

## NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: August 19, 2009 (1:00–4:00 pm)  
 Location: SSMC3, Room 14836  
 Dial-in: 866.901.0711  
 Passcode: 8134683  
 Contact: Luis Leandro - work: (202) 482-3139

### AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks – Christos Michalopoulos
- 1:10 Sea Grant Education Network (SGEN) Survey – Diana Payne (Sponsor: Sharon Walker) (*informational*)  
 (15 min presentation/10 min discussion)
- 1:35 Implementation Plan Update – Steve Storck (*input request*)  
 (25 min discussion)
- 2:00 Matrix Survey Results – Lexie Brown (*informational*)  
 (10 min presentation/10 min discussion)
- 2:20 Updates & Announcements

### Upcoming Council Meetings:

**September 23, 2009**

**October 21, 2009**

### Attendance

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**In person:** Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Lexie Brown (LB), Ron Gird (RG), Atziri Ibanez (AI), Nina Jackson (NJ), Neal Kaske (NK), Judy Koepsell (JK), Luis Leandro (LL), Paulo Maurin (PM), John McLaughlin (JMc), Jeannine Montgomery (JM), Bruce Moravchik (BMo), Diana Payne (DPa), Dan Pisuit (DP), Bronwen Rice (BR), Irelene Ricks (IR), Steve Roda (SR), Jacqueline Rousseau (JR), Peg Steffen (PS), Steve Storck (SSi), Kate Thompson (KT), Sharon Walker (SW), Carla Wallace (CW)

**On the phone:** Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), Carrie McDougall (CMc), Liz McMahon (LMc), Sarah Schoedinger (SS)

### Announcements (CM)

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- Louisa has been asked to join the planning team for the Climate Service that Mary Glackin is taking the lead on. This is a clear signal that NOAA Leadership is considering education an important component of the Climate Service, which is very good news. The team has a meeting this afternoon, so Louisa has asked me to run today's Council meeting.
- DOC's final passback to OMB not favorable for education. The Teacher at NOAA (\$1M) and Competitive Education Grants (\$3M) requests for FY11 were removed. On the plus side one of the items initially requested, the climate portal request, was reinstated at \$1.5M. Not all of this money is for education, though.
- Bronwen is our official time keeper for Council meetings. As a reminder, this is one of the new recommendations made by the presentation criteria working group that the Council endorsed.
- Two major deadlines coming up: 1) August 28 - comments due to Luis on the NGSP responses to Paul Doremus' questions (refer to email sent by Luis on 8/17/09). This is the opportunity for the Council to provide input to this process, so it's important for us to put forth a good response. September 4 – comments due to Steve on the draft implementation plan. Steve will send the draft implementation plan out to the Council later this week and will explain in detail today the proposed deadlines and schedule.
- As a heads up, during the September Council meeting (now moved to the 23<sup>rd</sup>!) we will be presenting the evaluation framework proposed by the evaluation working group. We will begin discussion on this proposal and vote either at the September meeting or in October.
- Update on NAS review of education programs: we will be sending the draft implementation plan to the Academies today. They are having their last writing meeting on August 27-28, so we should be expecting a draft report from them sometime in September/October.

### **Sea Grant Education Network (SGEN) Survey – Diana Payne (*informational*)**

Introduction (SW): Diana has been with the Connecticut Sea Grant program since August of 2002 and is an assistant professor in residence. She is currently the past chair of the Sea Grant Educators Network and current chair of advisory council to Sea Grant Association. Diana is a board member for National Marine Educators Association and is very active. Diana will share results of a survey she conducted within the Sea Grant Educators Network in 2008.

