

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: February 17, 2010 (1:00–4:00 pm)
 Location: SSMC3, Room 14836
 Dial-in: 866.901.0711
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 Contact: Luis Leandro - work: (202) 482-3139

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 1:10 Discussion on Obama STEM Innovation Initiative (National Lab Day) – Jan Cuny (*input request*)
 (20 min presentation/20 min discussion)
- 1:50 Climate Stewards – Peg Steffen (*informational*)
 (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:20 Next Generation Strategic Plan Council Feedback – Marlene Kaplan (*input request*)
 (20 min discussion)
- 2:40 Updates & Announcements

Upcoming Council Meetings:

March 24, 2010

April 21, 2010

Attendance

In person: Louisa Koch (LK), Jan Cuny (JC), Thanh Vo Dinh (TVD), Karen Eason (KE), Claire Fackler (CF), Jennifer Hammond (JH), Molly Harrison, Nina Jackson (NJ), Marlene Kaplan (MK), Judy Koepsell (JK), Luis Leandro (LL), Paulo Maurin (PM), Jeannine Montgomery (JMo), Rob Ostheimer (RO), Dan Pisut (DP), Bronwen Rice (BR), Irelene Ricks (IR), Peg Steffen (PS), Kate Thompson (KT), Sharon Walker (SW).

On the phone: Kirk Beckendorf (KB), Lexie Brown (LB), Bob Hansen (BH), Atziri Ibanez (AI), Carrie McDougall (CMc), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Shannon Sprague (SSp), Carla Wallace (CW).

Announcements (MK/LK)

- Introduce Maria Murray: I want to welcome Maria to the Council. Maria is our Sea Grant fellow and will be helping us a bit with Education Council activities.
- GLOBE Update: OSTP was asked in the FY11 appropriations bill to come up with a report that gives a brief overview of GLOBE and looks at the feasibility for moving this program to NOAA. The current thought is that the program will be worked by the interagency process and NOAA will lead this effort. A lot of details are left to be determined.
- Constituent Budget Brief: Went really well and Dr. Lubchenco got a lot of questions. This is the biggest budget NOAA has had in a long time. The President's Budget was actually higher than the previous year's appropriations. Satellites and Fisheries were major points of discussion. She was asked a question on education. Dr. Lubchenco mentioned that education continues to be a priority for NOAA. Steven Gallagher mentioned that Dr. Lubchenco is committed to seeing increases in NOAA's education budget.
- NAS report: We are on the verge of getting this report. The rule is I can share this with Education Council members, but this cannot be shared and is not to be released yet. We will have this report in house for a few weeks. This is a test of integrity and honor and we must pass that test. I may get this as soon as tonight. We do not have a plan for leadership involvement yet. There will be a chance to ask the Committee questions. Luis will send this out to the Council as soon as it is available. Maybe the Academy can come and brief the Council too. We will look into this possibility.
- Rep. Bart Gordon (TN) is pushing hard to have America COMPETES reauthorized. This is why we have asked you all for bullets. We were asked to let them know what we have done with this bill. In addition, they are interested in knowing if there are any programs that would benefit from a program-specific authorization. I think programs like teacher at NOAA are good candidates, but if you have any other ideas please let me know. Senate Commerce staff want to expand NOAA's jurisdiction in the COMPETES reauthorization.

Discussion on Obama STEM Innovation Initiative (National Lab Day) – Jan Cuny (*input request*)

MK: Jan is joining us from NSF. The intent of this presentation is to figure out how NOAA can support the President's agenda on this initiative. We want to connect our scientists to educators.

