

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: December 16, 2009 (1:00–4:00 pm)
 Location: SSMC3, Room 13836
 Dial-in: 866.901.0711
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 Contact: Luis Leandro - work: (202) 482-3139

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 1:10 Engaging Leadership, Connects, PK-20 and Climate working group leads report back to Council (*input request*)
(60 min presentation & discussion)
- 2:10 Proposed Education Matrix Program discussion – Christos & Luis (*input request*)
(20 min presentation/30 min discussion)
- 3:00 Criteria for new Council membership – Marlene (*decisional*)
(10 min presentation/20 min discussion)
- 3:30 Updates & Announcements

Upcoming Council Meetings:

January 20, 2009

February 17, 2009

Attendance

In person: Louisa Koch (LK), Lexie Brown (LB), Thanh Vo Dinh (TVD), Bob Hansen (BH), Nina Jackson (NJ), Marlene Kaplan (MK), Judy Koepsell (JK), Meka Laster (MK), Luis Leandro (LL), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Jeannine Montgomery (JM), Dan Pisut (DP), Bronwen Rice (BR), Irelene Ricks (IR), Steve Roda (SR), Sarah Schoedinger (SS), Peg Steffen (PS), Steve Storck (SSt), Kate Thompson (KT), Sharon Walker (SW).

On the phone: Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), John McLaughlin (JMc), Frank Niepold (FN), Stacey Rudolph (SR)

Announcements

- LK: NOAA Budget for FY10 passed. NOAA did very well. We met with Steven Gallagher. Steve is pushing for more money for education in FY11. Steve thinks FY11 President's Budget will be at 4.9 billion for NOAA.
- CM: NOAA Office of Education got 3 million for the Globe education program. The appropriation bill requires OSTP to do a review on the appropriate placement/host for Globe. Possible move from NASA to NOAA in FY11.

Engaging Leadership, Connects, PK-20 and Climate working group leads report back to Council (*input request*)

- **Connects**
 - BH: Some networks missing. Just an observation.
 - PKC: One network that should be listed is the COSE network.
 - FN: We might need a comment period so the work in these WG is representative of the work the Council does as a whole.
 - MK: That is the purpose of these presentations. Also, we will continue to work through the Coordinating Committee so these documents continue to be representative of the full council.
 - LK: I am ok if some of these items get dropped as you prioritize them. This is a very serious set of accomplishments. If you haven't already done so, talk to Sarah.
 - PKC: When is your next meeting?
 - Steve: Late Jan.
- **Leadership**
 - CM: Several folks are questioning whether we should include this group in the implementation plan (iplan). The Council had previously agreed to include selected items into the iplan. We are trying to get a draft document done before Christmas. We need someone from this group to work with us on this ASAP.
- **Climate**
 - LK: Is this for the new working group (Climate), the fifth iplan working group?
 - CM: Frank, are you planning on having this as a standalone document? We are not planning on having a standalone document like this for each iplan working group. How do we capture some of this in the iplan?
 - FN: We have some ideas.

- CM: Maybe we can talk offline about this.
- LK: I want to make sure that the tasks in this Climate plan are linked with the tasks in the iplan.
- FN: I completely agree. Whatever we need to do to link these two documents I will completely support.
- CM: I big thanks to Frank and this group. You guys put a lot of hard work in a very short amount of time.
- LK: Climate is a focal point in ELG and Connects group, so we want to make this link.
- LK: Items that we list should be achievable. I do not want to raise the bar too high to a level that we will not realistically reach. Personally, tasks requiring new money should be put into one item titled "requesting new resources for Climate through PPBES". It does not make sense to me to put tasks there that require new money. To me it only makes sense to put tasks that we currently have money for.
- CM: We may have to push back the delivery of the final document. We need to think about this.
- FN: Nothing is in the planning process included here. Most of this is in Programming.
- LK: By Planning I am referring to everything before execution.
- SW: There are some areas in the Connects and other groups that were not listed that should. Frank, what you presented I can see are areas that Sea Grant would fit very easily and appropriately. But because I am not in any of the iplan working group, I am not sure how I can contribute. So, how do we get to that point?
- LK: Sharon, you will have the change to look at these documents and provide comments.
- CM: I agree, but I want to clarify that we have an immediate deadline which is to finish the document. We definitely need to make sure that everyone's efforts are captured in the implementation of this. The document is just a document, and we need to focus now on finishing this. This is an evolving plan.
- LK: Sharon, I do think that you should spend some time with Steve and Frank to include a few items, but we do need to stick to the deadline. We want to make these connections.
- LK: Very good discussion!
- **PK-20**
 - CM: If any of you are around during Christmas, please do not be surprised if we contact you as we are working to finalize this.
 - SSt: The actual review period is after the holidays.