- CM: What was the purpose of the survey? Did Sea Grant use the data to assess the status of education? DPa: Survey itself was initiated by the network. We decided on our own to conduct the survey. We did share results with Sea Grant directors, but no one told us to do so. I am not sure what the Sea Grant directors have done with this.
- SW: Given the reality that we are in terms of funding, we are using this as background info at this stage and hopefully will implement some changes later. We want the Sea Grant education coordinator position to be 100% commitment in terms of time. There is strong agreement that we need to have one person dedicated to this responsibility.
- RG: What do you do in terms of interactions with the Weather Service? Are you engaged with the AMS Maury Teacher program, the oceanographers at AMS? DPa: Great questions. I brought this information with me. I will look this up and get back to you.
- AI: These types of surveys are very valuable. How many questions did you have and how long did it take participants to complete? How was the involvement with other programs/networks defined? DPa: There were 18 items on the survey and I would guess it took participants 15-20 minutes to complete the survey. Second question, refer to slide 10 on presentation. It wasn't specifically defined by us, but we left room in the survey for people to fill in the information regarding collaboration and partnership with NOAA.
- NJ: Noticed with NOAA lines you did not mention NESDIS corporate institutes/centers. Does this mean you did not work with them? DPa: No, only thing I am saying here is that these interactions did not show up on the original list that we brainstormed (slide 10) nor were they listed by the participants that filled the survey.
- NJ: What were the demographics of the participants taking the survey? DPa: I have the list here and will get back to you on this.
- PS: Is there a difference in background or training for extension agents vs. researchers. DPa: We did not ask this question specifically. Researchers tend to be people that Sea Grant has funded. Most communicators have background in journalism or communication sciences. Most extension specialists/agents have PhD in hard sciences. Most educators have background on both science and education.
- SW: Diana, for example, has B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology, and a PhD in education psychology.

### **Implementation Plan Update – Steve Storck (*input request*)**

Introduction (CM): Steve will give us an update on the implementation plan. We have a draft plan and will send this out to you all for review. Steve will go over the major timelines for completion of the implementation plan.

- SSt: We would like the Council to look at the draft and finalize it, after which the plan is to send this out to the external community. I will send the draft plan out to you this afternoon.
- AI: Are you going to give us instructions on the things you want us to focus on as we review this first draft? SSt: Yes, I will.
- SW: I remember in the strategic plan we had specific outcomes. Are we going to have these outcomes in the implementation plan as well? SSt: Yes, we will.
- PS: Most people are part of a working group. We should be able to condense all comments together from each group. That would be easier on your part as well. SSt: Yes, that would be the ideal scenario, but I will also accept comments directly from folks. We want to make sure no one who wishes to provide comments on the plan is left out.
- AI: With regard to the Sept 21<sup>st</sup> deadline to send out the document to our networks for review. Will you send us some questions for us to forward on to the networks? SSt: Yes, we work on this. I am thinking that the networks should focus primarily on the content of the document.
- CM: We have decided not to go with a broad public review, but council members are welcome to send the draft plan to their specific partners and whomever they feel should review this. So, we empower you all to make this selection.
- SSt: Also, council members would coordinate with their contacts and combine comments.
- PS: I am worried about some of the numbers in the pie chart. How are we assessing these numbers?
- SSt: I sent a memo out to the council a while ago asking council members to review the matrix numbers. I received input from some people, but I am still concerned with some of the numbers. There were several revisions made to the numbers since then.
- PS: We should also define administrative units and decide if we want to report in terms of programs or line offices.
- SSt: We have the data, so we can roll up programmatic numbers into line offices if we would like to do so.
- Kt: I also see this as a tool to make a case for education. There is a lot of overlap between operating units and education components across different programs. I want to make sure we are consistent with the story we are trying to tell in terms of education.
- CW: I agree. We need to know exactly what we need to put in there and be consistent across all programs.
- AI: As part of the evaluation process, there is a stage that is focused on revisiting the matrix, so this will come up later on.

- LL: At some point we may also want to connect the dots and look at the current education survey in CasaNOSA and compare it with the matrix for the implementation plan. There is a lot of overlap here, and it would be great if we could have one system of data collection that would work for the implementation plan as well as for planning purposes.
- CM: Clearly the council will review the matrix and modify it, but there is no way that we can see any of these changes in this current version.
- KT: This to me is something that should go out as a report yearly. A report on the current status of education for NOAA. We need to have this information correct and be able to make a case for the need of additional resources for education.
- SSt: This funding data really belongs to situational analysis, but is included here because I thought it would make a nice story.

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#### **Matrix Survey Results – Lexie Brown (informational)**

- LB: I am presenting here the results of the survey which all of you filled out. Most of you felt that the matrix was useful and should be used on a yearly basis for NOAA-wide data collection.

