

NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: July 13, 2011 (1:00–4:00 pm)
Location: SSMC3, Room 14836
Dial-in: 866.901.0711
Passcode: 8134683
Contact: Luis Leandro - work: (202) 482-3139

Adobe Connects Link to Meeting: <http://connectpro46305642.adobeconnect.com/edcouncil/>

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 1:10 Coastal Conservation Corps - Brian Pawlak (*informational*)
(10 min presentation/10 min discussion)
- 1:30 Great Lakes Literacy Principles – Rosanne Fortner and Lyndsey Manzo (*informational*)
(15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Great Lakes B-WET – Cathy Green (*informational*)
(15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 2:45 Update on Student Opportunities Website – Elvis Efamba (*informational*)
(15 min presentation/15 min discussion)
- 3:15 Updates & Announcements

Next Council Meetings:

August - no council meeting
September 14, 2011

Attendance

In person: Marlene Kaplan (MK), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Ron Gird (RG), Luis Leandro (LL), Frank Niepold (FN), Kate Thompson (KT), Lindsay Knippenberg (LKn), Bre Murphy (BM), Elizabeth McMahon (EM), Judy Koepsell (JK), Michelle Miller (MM), Rhonda Sucha (RS), Brian Pawlak (BP), Peg Steffen (PS), Chantell Haskins (CH)

On the phone: Ellen Brody (EB), Nina Jackson (NJ), Rosanne Fortner (RF), Shannon Sprague (SSp), Paula Keener (PK), Cathy Green (CG), Stephanie Bennett (SB), Robin Brockner (RB), Steve Storck (SS), Lyndsey Manzo (LM), Brenda Culler (BC), Jill Jentes Banicki (JB), Huron Pines Nature Center, Heather Elmer (HE), Chelsea Lowes (CL), Osa Obaseki (OO)

Announcements (MK)

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- **OSTP follow-up questions** - We received earlier in the week several follow-up questions from OSTP on the STEM surveys that you all filled out. All programs that completed a survey have one or more questions, but overall these are pretty straight forward. Luis sent an email to the council earlier in the week about this and is coordinating the responses. Please make sure you have seen this email. The deadline for submitting your answers is no later than COB next Monday (7/18). We are meeting with OSTP next week to discuss all the surveys and need to have the final answers by then. We will keep you all posted on how the discussion with OSTP goes.
 - **Adobe Connects Feedback** – Since this is the first time we are using Adobe Connects, we are interested in feedback from people connecting remotely. Please send comments to Luis.

Coastal Conservation Corps – Brian Pawlak (*informational*)

See PowerPoint slides.

- MK – Who are the California Conservation Corp members?
 - BP – Definitely paid. They use a lot of at-risk students in their programs. They sign up for a year or two.
- CM – This is a terrific idea, but as a reality check it might be next to impossible to get money for this. Your office approached us awhile back to put this through. Your request was one of the most well thought out, articulated, polished requests we have ever put forth, but we didn't get anywhere. In terms of new dollars for education, unfortunately the track record for our agency in the last two administrations has been dismal. So the key is, can we make this happen with internal or external funding? Is it essential to give the students stipends or could it be unpaid volunteer work? We are getting more and more requests for volunteer opportunities.
 - BP – Sanctuaries has a volunteer effort and they could talk about how they do that. We are really only offering them pennies in the form of either housing, travel, training, or a small stipend (a couple

thousand for two months of work). It's flexible based upon the core model that is used. Giving them something has given us the opportunity to attract more people to the program. Going back to the failure of pushing a good idea like this through education, part of the pitch here is to get this to be viewed as not just an education. Why wouldn't Commerce stand up and talk about this as a jobs thing? Forget the education and just talk about job training. There is a high level of dropouts in high schools across America and there is urban decay, let's talk about that.

- CM – There was a long term study published in Science showing the benefits of having teachers engaged in authentic research experiences. They were able to show the money saved to the city of NY by having the program.
 - EM – However that program also had their funding discontinued.
 - CM – We have many compelling arguments. The President has made STEM a priority for the nation in terms of competitiveness and job creation. A lot of the stuff that we do aligns directly with that effort and yet NOAA has failed to make a commitment to utilize our existing infrastructure to further this administration's priorities. Unless things change dramatically and like you said the House mark argues to the contrary, we will have to think outside the box and not in terms of getting a penny from NOAA. Can we do this in-kind or relying on external resources?
 - BP – That is definitely our view for the next couple of years. If we are talking about budget issues, than we are not talking about anything until FY14 or once the economy is back on track. So it is really about getting a pool of resources so that we can get existing conservation groups to move towards coastal restoration work. When we had our workshop with many different corp organizations that have a lot of different models for how they run things, many said they did not have a problem with traveling to the coasts where their projects were. It's not so much that they need the money. It is that they need the projects and they will go there. They were glad to do the work.
- PS – Are you talking to the Student Conservation Corp? We have moved money to them and we already have an established partnership. They are decades old and are a well oiled political machine. They are definitely concerned with working with underserved students and getting them out into the natural environment.
 - RB – Yes, we have. We are absolutely having conversations with them. One thing that they are interested in is that when they work with other agencies they have a very large blanket cooperative agreement. What has stymied our efforts in their work with NOAA is their need to compete for every dollar that they get from NOAA. We are working that through and using our political appointees.
- SSp– I was just at a meeting where we talked about the model for the Dept of Ed Green Schools program which uses a tiered system to recognize other projects and advocates for other programs. It brings federal money and resources to the table but it also motivates others to invest their own money which is unique to the federal government. The model was unanimously endorsed by the five states.
- CG – We have been working with Americorp members and they have been helpful in our programs especially those with K-12.
 - RB – We have two people working with us that were Americorp members and are now some of our best field staff.
 - CG – Many of ours have moved into full or part-time employment with us as well.
- KT – Sanctuaries has a very large volunteer corp. We have been tackling many policy issues as of late. NOAA and DOC lack a volunteer policy. It makes it very difficult to run programs like these. This puts a cap on volunteer stipends (\$40) and we would have to use another party like Americorps or SCA to do this on a larger scale. We are currently working on a policy agreement with NOAA and DOC.
- CM – I propose that we follow up with a meeting with council members that are interested in moving this forward. I will coordinate this meeting with Luis. I would hate for this to be the end of it.

