

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: April 21, 2010 (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
- 1:05 Budget Office announcement regarding data calls – Courtney Barry (*informational*) (10 min)
- 1:15 Evaluation Working Group report out (*input request*) (15 min presentation/20 min discussion)
- 1:50 10 min stretch break!
- 2:00 NODE (NOAA Ocean Data Education) project – Atziri Ibanez and Kate Thompson (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:30 GLOBE Update – John McLaughlin (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 3:00 Updates & Announcements

Upcoming Council Meetings:

April 21, 2010
May 19, 2010

Attendance

In person: Louisa Koch (LK), Jeremy Andrucyk (JA), Michelle Arsenault (MA), Courtney Barry (CB), Ken Casey (KC), Christina Durham (CD), Karen Eason (KE), Ron Gird (RG), Jennifer Hammond (JH), Bob Hansen (BH), Molly Harrison (MH), Atziri Ibanez (AI), Luis Leandro (LL), Chelsea Lowes (CL), Paulo Maurin (PM), John McLaughlin (JMc), Elizabeth McMahon (EM), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Bruce Moravchik (BM), Maria Murray (MM), Frank Niepold (FN), Dan Pisut (DP), Bronwen Rice (BR), Irelene Ricks (IR), Sarah Yue (SY).

On the phone: Lexie Brown (LB), Claire Fackler (CF), Marlene Kaplan (MK), Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), Carrie McDougall (CMc), Kirk Beckendorf (KB), Sarah Schoedinger (SSc), Shannon Sprague (SSp), Carla Wallace (CW).

Announcements (MK/LK)

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- CM: I would like to introduce Courtney Barry, who is our Budget Analyst from Budget Outreach & Communications Division. CB is working very closely with LL and CM to make sure that, when you receive a data call, they come preloaded with as much information as possible. She has some education background as well.

Budget Office announcement regarding data calls – Courtney Barry (*informational*)

Courtney Barry will explain the increase in data calls

- CB: We really appreciate your responses to data calls. It is very important to communicate what you all are doing to OMB and DOC. Good things have come from the data calls; more of your work is being included as STEM education throughout the Administration.
 - DOC and OMB are focused on STEM; now it is important that NOAA efforts be included in that.
 - The Blue Book data call was to provide more detail to OMB about what NOAA's investment is in education. The more you can keep track on what you are spending on education and on exactly what, the more it will help NOAA's investment in education.
 - If you have questions, I am the contact and can hopefully clarify.
- BH: Is there a backup person for data calls if the primary contact is not available, given the short turn around?
 - LK: This is constantly a problem. Should there be additional points of contact for data calls?
 - AI: This would be a good backup system, perhaps the person from budget for the programs.
 - LL: We would like to connect each office with the budget office.
 - AI: It didn't work this way last time. We did not get the information from our line office.
 - CB: I will talk to the NOS budget office to find out what happened.
 - LL: We will provide the secondary contacts to the budget office so they are added to the data call.

- FN: We should provide the contacts for the lead and backup people.
- LK: **ACTION ITEM: People should send LL the secondary contact for data calls.**
 - LL: Please send the names of your budget analysts for your programs.
- BH: Is this tying into the Ed Matrix?
 - CM: The Education Matrix was our internal attempt to capture the information that is now being requested with these data calls. We are not there yet, but we are headed that way. This will be a start.
 - MH: It has been really helpful to have these numbers coming from the budget folks.
- LK: At some point we need to talk about the Blue Book for FY11. They wanted specifics. I am happy to talk to anyone in your chain to explain that these data calls are coming from OMB and DOC, not NOAA. Stuart Levenbach says he wants NOAA to get credit for the programs it is running.
- CB: Please contact me with any questions: Courtney.Barry@noaa.gov.

Evaluation Working Group report out (input request)

AI and LB will run through the readiness assessment questionnaire (RAQ) the group developed. See PowerPoint slides.