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#### **Updates and Announcements**

- SW: Everyone completed teacher development.
- RG: American Meteorological Society has posted their version of education resources. There is a lot of interesting stuff here. I have engaged in dialogues with them to focus on converging our resources with theirs.
- PS: We are ready to launch iTunes view. You should be able to put in a channel for iTunes. We will be the first federal agency to play this game. We are making progress. Over 28,000 years of science DVDs were sent to you all. We have a great working group on climate change web symposium series. Let me know if you are interested in joining.
- KT: Our Ocean for Life program is finished. Very successful. We will be evaluating the program, but have received a lot of positive feedback thus far. There is legislation on this on the hill. Update on summit: those of you that have not responded and are planning on attending, please let me know ASAP. Can we change the Council meeting date? There are several of us involved with the AZA conference that week, which conflicts with the September Council meeting. How about Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>?
- LL: Is anyone here not OK with making this change? I will send an email out to the whole Council, and if no one expresses any major problems, we will go ahead and make this change.
- AI: We have been spending a lot of time trying to maintain certain positions in NEERS. We are going to issue an RFP in a few months to develop curricula. NEERS has an agreement with the University of New Hampshire to advance technology and science. We were successful in incorporating an education program there as well.
- NK: Working on our strategic plan. Trying to make a budget case for the services we provide to NOAA. We would like to advertise photos on Flickr. Hopefully teachers will use this. CM: Is there any way we can have some usage of the journal list that the Council has? I will work with you on the usage of these journals. NK: We may already have usage privileges on some of those journals. Send me the list and I will look to see what we currently have and what we can do.
- NJ: Working with Suitland, MD community group, which consists of businesses and congressionals. They want to know what NOAA is doing in Maryland in that area. If any of you have/know NOAA activities in the Suitland area, please let me know.
- CW: NWS had 4 grants in education, 3 of which are earmarks.
- DP: I am developing the climate and weather teachers' workshop. This will take place Nov 7 here at the science center. Call for line offices: We will be taking over NOAA image of the day and want to expand the types of images shown. If you have things that could fit into this idea and general images, please pass these through your line offices.
- LL: Dan, could you please send me this announcement with points of contact, etc. so I can forward this on to the whole Council? DP: Sure, will do.
- PM: We are working on the strategic plan for the Coral Program. Hope to have completed and delivered by the end of the year.
- BMo: Focus groups last week with elementary school students. Have really interesting results that we will compile. Stay tuned on update.
- LL: Please take note of the important deadlines that Christos mentioned at the beginning of this meeting. In addition, if any of you have additional ideas for back to school events (refer to email sent to Council on 8/11), please send these to me ASAP by the end of this week.
- CM: Education.noaa.gov update. Steve is taking over planning for web. You will hear back from Steve on this. We are in the process of hiring a full time web IT person. A significant portion will be to support Steve on NOAA-wide education efforts.
- JMc: We have just responded to applicants on AZA funding. We cannot officially announce winners until awards are finalized by NOAA grants.
- SSt: I participated in an interagency coordinating committee working on scienceeducation.gov. OSTP tech coordinator, Kumar Garg, attended and presented at meeting. There is a request for content for the Sept 30<sup>th</sup> release of the website. I will send something out to the council on this. I will schedule meetings with main system administrators to explore what we can do with education.gov. I want to put together an advisory group to develop guidance on this.

- CMc: Update on Smithsonian Portal. They are planning a soft launch for the second/third week of October. They want lesson plans and have identified very specific topical areas. This is a very specific request for lesson plans for our consideration. Heads up – we plan on receiving the formal request and will forward on to the council. Things have been busy on the NOAA Exploratorium Partnership front. Dr. Lubchenco came to the press event and got excellent coverage. We were mentioned all around San Francisco's press media. I am planning on giving the Council an update on this partnership later in the fall.
- LMc: Our season is starting to wrap up for 2009. Getting ready for next season, starting with a call for applications. Application will be available on the web on October 1. Teacher in Lab pilot went extremely well and we are hoping to expand this program to next season.
- PKC: I just sent Luis a list of topics with regard to the Smithsonian Portal request that Carrie mentioned. I will ask Luis to send this out to the Council. You can click on education and okeanos explorer education, and can view all the education materials there. Ship is currently in Hawaii based off of Honolulu.