Great Lakes Literacy Principles – Rosanne Fortner and Lyndsey Manzo (informational)

See PowerPoint slides.

- MK – Can you tell us some more about the assessments that were built?
 - LM – State standardized tests were once very terrestrial and are now including more Great Lakes questions.
- FN – Can we have a conversation on how climate literacy can support in your initiative?
 - RF – We taught a Great Lakes Climate Education course at the Stone Lab recently and we gave our teachers the climate literacy and the great lakes literacy principles and we tie them together during our webinars and professional development opportunities.
 - FN – There will also be some deeper materials available online soon that we can talk about offline. Who should I reach out to?
 - RF – Start with JB at Ohio Sea Grant.
- PK – Marlene and I have both been working on sections of the national ocean policy. Within ocean exploration component we call out both Great Lakes and ocean exploration.
 - MK – In the literacy component we will definitely be pointing out the ocean, Great Lakes, and estuary principles as being related and very relevant to what we are doing.
- RG – I noticed that you had a bullet about NWS? We would love to work with you. Have you located your local NWS? We can also help connect you to the broadcasting community.
 - RF – That's outstanding and I will send a reprint of the research that we do. It is published through Ohio State. We will show you how these programs came about and how they do increase public knowledge.

- RG – We can set up a telecom to start that process.
- MK – It would be great if you could send that to Luis as well so that he can post it on the council website or send it around. We would love to see the studies that you have done.

Great Lakes B-WET – Cathy Green (*informational*)

See PowerPoint slides.

- MK – Congratulations! Great job with pulling everything together and getting other federal agencies involved. We are excited to add the Great Lakes to our BWET portfolio.
- CM – Echo the congratulations. What is the level of funding that is expected in FY12?
 - EB – It would be \$1 million again. We can't say with confidence how long we will continue to get GLRI money.
- MK – How do you plan on attracting applicants?
 - CG – The reasons that we have two levels of funding is that we want to attract larger organizations that have existing projects that can be adapted or expanded to be BWET grants, but we are also interested in attracting smaller groups (boys and girls clubs, nature centers, etc...) with the two tiers of funding. We will be very interested in who will be applying.
- FN – One thing that might be complimentary are the NSF Climate Change Education Partnership Phase 2 grants – up to \$2million/yr for 5 years. They have a national audience or regional audience with multiple audiences. There are some Phase 1 proposals that relate to your region (Chicago Zoo). Others that didn't get Phase 1 can apply for Phase 2. I would recommend looking at this NSF program for future funding.
- LL – GLERL comes to DC yearly to talk to congress. It would be beneficial to make sure that they have BWET talking points.

Update on Student Opportunities Website – Elvis Efamba (*informational*)

See PowerPoint slides.

- CH – Heaviest traffic on student opportunities page is January. We would like to update them quarterly.
- BM – Does the main page only list current opportunities?
 - CH – We keep past opportunities on the site, however we would like to update them regularly. We are only as good as the information we obtain from you guys
- FN – I imagine that this is highlighted on the education.noaa.gov site. How is that working? Shouldn't this be embedded in the NOAA education page instead of sitting on the office of education website?
 - CH – Isn't that being discussed now?
 - CM – We will let the web team know of your suggestion.
- PK – Are there some opportunities for the various students that are funded through these different programs to communicate with each other about their experiences? It might be worth considering to build capacity and promote peer mentoring.
 - CH – We agree with that. That is why we bring them all together for their orientation. There are also social events and shared housing is available in some locations to bring them together. We also have a research symposium at the end of their internship. They form a close knit group.
- CH – Right now we are looking for judges for those located in the DC area. There will be about 150 students giving oral and poster presentations on their projects Aug 2 – 4th. We need judges in every aspect of NOAA's mission to judge both the oral presentations and posters. We will have 4 venues going concurrently and we will need several judges. The projects are phenomenal and the students are great.
 - MK – This is very important to us and Luis will send something around.

Updates and Announcements (email lindsay.knippenberg@noaa.gov to be included in notes)