- LB: **ACTION ITEM: See the RAQ timeline for action item calendar. You will need to complete this in May.**
- LB: See the overview of the actual questionnaire on SurveyMonkey. You can complete the form in multiple sessions, but you need to use the same computer to be directed to the point where you left off previously.
 - AI: Items with an ' * ' are required items.
 - LB: The only question that is different between formal and informal is "5: Section IIB #1" on outputs.
- EM: This is an impressive piece of work.
- LK: Take Sea Grant for example, is it okay if an evaluation is just for one program in one state?
 - LB: Yes. We are just asking for one example program of each type. Try to pick something that is representative of your programs. For the budget section, we are asking only for Federal funds.
 - AI: This is basically to gauge how much is going on in formal, informal, and outreach. We also want to gauge how much evaluation is going on and what your level is of understanding for what needs to happen with evaluations.
 - FN: To capture this, we might need to differentiate networks from an individual program. There should be questions on if you are a network and the percentage of your network program that has been evaluated.
 - AI: This is great. Some of you, like FN, are members of the pretest group. These people will provide comments and suggestions on the RAQ.
- CF: There is an additional opportunity; Sanctuaries will do another webinar on evaluations for the next level in mid-May through June. It will be open to Education Council members. There is homework between webinars. You need to have previous experience and basic knowledge with evaluations, logic models, performance measures, outcomes, outputs, etc. Please contact Kate Thompson or me if you are interested.
- PM: For the portion covering performance measures, do we need to make a distinction if, as a program, we are adopting performance measures formally?
 - LB: This might be covered by a question in the administrative unit section. You could provide information in the comments box.
 - AI: PM is making an important distinction. We should add a question that distinguishes formal/official reporting systems.
 - PM: Having performance measures is not the same as having an evaluation.
- AI: This is a sample list of output performance measures. We want to see what you are collecting in terms of performance measures. Please do not let the list limit your responses. If you have questions about what is meant by certain parts of the questionnaire and your own definitions, please share these in the comments section.

NODE (NOAA Ocean Data Education) project – Atziri Ibanez and Kate Thompson

AI: This is part of the effort from the Connects Working Group (WG). NODE is an example of the data education efforts that the WG is inventorying. See PowerPoint slides.

- AI: This is truly a collaboration across line offices. Ken Casey is the technical director from NOAA National Oceanographic Data Center. This effort has been extended from our three line offices to the Corals program, by working with PM. We are working on producing an ocean acidification module.
- AI: Materials for modules are provided to teachers at workshops and available online.
- AI: Please contact us if you would like to develop a module. We really want this to reflect all of NOAA and an Earth Systems perspective. We also want to develop a strong teacher network.
- PKC: In the first week of May, there is a small team from the OER education group meeting with our data management team. We are looking at data products coming from Okeanos Explorer. This is our first planning meeting, and we'll be looking at next steps. I will be getting in touch.
- BH: Data in the Classroom is great. Was this a grant recipient?
 - KC and AI: Yes, it was an FY06 recipient, but in cooperation with the contractors we were working with.
 - BH: The NOAA branding is not present.
 - AI: This was a demonstration project to determine what was needed in backend structure and requirements of the teachers. Now we will be scaling up and giving it a higher NOAA presence in the appearance.
 - KC: The office logos do appear; they tend to get cut-off in screen shots.
- CM: I think this is a fantastic effort. I would like to see this become more of a one-NOAA effort. One way to reach level 5 (Invention) in the curriculum approach is to engage students in collecting data. There is a tremendous connection to GLOBE here. We will hear an update on GLOBE. We need to find a way to provide teachers with systematic support they need to be a sustainable learning community.

- RG: One way to make students and teachers aware is to introduce this for data use in high school science fair projects and exhibits.
 - AI: This is an entry point that guides you into further/deeper curricula. The vision is that it would allow others to expand.
 - FN: The science fair is the only time I would have with students to get in depth with data. Can you get the actual data from the website? Can you tap into NCDC data?
 - KC: Yes.
- DP: What about when you have data sets that are in specific houses or are not in NCDC and NODC standard forms? How do we incorporate that into the services?
 - KC: There are several ways. We can do the reformatting, or people that provide the data may already be making their data available with IOOS.
 - AI: We use web services to get the data translated.
- DP: What are you finding from teachers and the surveys as to what content needs to be expanded?
 - AI: CF and I gave a NAAEE presentation. There were a ton of questions on extensions. We were only giving one fish example. They wanted more examples. We pointed them to other examples elsewhere on NOAA web, e.g., Estuaries.gov. They also wanted more localized examples. They also wanted it to be more attractive. All of the development was based on a needs assessment NERR conducted a few years ago.
 - CF: Some teachers are not able to scale up and down for education level. They would have liked that included.
 - DP: I definitely see this with a high school application. Currently, many lesson plans take big data sets and have one quick analysis. It would be nice to take pieces over time and watch the data set grow.
 - AI: One comment we got was to provide more information about data collection instruments.
 - PM: The ocean acidification module is a complex issue and likely pointed to high school. I am also producing other education products that will be linked to the NODE module.
- LK: This is exciting work and great for Corals to join. Do we know how many teachers are using this?
 - AI: This is the test phase. We had 100+ teachers. This is the time to think about strategies to disseminate and scale up?
 - LK: Do you see it going to dissemination next or to be more comprehensive on Earth Systems Science?
 - AI: From my own perspective, I think we first need to draft a curriculum map.
 - LK: While you do that, will it stay in pilot mode?
 - AI: Yes. There is some funding for evaluation. Some of the funding will go to thorough training with NERRS, Sanctuaries, and B-WET educators.