- JH: How many teachers have signed up? JC: About 1000.
- MK: To be a partner, do you have to contribute funds? JC: We are flexible. No funds needed. I will talk about this in a bit.
- CW: We have weather meteorologists on the field, whose jobs are to go to the classroom and talk to kids. I would be happy to give you some of these contacts. JC: Yes, that would be great. It would be great to connect your folks with National Lab Day.
- MK: And Carla, just to take some pressure off of Jan, it would be good to see from our end how we can use our networks for distributing this information.
- MK: Clearly we have several networks that we can utilize. Can I hear from other Council members on this?
- KT: On the other side, is there any place we can advertize projects that we would like to connect with this effort? JC: Yes, you can sign up as an organization on the web. Teachers can then browse through these projects. You can list your projects there. You can solicit in reverse by contacting teachers directly through the National Lab Day website. The website has a keyword search engine to find teachers/schools in your area that are relevant to any given topic or project.
- PM: Are you targeting formal educators? JC: No, we are targeting everyone. We are not limiting to formal educations.
- JH: We piloted teacher in the lab last year and teacher in the field this year. I will contact you directly to see if we can connect those teachers and projects to this effort. JC: That would be great. The idea for teachers to be able to search for cool projects and find yours in the system. People sign up for several different purposes. I am still trying to figure out how to best do this.
- IR: What happens if a request comes in and no one responds? Is there a process for this? JC: Not yet. We are working to have a system in place for this so all emails are responded. Right now I am doing this on my own, but we are working on getting more people involved. You do get an automatic response by email.
- PS: Is there a promotional process for this? JC: NSTA and ACS have been heavily involved in reaching out. Is there a plan? Not yet, but we are working on one. So far, I have been just scrambling to do meetings like this one.
- PS: The reason I say this is that many of us go to a lot of these conferences, so we could help with advertising and disseminating this information. JC: I am hoping that the Einstein fellows will help with this.
- MK: We are happy to participate on advocating and disseminating this to our networks and contacts.
- KT: We have a large teacher network that we can advertize this to. That is the easy part. Getting scientists more involved in the classroom to me is the real challenge. I need to use the Obama quote and send this to our scientists to motivate them to start this process.
- MK: Another thing we can consider is an email from our administrator advocating this as a result of President Obama's quote. We need to see the implications of doing this in terms of human resources.
- AI: I definitely support the idea of an email message from Dr. Lubchenco. It would help me a lot if I could get access to a promotional one pager that we can get out of the door to our contacts and networks. I would also be very interested to see if we can have teachers use some of our projects as well.
- JH: Is there a way for the agency to find out how many NOAA scientists sign up? JC: Yes, there will be an organizational sign up process that tags the scientists that register with the organization they work for. So, we will have all of this information and you can ask us to give this to you.
- AI: What are the long term plans for this? Do you know if this is something to be sustained? JC: The budget we have is for three years. In the week of May there will be several promotional events so teachers in the summer can start to think about incorporating this into their classrooms. Many of these events will take place in DC this year. It will depend solely on individuals to ensure sustainability. If it works for teachers, then it will be sustained. So, starting that relationship between the scientist and the teacher is really important.
- KT: Were you able to see test score differences as a result of this interaction? JC: Yes, definitely. The pass rates went up for sure if it were not for this woman that volunteered to speak to the students. She was a math major and it helped a lot to establish that relationship with the students.
- NJ: We could do a search in NOAA on our related sciences. If we can find someone to help teachers make that connection.
- MK: I think the easiest thing is to farm this out and let people look in their own communities and see what is available.
- Jan: We are hoping to have 10,000 projects by May. Once we have the organizational mechanism going so there are a number of companies that want to promote this, this will pick up considerably.
- SW: I was wondering if there is a mechanism in place to keep track of the success stories from the teacher/scientist connection. It would be good to have this to share with both teachers and scientists as a motivation. JC: The hope is that the week in May will give some coverage of these success stories. I am thinking also about having a YouTube contest where teachers can have videos of what they did and promote their stories. In May we hopefully will have a lot of activities we can talk about.
- SW: I also agree with Atziri in that it would be helpful to have a one page fact sheet that we can send to our networks as a promotional piece to our scientists and networks. JC: We can do this.
- MK: Jan, we can definitely help you broadcast and distribute these materials and brochures. JC: Great, we will make several of these and keep in touch with you Marlene on progress.
- MK: I will make these connections so we all know where these materials will be so Council members can pick up copies as needed before conferences etc.

Climate Stewards – Peg Steffen (informational)

- PS: Many Education Council members have been working on this Climate Stewards Project. We wanted to create something that would showcase NOAA content and make it easily available to our educators.
- LK: On the previous page, are these all NOAA opportunities? PS: Yes, these are all NOAA.
- KT: Is anyone going to put together a list of all the NOAA presentations. PS: Yes, Bob is working on this.
- JH: Does this mean that next fall you will continue this project? PS: Funding dependent, that is the plan. The group is committed to continue with this effort as long as we have resources to do so.
- SW: Is the 15 hour professional development continuing education or graduate/undergraduate credit? PS: The opportunities are not limited to ours. No one is paying for the CEUs. If you sign up for a webinar, the system will let us know that you were there and how many hours you did. They can get credit for attending the NSTA sessions which will fulfill CEU requirements for different states.
- LK: Peg, I think this is a really exciting thing. You guys are doing a really good job at moving this forward. Thank you for all the work the group has put into this.

