

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: February 9, 2011 (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
- 1:10 DOE Literacy Principles – Michelle Fox (*informational*)
 (20 min presentation/20 min discussion)
- 1:50 Climate Working Group report-out – Frank Niepold (*informational*)
 (5 min presentation/10 min discussion)
- 2:05 Break
- 2:15 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Best Practices Guide– Kate Thompson (*informational*)
 (15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:45 NAEP Nations Report Card on Science Overview– Frank Niepold (*input request*)
 (10 min presentation/10 min discussion)
- 3:05 Updates & Announcements

Next Council Meetings:

March 16, 2011
 April 6, 2011

Attendance

In person: Louisa Koch (LK), Michelle Fox (MF), Ron Gird (RG), Molly Harrison (MH), Matthew Inman (MI), Nina Jackson (NJ), Luis Leandro (LL), Lindsay Knippenberg (LK_n), Paulo Maurin (PM), Milton Muldrow (MM), Frank Niepold (FN), Dan Pisuit (DP), Peg Steffen (PS), Kate Thompson (KT), Pamela Bingham (PB)

On the phone: Paula Keener-Chavis (PKC), Atziri Ibanez (AI), Than Vo Din (TV), Stephanie Bennett (SB), Carla Wallace (CW)

Announcements (LK)

- Appropriations Process - We are currently waiting on the house and senate. There have been some talks of cuts to STEM education, but NOAA is not on the list. We have been notified by the house resources committee that they are going to look at our education portfolio to ensure that our programs are worthy of getting paid. We are expecting the house appropriations mark any day now and that will give us the floor of what NOAA can expect over time.
- Internal Strategic Evaluation – The engagement piece has strong political support.
- Sub-committee on Education – The American COMPETES Act had language to create a full committee at the assistant secretary level instead of a sub-committee. We are unsure if NOAA or commerce will provide representation.
- There should be a hiatus on data calls

DOE Literacy Principles – Michelle Fox and Matthew Inman (*informational*)

- FN – MF has a lot on plate – energy literacy and workforce development. Lots of overlap on what we do so there are lots of areas for collaboration. MF is also interested in how our education council works and how that model can be applied to other agencies.
- LK – Is the congressional request similar to the appropriations?
 - Yes, it will be a similar proportion
- RG – How many schools targeted by wind turbine program (Wind for Schools)?
 - Currently 13 schools
- RG – Where will the solar decathlon be located this year?
 - Working on it with the Department of Interior. There were concerns over the damage that was caused to the mall from the event in previous years.
- FN – What is the difference between undergraduate training vs. education?
 - Hard to define the difference, since they are all under the umbrella of learning. Learning a skill vs. learning about something. Our research fellowships train undergraduate students for future careers, but they also provide content knowledge.
- FN – Of Importance to council – This is a full energy literacy document including subjects ranging from Physics to Earth System Science. Please make comments sooner rather than later.

- LK – FN can send the document to Ed Council to review and submit comments
 - MI – Target audiences to have say early on in the process (April – May)
 - PKC – Would like to recommend a group from SC. Can MI share the list of stakeholders involved in the process? MI can also forward the wiki page to the Ed Council through FN.
- MF – Interested in learning how the education council was formed, how it functions, and how her office can collaborate with the education council. They are also interested in our evaluation process.
- LK – Tell a little bit about how the education council idea fell apart at DOE?
 - MF – Their efforts failed mostly because of a change in leadership and a lack of organization and reporting structure. How was the NOAA education council formed?
 - LK – The Administrator of NOAA wanted to create a synergy of ideas across NOAA. Lots of councils were formed during that time. Line offices with an education focus were asked to contribute to the formation of an education council. We also started out early with a strategic plan so we would have an idea of where we were going as a unified organization. The Office of Education provides the logistical support for the council.
 - MF – DOE is hindered by a lack of an office of education within DOE.
 - LL – America COMPETES Act required us to create a strategic plan and a shorter term implementation plan. A lot of the efforts that we are doing as a community are shaped by this language.
 - FN – It's someone's job to make this happen and take responsibility for education council proceedings. Another key piece is the forming of working groups. Our structure is also voluntary and we have a process for how we accept new members and deal with requests.
 - KT – We also have a charter
 - LL – The formation of our council is internally driven to have a means to show success and have a means to demonstrate those successes to congress and other groups that inquire.
 - LK – The National Academy workshop on climate change education evaluation may be a possible meeting to attend. FN will provide information on the workshop to DOE.
 - PS – Funding is a lot different between NOAA and DOE. Demonstrating the benefits of collaboration to higher ups is also helpful. Potential mandate to create a strategic plan from the people at the top could be a start.
- LK – Current DOE/NOAA Partnerships – Collaboration between SOS Network and NREL
 - FN – MOU bet ESRL and NREL. Focused on combining their education components
 - LK – Also the partnership between Oak Ridge and NOAA. Visiting with a team of educators to look at education partnerships in the near future
- RG – NWS visits several schools every year and we can combine our messages through the council. Science and Engineering Fair – we had a cluster of offices (local enterprises – commercial, universities, and government agencies) and produced hands on science for families.
- MF – Delighted for your support and DOE is ready to assist in anything related to energy

Climate Working Group report-out – Frank Niepold (*informational*)