Proposed Education Matrix Program discussion – Christos & Luis (input request)

- PS: What is the interplay of congressionally directed programs, like the Corals Program?
- CM: The way money comes in from Congress does not change. What changes is how we request new resources to be added into the president's budget as the ultimate goal.
- KT: Just to give everyone an idea. We all need more money. What we have covers staff only. We have no money to play with.
- LK: One of the major frustrations with Goal team leads is that there is a large disconnect between appropriated dollars into line offices and requests through the goal structure. That communication is not as smooth.
- CM: This is an opportunity for Kate, for example, to say "this is my money" and this is a huge benefit.
- KT: I agree. Every year I spend hours and hours trying to include education, but at the goal level education is the first thing to be cut off. I personally am very supportive to this. Although I feel I do need to discuss with leadership before feeling comfortable with voting.
- LK: Yes, this needs to be voted by the Council, but we need to be on board with NOAA leadership. We cannot make this happen unless we have support from NOAA leadership.
- PKC: I would like to talk offline with Christos because I am not sure what other components of my program would continue to work.
- CM: We can definitely talk Paula. The short answer is the execution of programs should not be affected at all. This is just to request new resources, which at the end of the day will be appropriated by Congress directly into the specific program/line office.
- PKC: The decision of going with this would not change the everyday work/function, correct?
- CM: Yes, correct.
- LK: This only affects two phases of PPBES, Planning and Programming. Execution and Budgeting would not be affected.
- TVD: Keep in mind that the current Goal structure may change. Education is highly regarded as an important piece. Education is moving back and forth between a functional goal and an actual goal. We are trying to align more the goal structure with the line office structure as part of the PPBES process. So, you should be aware that this program could be realigned.
- CM: We appreciate this information. Having a greater alignment between the goal structure and the line offices will make everyone's life easier.
- PKC: I know we are supposed to vote on this, but I would like to take the opportunity to bring this back to leadership and discuss with Christos more about this. I am in favor of the idea. Can we postpone the vote until next month?
- LK: I propose to vote today on there being a general interest/support on this to continue to explore.
- NJ: Will you present this to NOAA Leadership?
- LK: Yes, definitely. We need to make sure that program directors, managers, and NOAA leadership are supportive of this effort. This needs to be a collaborative effort. Steve, any comments?

- SR: You guys are moving in the right direction. I would just propose for there to be a timeline. We within PA&E like this idea, so the next question is to figure out the details. We can try to make it happen to FY13-17, but we can also wait another year. For the FY13-17, we basically have one month or so to figure this out. The draft PDM will be sent to Dr. Lubchenko on Jan 19th, but the final PDM will be submitted by the end of January.
- LK: Thanh, is there anything we can do to encourage PPI to come up with a structure that is supportive of this idea?
- TVD: We have to work through the planning team. I would work through you representative (Marlene) on this to move this forward.
- LK: Can I hear from the other Council members as to whether they are supportive of this?
- SW: I agree and support this as long as leadership is supportive of this.
- PS: I agree
- NJ: I think this could work, but I need to vet this through NESDIS.
- JL: I need to talk to Ron and Carla, but I think I agree with the idea of getting assistance for vetting through the line offices.
- BH: The one thing that is surprising to me is that you would want to see the new goal structure before the PDM comes out.
- TVD: We should start with the new structure in FY13-17.