GLOBE Update – John McLaughlin

JM: This complements NODE very well. NODE is about data analysis by the students. GLOBE is about data collection by students. See PPT slides.

- BH: Are the 140 partners current or summed over the years?
 - JM: That is the current state. Every U.S. partner has to sign an agreement with GLOBE every year saying they still want to be a partner and that they have supported at least one GLOBE activity in the past year. Those activities can range from funding one teacher to trainings for thousands of teachers.
- JM: NOAA was the lead agency in the early days. In 2002, Congress told NOAA to disengage from GLOBE.
 - BH: Did the other Federal agencies discontinue their support at the same time in 2002?
 - JM: By that point, all agencies had dropped out of the program except NASA and NSF.
 - CM: EPA funding dropped out a year or two before NOAA.
- FN: How much are you asking for GLOBE in FY12?
 - CM: \$5M, based on the OSTP draft report.
- FN: Strengthening the connection with NOAA Education needs to be broadened to all of NOAA. We should bring in the data centers into the reengagement.
 - JM: This is in the works. We have a meeting later today with Sandy MacDonald to talk about how to connect to the Earth System Research Labs. We want to connect the science and education of NOAA to the program.
- RG: Is AWS Weatherbug part of the partnership with GLOBE? Is there a link with GLOBE and the Weather Service Coop Observing program as a training ground to teach people how to collect data?
 - There is already an agreement with Weatherbug, with instructions on how to transfer data, get training, and have instruments calibrated according to GLOBE standards. For the Weather Service Coop Observers, there is a GLOBE alumni network to tap to get weather observers.
- AI: Does the NASA-NOAA involvement have sustainability?
 - JM: We are working on having a multiagency effort and expanding agencies.
 - CM: In the old days, was GLOBE in the President's request for NOAA?
 - LK: Yes.
 - LK: Dr. Lubchenco is not sure GLOBE has evolved to connect with the issues teachers face today. She also wants a stronger ocean component in GLOBE.
 - CM: We are being cautious in how we reengage. The process has been slow. We are still trying to find a balance between NOAA, NASA, and NSF. The potential is tremendous. GLOBE could do a great deal for the NODE program. We would love to have full engagement from the NOAA Education program.
 - JM: NASA is interested in long-term involvement.
 - CF: The Oceans for Life program would not have been possible without the involvement of GLOBE staff. Even while the bureaucracy is being worked out, there is still a potential to engage as partners.
- IR: What is the status of evaluation?
 - JM: There are some in-depth reports from NASA on the GLOBE Program Office, but not on the partners. There is a large need to give the partners a voice through evaluation. Currently, GLOBE just brought on an on-staff

evaluator, who has come in with some aggressive ideas on evaluation. NSF handled evaluation until 2003. So there have been evaluations, but not as comprehensive or up to date as we might hope.

