some education effort across these place based parks & reserves. If we get funding, may have some money that we could put to this effort. If we have time & money do we have any common messages that we could suggest? A lot of the parks & reserves are co-located with Sanctuaries.

C. Michalopoulos – should talk to the MPA Center.

S. Walker – if have a common message it could carry over to what was discussed at CoOL. If we want common messages and a more ocean literacy society then how we promote the oceans is really important, for example NWS providing ocean facts/snippets for weather bulletins. People don't think about the connections to climate in an everyday way. Maybe this could touch on what is in the document & be a common thread for all of the Tasks listed.

A. Ibanez – how is this connected to the national system of marine protected areas and seamless network initiative? M. Kaplan – don't know offhand.

T. Cox – have agreement with scholastic magazine to publish 10 broad themes of ocean education – could include those here.

A. Ibanez – have collaboration with EPA's NEP through the EstuaryLive program – could follow up with that if need be.

M. Martin – Have been representing NOAA at Hands on the Land sites? None of the Sanctuaries have become Hands on the Land yet but have been at the table.

S. Walker – COSEE not NSF-centric, would be good if other NOPP agencies helped fund some centers. Think the number listed should be 10-14 rather than 11.

C. Michalopoulos – OEd has considered funding a center – don't have the money now but if we got a favorable Appropriation it would be something we could consider. May be able to partner with another agency.

S. Walker – if the NOPP agencies would step up then that would be a good way to get the numbers up.

P. Keener-Chavis – is there a reason why Sea Grant isn't included in the regional networks piece. M. Kaplan – what would be want to say without any new funding? If the focus is on place-based work then that does narrow the scope of things.

F. Niepold – NEETF's EarthGague – or StormCenter, something there could be leveraged to get the TV market. M. Kaplan – does NOAA contribute to NEETF? Not sure, do plan to contribute.

T. Cox – What about work with NSTA on Sci-Guides? M. Kaplan – could go under the first bullet. NSF, NASA & NOAA working together on this Sci-Guides & symposia.

M. Martin – what about curriculum efforts in CA & HI? Are strategic and fairly widespread. Could be put in the previous bullet. P. Keener-Chavis – ocean explorer curriculum falls in that category too.

S. Walker – what about doing something on community resiliency to natural hazards? M. Kaplan – could go here or under Task 2 – GOMA. S. Walker – could go in either place.

D. Pisut – NEETF facts are a bit random, would be good to tie things in to what is going on in the ocean at the moment. F. Niepold – not sure if that info is there right now, this list seems to be things that are happening now. M. Kaplan – yes but can also include things which have a good chance of happening.

C. Michalopoulos – Re: Priority 4: OEd hoping to sponsor a conference to look at evaluation in NOAA – could use to look to list priorities for next year's ELG. Could open this up to other agencies. Have co-funded EPA's evaluation activities with AAAS?

M. Kaplan – Re: Task 2: M. Martin listed to lead a Key Messages & Themes working group. Focus initially on IOOS but will take a broader approach. Hopes to unite other groups around these key messages.

F. Niepold – feels there should be a testing of these new messages. M. Martin – that is the plan, specifics of the group have not yet been decided. Group going to try and get some consensus on the themes rather than develop taglines.

F. Niepold – do have other agencies involved in IPY.

**ACTION: F. Niepold to email list of agencies involved with IPY to M. Kaplan.**

**ACTION: L. Johnson to email list of agencies involved in International Year of the Reef to M. Kaplan.**

Comment from T. Cox about including Eco-zone.

**ACTION: T. Cox/S. Baker to send info on Eco-Zone through to M. Kaplan**

Task 3 – Observations:

C. Michalopoulos – should be blatant about Ocean US losing their education rep – one key reason why IOOS and ORION are not coordinating well.

S. Walker – working with Gulf OOS – one of their key priorities is to hire an education specialist, is a very important issue. Will look through to see if there is anything else at a regional OOS that need sending through.

Task 4 – Workforce Issues

S. Walker – Is there a reason why we don't include community colleges and vocational-tech schools? Might be missing an audience we should hit. If want to look at workforce issues in ocean sciences then should include these entities. Also need to get more industry involvement. Re: organizing a high level meeting – should invite some different audiences to a roundtable event if we want to reach different groups of people.

S. Baker Environmental Cooperative science centers – funded through NOAA EPP. Have some new initiatives that they're working on. M. Kaplan will get EPP to add to list.

Re: strategy or implementation plan? S. Walker – would support an implementation plan, need a few stronger verbs in here. Task 2 – all bullets talk about developing key messages, could just have two bullets – one 'develop key messages' and then list specific areas – second bullet would be ocean kiosk.

