

Florida Oceans and Coastal Council

March 11 & 13, 2008

Capital Building, Room 2103 (21st Floor)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

DAY ONE, Tuesday, March 11, 2008

10 OBSERVERS/REPRESENTATIVES

Members present:

| Voting Member | March 11, 2008 | March 13, 2008 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Jim Cato | X | |
| Billy Causey | | |
| Jane Davis | X | |
| Ernie Estevez | X | X |
| Holly Greening | X | X |
| Karl Havens | X | X |
| Rob Hendricks | | |
| Jerry Lorenz | X | X |
| John Ogden | X | X |
| Shirley Pomponi | | |
| Lisa Robbins | X | X |
| Jerry Sansom | X | X |
| Jody Thomas | X | X |
| Peter Ortner | X | |
| Tom Waite | X | |
| Non Voting Member | | |
| DEP Secretary Michael Sole | | |
| FWC Executive Director Ken Haddad | | |
| DACS Director Sherman Wilhelm | X | X |
| DEP Deputy Secretary Robert Ballard (Sole designee) | X | X |
| FWC FWRI Director Gil McRae (Haddad alternate) | X | X |

WELCOME BACK/INTRODUCTIONS /AGENDA REVIEW

The Facilitator, Janice Fleischer, reviewed the Agenda (**Exhibit A**) and Meeting Guidelines.

All Reports of Proceedings, Meeting Guidelines and Public Comment Guidelines can be found on the Council website at www.FloridaOceansCouncil.org.

DEP Deputy Secretary Robert Ballard announced that the Council was once again fully represented following the resignations of a few Council members late in 2007. The newest member of the Council is Peter Ortner, Ph.D., who was introduced formally.

LIAISON UPDATE

Council Liaison, Nicole Robinson, delivered her Liaison Update (**Exhibit B**). Several items were mentioned in her presentation, including:

1. The National Ocean Economics Report
 - a. Monterey Bay Aquarium contractors held a meeting with their Florida subcontractors in January, 2008; the report is due to be complete by June 30, 2008.
2. Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council (FWRMC) update
 - a. Draft monitoring action plan draft expected ready for public comment by May 2008.
3. IDM:
 - a. Ellen McCarron, FWRMC Chair, will report on the work of the Integrated Data Management (IDM) Project during the second day of this meeting, March 13, 2008.
4. Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA):
 - a. Steve Wolfe, FDEP, reported on nutrient study design efforts
 - i. Developing tools and methods to help state to set coastal nutrient criteria
 - ii. Study design to be used on different kinds of coastal/estuarine systems all around the Gulf, as part of developing tools that can be used Gulf-wide.
 - b. There will be an Annual Monitoring Forum June 3-6, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Florida.
 - c. NOAA budget includes dedicated funds to support GOMA. The Department of the Interior (DOI) has joined as a co-chair (with EPA and NOAA) of the federal working group that supports the GOMA.
 - d. Council Member comments/questions:
 - i. Will new focus areas be offered in GOMA's new Action Plan?
 1. That is expected to be the case, but the process has just started.
 2. 3rd Annual Integration Workshop (also called the GOMA All-Hands meeting) in August during which that will be discussed.
 3. This is a targeted, performance oriented, cooperative between 5 states that are all seeking the same goals: this is why there is so much interest (\$) in this effort.
 - e. There is support for GOMA efforts from NASA too.
5. Interagency Ocean and Coastal Mapping strategic planning.
 - a. Priority to create a mapping information clearinghouse.
 - b. This is primarily a federal interagency working group, with some state representation.
 - c. Coastal States Organization was contacted by the federal government to provide representation on their part re: mapping.
 - d. How does this relate to the Florida Mapping Workshop?
 - i. That one had only a Florida focus.
 - ii. State workshop information was presented
 - iii. Same needs at national level as was evident at the state workshop.
6. SEAGRANT doing a Gulf of Mexico regional research planning effort.
 - a. They looked at 117 strategic plans including the Oceans Council 2007-2008 Annual Research Plan.
 - b. Are any of the other plans as detailed as ours?
 - i. No, most are not state wide just by individual organizations/entities.
 - ii. Done very well and was a massive effort.

Following Ms. Robinson's report, Co-Chair Gil McCrae, FWC/FWRI reported on the progress of the Council's Research Review (RR) and Resource Assessment (RA)

RR: Purpose was to find out everything that is going on in ocean's research (project finder); the relationship of FDEP and FWC is in place in working on this project; there are over 1000 datasets from over 15 agencies; will be done by June, 2008 this will be a tangible product from this Council.

RA: There was some question as to what should be included so there was a series of workshops to get users to define what is included in the RA; FWC is contracting with an outside entity to get users input; this does not rely on new funds, it is covered in the current budget.

Both projects are ongoing and by June, 2008 will have tangible results to show.

Member questions:

1. Are these public workshops?
 - a. No, they are more individual interviews so you all will be contacted.
2. Are the RR and RA updateable?
 - a. Yes, always. They live on the internet and will be built on all the time.
3. Will you take it to the International Year of the Reef Conference?
 - a. Good suggestion and it will be ready by then.

Ms. Robinson indicated that the contract with the Florida Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems Caucus (FLCOOS) contract has been executed. Dr. Jyotika Virmani, FLCOOS Executive Director, gave an update on the work being done (Exhibit C).