Updates and Announcements

- LK: Christina Durham is here. She is a Knauss fellow supporting education in Legislative Affairs.
 - There was a request last week for a performance metric for a balance score card. They came to us, educators, to respond to this. This is a new day. We did not have an official performance metric, but had some data on Science On a Sphere (SOS). If people are interested, please provide your ideas. It has gone out to all the line offices.
 - JA: We (JA and CL) are on that working group. It should get circulated to people in the know. If you don't see it, please ask because it may not filter down.
 - LK: LL should send this out. If there are additional items to propose, please provide it there.
 - CM: We did not have time to give a thoughtful response. They should give us more advance notice.
 - JA: That is a fast-moving train. We understand that turn-around was ridiculous, but the purpose was to move it around your offices.
 - CL: I think DOC understands that this is a living document and subject to change.
 - Disney Nature's is releasing the Oceans movie tomorrow, Earth Day. They wanted to drive people to a website that gets people involved in ocean conservation. In very quick time, we put together a website for ocean conservation efforts. When people go to the Disney site, they get pushed to us. If you are interested, we own this page. If you have things you want to add, contact Rob Ostheimer.
- RG: Speaking of Disney, the National Hurricanes Conference had a visit to Epcot. They have an exhibit called Storm Struck, where you witness a hurricane hit your community. It's an informal learning system. They are interested in continuing their partnership with NOAA. The Whitaker Center, which has a SOS, now has a new program called Expedition Chesapeake. I will serve on the advisory committee. It will consist of a large format film, a DVD for sale, and high school curriculum.
 - LK: How can we make sure they have our Chesapeake curriculum materials?
 - RG: I need to connect to the Chesapeake Bay office and NERR to get as much data as possible.
- JA: I went to a workshop on strengthening NOAA science with scientists from all over the organization. Day 1 was about what the biggest challenges are in science research for the next 15-20 years. Earth Systems Science integration and data compilation were big issues. How do we take common data sets and make them more usable? One of the big ones was integrating the social science aspect into what we do. Tomorrow they will crystallize five or six major themes.
 - LK: This was requested by Dr. Lubchenco to gather NOAA scientist to talk about the grand challenges we'll face in science. This workshop will be the core of the SES summit next June.
- FN: OSTP is reconfiguring US Global Change Research Program with an interagency perspective. I am working with some people to strengthen the education component. They will formalize an interagency group for climate education. We have a Climate Portal meeting next week. There is a ton of activity for Climate Change grants (NSF, NASA, NOAA). There is high level interest in NOAA involvement for the NSF funding opportunity. People interested in the NASA grant are expressing interest in the NOAA ELG formal FFO. NRC Climate Change Education Roundtable will come on line in May. It is open to everyone. JM and I are working on the White House Science Fair initiative with NSF.
- BM: The Ocean Service Education website is undergoing some major structural changes. It will be up and running soon. We are getting comments and doing final beta testing on Sea Turtle Quest to Nest product. It should be out in the next couple months. Our Climate Change Interagency group is working on a follow-up to the Wildlife and Wild Lands toolkit recently distributed. The focus will be on dealing with climate change misconceptions.
 - FN: This is the 'doing' interagency group. I am on the 'coordinating' group.
 - BM: They are informally connected. There are some people on both groups. The Climate Stewards Education program has a face-to-face professional development program this summer in Knoxville, TN. Margaret Mooney will offer us one day prior to the annual ESIP workshop. It will be July 21-22. The Climate Stewards workshop will be July 20.
- AI: A Florida reserve will have an Earth Day event. We are working on getting Dr. Lubchenco involved. We are also working on our budget needs and doing an assessment of all of our data and getting scientists to make their data more accessible. Thanks to the B-WET grants, we have some teacher training events coming up.
- CM: On the Education matrix program, we just recently contacted PA&E. We have decided to put things on hold for a bit. We will have some strategic planning effort, but we don't know what it will be called. PDMs may go away as a vehicle for leadership requests. We will provide three alternatives if asked: status quo, all in, or the preferred participate at will. We are waiting to see how it will play out.
- LL: The Coordinating Working Group will have a deadline soon on aligning the working group to the Academies recommendations.
- JM: Two major things are going on with Environmental Literacy Grants. 1) We are preparing for the application review process for the informal FFO. Of the 70 applications, they broke down evenly among priorities. We have had help from two new hires. 2) We are drafting the new K-12 FFO. Thanks for your input on both of these.
 - FN: Will there be a one-pager on the new solicitation?
 - JM: After the submission, it will probably be in May.
- PM: We are in the final stages of developing the CRCP outreach and education strategy. The CRCP Coral is going to draft an ocean acidification science plan. I am involved in creating the education strategy for this. We would like to have ocean acidification essential principles. We would like to have the involvement of NOAA scientists and support of the Education Council on this.

- CD: Thank you for your responsiveness to the flurry of data calls. We are still working on COMPETES. Please loop me as soon as possible into your discussions with people on the Hill.
- BH: Kid to Work Day is tomorrow. A number of you are involved. The NOAA Environmental Heroes will also be announced tomorrow. The USA Science & Engineering festival in Oct. 23-24. There is a subset for DC WeatherFest. We will be looking for people to get involved.