Criteria for new Council membership – Marlene (*decisional*)

- KT: We had something come up. Preserve America is a NOAA wide initiative, but it is Outreach for Education in many ways.
- CM: I think that there are some issues as to whether Preserve America falls under the Council's definitions for Outreach for Education.
- MK: Another item to add here is "supports the NOAA Education Strategic Plan".
- LK: I agree, let's add it.
- KT: Maybe the iplan coordinating committee can pick this up and come up with a list for criteria?
- MK: And IOOS, for example, while having a mandate they do not have a well established education program. So, we need to come up with criteria that address these differences.
- PS: I do not think that "having a legislative mandate" is a good criteria. It is too vague.
- KT: I agree. I also do not think that the evaluation requirement is appropriate, since we are all at different levels here.
- PS: To me, we need to decide how large we want the Council to be. Do we need a representative for every program that has an education component?
- LK: I agree that we do need to think about how large we want the Council to be.
- PS: Why would a program want to join the Council?
- CM: Visibility, representation. Actually, this is a great question to ask next month once the B-WET folks present and we have a vote.
- LK: We will take each case as an individual case. IOOS and Preserve America have not asked to be included yet, but B-WET has.
- PS: I would like to add another criterion: "Dedicated educator more than 50% of their time dedicated to education".
- LL: We need to decide whether a potential program needs to meet all criteria, or a majority.
- SW: To me, the evaluation piece is important. Should evaluation be part of these criteria?
- PS: How about "agree to implement the national monitoring and evaluation system" for new programs?
- KT: If for some reason a position does not fit into the Council. How do we allow that program to be heard?
- LK: We will take this back, clean it up, and send to the Council for a virtual vote before the January meeting.
- **Vote (LK): Agree with the membership criteria here discussed. Passed!**

Updates and Announcements

- LL: Please remember that the deadline for submitting comments on the education section for the Blue Book is tomorrow. We will also send out the budget graph sometime tomorrow for your review. The goal is still to have this finalized by the end of this week. I want to thank all of you for submitting your sections and pictures to me on time.
- IR: The Hollings, EEP undergraduate and graduate science applications are open. If you have students, please refer them to the website.
- NJ: ESA federation (federation for earth science and information partners) will meet here in DC Jan 5-7th. There is a section on climate literacy. I will send this information to the Council.
- SW: It was remarkable that all 32 Sea Grant programs responded for the Blue Book data call.
- PS: Climate.NOAA.gov was launched. Great COP 15 report. We are ready to launch Loggerhead Sea Turtle game. We are in final review. Will be launched in time for NSTA.
- KT: Evaluation piece - we have a series of evaluation 101 training webinars coming up. If anyone is interested, let me know. We can have a lot of people come and attend. Jan 21, Feb 11 all the way through March. I will send out this information to the Council. In June-August there will be advanced evaluation training in partnership with CSC. We are working on a question bank. We have an internal evaluation working group to finalize questions. Added question on climate literacy based on bennett top model. We are creating new stuff here. In conjunction with NEERS, OCRM is creating a database for evaluation. We will be hosting Sanctuaries, NMFS communications summit in Seattle in April. This is specific to education outreach and communications.

- CM: Last week OEd staff held an offsite retreat. We looked at priorities for 2010. You all will be happy to hear that supporting the Education Council is one of the most important things we would like to continue to do.
- SS: ELG grants funding opportunity will hopefully be published by the end of December. You will be notified as soon as it becomes available. If you have any questions about this you can follow up with me, John or Carrie. We are moving forward with DEP course. Online course will be rolled first for a group at the Pacific Services Center. That course will become live in mid-January and we will start registering people. I will be contacting many of you to focus on broadening this course to others in NOAA.
- SSt: I have had some questions from people on the program profiles and descriptions for the iplam. Only different between this and the original draft is a brief paragraph (background) that came from the 2-pager. We have been working on education.noaa.gov. If you would like to participate please send me an email.
- BH: I sent a notice on interest in exhibit workshops for NSTA. For the upcoming constituent budget brief, we were asked to submit names of people that might be interested in attending. Please send me names and I will include those in the Office of Education's list.
- LK: Constituent budget brief – FYI, this is the opportunity for the NOAA administration to lay out NOAA's entire portfolio.
- JMc: Carrie and I were at the SOS user's network in Boulder, CO. We had 91 participants, the largest ever. The content being shown was very impressive. We have a lot of attention from people. This is a big opportunity for NOAA Education.