Next Generation Strategic Plan Council Feedback – Marlene Kaplan (input request)

- LK: The mission statement was changed. This was an area that we were not happy with before and it was changed to include the engagement component. It is wonderful to see this change.
- KT: I cannot understand the vision statement at all. NOAA is not mentioned at all here.
- MK: We will comment on the lack of Ocean in the vision.
- PS: "Accessible" also doesn't mean anything to me. Anything can be accessible via the web. I am not sure what this means.
- MK: Thanh, why don't you come to the table and help us figure this out.
- TVD: We tried to come up with a unique vision statement that differs from what other agencies have.
- TVD: A lot of strong comments received from the stakeholder meeting were regarding how weak the statement and vision were. So, we attempted to put together a stronger, more NOAA-specific statement.
- PM: I am not sure that we can say that we will directly manage the natural resources.
- MK: I think it is fair to say this. For example, Sanctuaries and Fisheries management.
- KT: Why are they focused on 5 years? This is a lot for 5 years.
- TVD: This is supposed to be a 5 year strategic plan, so the idea is that this is what NOAA will do in 5 years.
- LK: Paulo, Kate and Atziri, do you guys want to push for including education in the Coastal Objective? A: Yes!
- LK: If we can find one sentence that comes from multiple directions, we will have a better shot at making progress here.
- PS: If we can add explanatory language that "Coastal Communities have increased knowledge" includes education then we would have language in this goal as well.
- MK: The general write-up for this Goal is more focused on policy makers and not the general public.
- SW: This has to be presented in final draft this Friday to NOAA Leadership?
- MK: The comments are due back to PPI this Friday. A week later, PPI will present this to the NEP. My guess is they will present this document as is to the NEP, and on the actual presentation mention the Council comments.
- SW: The write-up is really poor! I am reading the first introduction letter from Dr. Lubchenco and this is really bad. I would be completely embarrassed to send something this poorly written to NOAA Leadership.
- MK: We are trying to say nicely that we strongly recommend hiring an editor/writer.
- PS: I am disappointed that there is no education component under the Coastal goal.

Updates and Announcements

- PS: The CED education team has been working with Molly on a new game. "The Quest to Nest" is coming out next month.
- SW: SG took names for NOSB. We participated with 18/19 spots. Every region has a winner.
- KT: I wanted to let you all know that for personal reasons Michiko will not be back into the office until March. I will be covering some of her responsibilities and Claire Fackler will be acting for me and will be helping out with Council responsibilities. Claire is in the Santa Barbara office.
- NJ: I am working with a company to develop a dictionary with definitions and games. It is being tested. The dictionary is on Sign Language and Spanish/English. This will be ready for distribution this summer and will be available online.
- MK: On behalf of Paula, she sent us some brochures she wanted distributed. I am passing these around.
- BH: Those of you that are interested in submitting NSTA materials please contact Jeannine Montgomery.
- AI: I wanted to share with all that we got some funding for the 11 reserves to do market analyses and needs assessments. I will find out in the next few months which of those reserves are partnering with B-WET, Sanctuaries and other NOAA offices. Would like to encourage you to talk to your education coordinators to participate in this. This is a tool that is available at the regional level. 2) We have come up with a beta version of an interface through NERRS monitoring data. This is real time and archived data. We are working with all the NOAA IT security requirements. This will be made available on the estuaries.gov website. It is only a beta version, but will be available online for teachers and will be connected to middle and high school curricula.
- CMc: Update on ELG grants. Many of us are not present because we received a lot of letters of intent. Initial estimate is close to 400 letters. We are in the process of reviewing these letters and this is what we will be doing for the next several weeks.

- AI: Did you look at whether organizations know how to write letters of intent and follow instructions for applying for these grants?
- CMc: Yes, we did come up with a lot of these guidelines that we will provide.
- CF: When is the anticipation for announcing the formal ELG announcement?
- CMc: Late June/July.