Re: developing metrics – F. Niepold should be have a fifth priority on whether we should do a survey to get a baseline of national knowledge? P. Keener-Chavis – would be a huge undertaking. M. Kaplan – don't want to put it into this document but could be included in the workshop bullet.

Ecosystem Goal Team PPBES Discussion – E. Menashes

Question C. Michalopoulos – is the 100% requirement is conservative or exaggerated? Probably more on the conservative side.

Question F. Niepold – are E-Lit priorities built into current programming & 100%? Depends on the program, some programs have specific mandates for education. Other programs not so much. If really trying to define it then probably missing quite a bit.

Question C. Michalopoulos – mentioned the challenge of picking between mandates. No hard mandate for E-Lit but on the other hand EGT does have an outcome that is based on E-Lit.

Would recommend an approach to instead of coming up with a stand-alone E-Lit plan, infuse E-Lit in everything you do. Each area you work in should have a piece about informing our society. Response – some of the activities do have E-Lit but it might not be mentioned. A problem is that many of the activities were scaled back, and that led to very incremental starts to activities. Would prefer to keep in mind whether there is a specific E-Lit piece that can go in there.

Question F. Niepold – another way of looking at this is that climate is trying to move toward a model that when anything is produced, it is also written for an education-orientated audience. That material can then be used as a base for education work. Response– one thing EGT would like to do is produced some guidance for programs to include E-Lit in their activities.

Comment M. Kaplan – one of the big frustrations is that an informed society is a key outcome and yet it is so hard to get E-Lit pieces through. Need to put our heads together to try and come up with something that will get through the system.

Comment S. Walker – do we know anything about the status of the organic act? Not sure, language was worked out with the CR and with a new congress could be a while. NASA has a 10% tax for education programs. M. Kaplan – NOAA very against a tax, education programs have to be clearly defined and go through the PPBES process.

EGT didn't have any guidance in the planning memo concerning E-Lit – getting mixed messages from NOAA. On the one hand education pushed as important and yet not supported through funding.

Are other activities in NOAA that have an E-Lit component that aren't captured by the PPBES process. M. Kaplan – problem with this is that many of these are more outreach based rather than education – would be better to spend our resources on well-defined education programs.

E. Menashes – haven't had the time to do the strategic thinking which makes it hard to get E-Lit into all the programs.

Question C. Michalopoulos – seems that EGT has some thinking to do concerning the E-Lit priorities for PPBES. This is the time to get E-Lit involved in the goal. This would be a good time if EGT can decide their priorities for E-Lit now and sit down with the educators before the PPBES process cycles up. When EGT define what E-Lit means for ecosystems, part of the Council's role is to help EGT implement that.

Comment F. Niepold – Co-Chair on the Climate Literacy working group – would be good to ensure that these groups know what the other groups are doing. E. Menashes – would like to have a rep from that group on the EGT group.

### **Alaska Education Activities – T. McTigue**

Question M. Kaplan – do you track the students to see where they end up? Yes, have a small number of students so possible to stay in touch with them. Hope is that in the long-term will have qualified native scientists in the villages.

M. Kaplan – who from NOAA are you working with? NCOS – Gary Matlock, provided some funding and working with the universities. Not in a position to fund this part further but do intend to have some internships to start in March. Also reaching out to other NOAA & state agencies in the region. Fish & Wildlife is interested.

Comment P. Keener-Chavis – have done some PD for teachers at Alaska Sea Life Center – will be giving presentations at the meeting this weekend – would like to meet at the meeting.

Comment S. Abbott-Jamieson – have run a local fisheries knowledge project, on the web – will send the link. Developed a database of results – have some interviews that can be downloaded.

**ACTION: S. Abbot-Jamieson to send link to P. Brown-Schwalenberg at the Chugach Regional Resources Commission.**

M. Kaplan mentioned Environmental Literacy Grants & Mini Grants as potential sources of funding.

S. Baker – know of similar projects in the Olympic Peninsular – could put groups in touch.

Alaska Forum for Environment – EPA, NPS usually there – could be another opportunity to work with. How many villages would you want resource manager in? Have 7 communities in the Chugach Region but a very strong need across all of Alaska that need managers.

#### **Updates/Announcements**

F. Niepold – Communicating & Learning about Climate Change – almost complete. Have electronically but not yet able to send round. When have official version will send round.

C. Watkins-Davis – presenting to staff at NC A&T University about E-Lit & what we do, they would like to be involved.