- LK - Is this the same tool kit that will be distributed at NSTA?
 - PS - We will be distributing the Wildlife and Wildlands toolkit to teachers, but we will also be having focus groups at NSTA on the new CD toolkit and climate poster.
- RG – Current grants for educating TV broadcasters at George Mason through NSF (Climate Change Education Partnership grant). Educating broadcasters on sending climate messages to the public.
- LK – Are there any comments on Frank transfer from his implementation plan that was approved from the education council to one that supports the SEE? Does anyone have any problems with this? LL will make a presentation on this at the next meeting. FN needs to update his implementation plan.
- LK - What is the ETA for the portal update?
 - FN – Months
- PK – Will you be using Ocean Exploration materials as a part of your presentation at NSTA?
 - FN – Materials for NSTA need to be on the pallet by this Friday
 - PK – Current modules that are a part of OE on Climate Change and also a large part of short course. What is the number of teachers attending workshop to provide books for participants? PS – 80/workshop
- LK – Introduction of Milton Muldrow to the Ed Council. He has been at NOAA for 2 weeks and is a program manager in the EPP office. He came to us from NSF and he was also the education director at the Pigeon Key Foundation in the Florida Keys.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Best Practices Guide– Kate Thompson (*informational*)

- PM – New York Times article today on the evaluation of government programs
- RG – Intrigued by poster – Interested in turning publications into posters similar to the cloud chart poster.
 - FN – Using augmented reality and other applications (QR) to link what you are seeing (printed or exhibit materials) to an online application. LK – Could this be a part of the Connects group to look at future possibilities for NOAA? PSC group could do a presentation of what they are working on.
- LL - Could other NOAA employees also receive this training? KT – Yes
- DP – How did you get buy-in to complete this project? KT – This project did take a long time (1994 – now). Started with a logo and then performance measures. Superintendents did give some resistance, but educators were quick to buy-in. FN – Climate is also undergoing this process and is interested in how they can learn from sanctuaries experience.
- DP – What happens when employees don't follow these guidelines? KT – It is a part of their performance plan and it saves money.

- LK – Is the book available on a website? KT – Currently on an internal site, but it will be open to the public in the next couple of months.
- FN – NOAA has this problem in general. Everything looks different from all the different line offices when at an exhibit (NSTA). KT – Exhibits do have the NOAA feel to them by having banners and other parts of the exhibit with NOAA logos/colors
- KT - It helped to have the park service as an example to build from.
- LK – One day it would be nice to have a similar look and feel to all of NOAA, but that will probably come from communications and not from education.

NAEP Nations Report Card on Science Overview– Frank Niepold (*input request*)

- PB – Was there any distinction made between states in terms of their state education/graduation requirements? FN – They do breakout scores by state and then do comparisons. They can compare states that require the Earth Sciences with the ones that don't.
- FN - NAEP Results are available on the Education Council website and NSTA webinar.
- LK – Is it possible to see the results of the Earth and Space Science performance separate from the other topic areas? FN – Yes
- LK – Why do the Earth and Space Science percentages differ so much between 8th and 12th grade? FN – You can't really compare the previous NAEP to the current NAEP. Earth and Space Science is clearly slanted towards the lower grades. LK - On the positive side, at least Earth and Space Science is included as one of the three science content area and we are almost seeing a proportional amount of questions. FN – There were several very good climate questions as a part of the assessment.
- PS – NOS is interested in the life and physical science as well.
- NJ – Was the data broken down between home schools, private, or public schools? FN – It was broken down for other groups, but not quite to that extent

Updates and Announcements

- SB – Nothing to report. The BWET evaluators' meeting is going great.
- NJ – There is a Sally Ride climate workshop with JPL at the end of the month. She is accepting any climate materials that other offices have to distribute to the participants. About 75 teachers are attending.
- MH – Teacher at Sea is finalizing their class for this year this week
- KT – During their data call they were pleasantly surprised to learn that they were impacting 40,000 students and 2,000 teachers through their STEM programs
- PS – Games and simulations summit went well. Excellent speakers and interagency work. Getting ramped up for the next batch of climate stewards and conversations are already starting on the wiki. On March 9th at NSTA in San Francisco there will be a NOAA-wide climate training session to preview what will be done with teachers later on in the week at NOAA only and joint interagency workshops. Also doing a climate change education training for AZA members in Des Moines at the Lake Park Zoo. Also approved for a CZ11 training session (3-6 hrs). Looking for help with the training session. Maybe local Great Lakes educators could help?
- FN – In FY 11 one of the highest priorities for the climate literacy objective is capacity building. So the office of communication and climate are working together to create a toolkit and test it before ruling it out. Visited Google to look at them as a partner to help with climate services. LK – Google has a yearly focus of Climate Change Education in 2011, Ocean Education in 2012, and Clean Water in 2013. FN – However, Google is looking to go even farther than that...One of Google's initiatives is Computational Literacy. One goal is to create searches for just educators to help them find lessons. Possible meeting with Google during NSTA. LK – Was there any follow up with getting Google to address the ed council? What about embedding Google tools/products into NOAA materials? FN – They are even interested in non-Google tools. They are much more interested in the literacy of the topics. DP – Maybe a Connects meeting if the education council idea doesn't work. LK – What about a virtual meeting? FN - UNESCO is also interested in forming partnerships
- KT – iTunes University also wants to form a partnership with us. PS – We have been working on that agreement with Commerce for three years.
- DP – Finished database and it is ready to go. FN – Will training be available in using this? DP – Potentially if interest arises. DP – NEEF partnership with Earth Gauge for weathercasters. A calendar was created to get current events to the weathercasters. Looking for NOAA content to pair with these days (ie. Flood Awareness Day). DP – Looking for ideas for the image of the day. Open Hours from 9 -11 for submitting the image of the day (data images only...no fluffy animals). DP – SOS will be at AAAS next week and Family Day will be Sat and Sun.
- LK – Coastal America Student Summit is next week. A good response from NOAA leadership to attend and speak at the conference.
- KT – We did manage to get funding for a truncated Oceans for Life program this year in the Channel Islands and they are looking for students. Please send the announcement to your networks of students or teacher.