Member comments following Dr. Virmani's report:

1. Lots of progress in a short time, what happens if there is a "down" year?
 - a. They will look for alternate sources of funds.
2. Are there concerns about birds re: guano on arrays where nutrient sensors are being tested?
 - a. Yes, but trying to find out what/where to deploy.
3. How reliable a sensor is it?
 - a. Reports are very good so far.
4. North Florida will biofoul much quicker than other areas of the country.
5. Maintenance is another issue beside installation and purchasing.
6. What is the cost of installation as compared to annual maintenance?
 - a. About \$75-80K a year upkeep, cost about \$100K per unit.
 - b. The real cost is the operation and maintenance.

It was suggested that a paragraph or two explaining the National Ocean Economics program to new members and those who may not be familiar should be sent out or included in a short report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was invited.

For Public Comment Guidelines, see the Council website at www.FloridaOceansCouncil.org.

Three (3) members of the public addressed the Council:

Pat Welsh, Ph.D., University of North Florida
Mitchell Roffer, Ph.D., Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Services
Jyotika Virmani, Ph.D., FLCOOS Consortium

Members of the public are strongly encouraged to submit their comments in writing on the comment cards provided at each meeting or email the Facilitator; Janice Fleischer (janice@flashresolutions.com) within the first week following the meeting and those comments will be included in the Report.

BREAK

The group took a short break.

FUTURE OF THE COUNCIL

FDEP Deputy Secretary Robert Ballard, Co-Chair, gave the Council a budget update.

It is possible that the Council will have to go two years with no money coming in, but FDEP is committed to continuing the Council in some way. Secretary Sole is very supportive of keeping the Council viable while they are waiting for funds again.

Mr. McCrae, Co-Chair, indicated that the issues of the Council are much bigger than the state of Florida, these are issues effecting many states in the country. Therefore, he never anticipated that the Florida legislature would ever be able to fund all the work of the Council. Mr. McCrae said the Council should be looking to partner as much as possible. A focus on the collaborative synergy that the Council has engendered would be beneficial. This is an opportunity to look at all agencies/organizations that have work that intersects with the Oceans efforts. Mr. McCrae stated that the Council can be instrumental in bringing stakeholders together.

DACS Director Sherman Wilhelm, Co-Chair, noted that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) is going to do what it takes to make this happen and to support the Council; there is always a way and they will do what they can to find that way.

Stephanie Bailenson, FDEP Director of the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), told the Council to think about how they might work differently, due to the budget constraints, the Council may be losing staff as well.

Member comments:

1. Are we a think tank or strategic planning body?
2. We should spend time on what types of products this group should come up with to answer either Council's needs or agencies needs.
3. Are there any specifics that have come out of the Council that you (agencies) have already been able to use?
 - a. Ms. Bailenson: Absolutely, at regional and national workshops I can present what Council does which means I am coming from a position of strength.
 - i. Not just me "bringing" information to conferences, I am actually invited to speak due to the work of the Council.
 - b. When Oceans Council suggests things, it carries a huge impact with FDEP Secretary Sole.
4. One Council Member indicated that his commitment to stay depends on what the Council decides to do;
 - a. His hope is that the Council gets more involved in the climate change issues; that is an enormous arena and the Council should be doing that work.
 - b. I think we need an ocean governance policy for the State of Florida.
5. Big Three issue groups that Dr. Ogden thinks should be dealt with:
 - a. Living marine resources
 - b. Climate change
 - c. Land based sources of pollution
6. Area based management discussion that NOAA does; we just don't manage the Ocean in any viable way; we really need ocean governance to deal with this.
7. We should start to function like the National Research Council, look at the 30K foot level; it would take more "at home" commitment from each of us but first we need to pick out topics that we concentrate on.
 - a. Don't limit yourself to what is useful only in two years.
8. This Council seems to want to talk about what you can really influence.

9. What kinds of things could folks with our expertise suggest, lead, provide, etc.; we need to tap our brain trust; what does this group advise you (the agencies) on? Help us with that tell us what you want.
 - a. Mr. McCrae: land based pollution, there should be an easy way to get some answers on what it is, where it comes from and how it should be dealt with in the future; (ocean outfall, non-point source pollution, etc.); look at those things that are controllable in terms of the ocean.
 - b. Mr. Ballard: we need to be directing toward those issues that are important now; give service to the Legislature to assist them.
 - c. Visionary planning that is at a higher level than the agencies have the ability to do.
10. Simple products that frame an issue or a problem are very useful; priorities are very powerful.
11. From the private sector we should focus on partnerships and strategies; what groups can we approach for expertise and to collaborate?
 - a. Strategize and use our meetings to report back on the work with the formed collaborative groups.
12. Maybe identify obstacles that we need to overcome.
13. This is a time for re-invention; opportunity to look at what is not working.
14. A member expressed concern that the Action Plan should not be published two years from now without having the Council having looked at it again.
 - a. The current plan goes all the way to the project level and now you can look at the context in which that should be done.
 - b. Reality is that many of the initiatives are already happening; it may be that those could be done more efficiently.
 - c. You might want to stop arguing project by project and start providing the context.
15. We should step back and look at the questions that have not yet been asked.
16. Tactical remarks: Member Ernie Estevez did a visual (Exhibit D)
 - a. What can we do to prepare Florida to take advantage of the situation as it evolves (considering the 4 options his diagram outlined)?
 - b. Responses: regional efforts evolving, we should poise to take advantage of them as they and/or their programs develop.
17. We need to look for private funding as well as government funds.

At this point, Council Liaison Robinson delivered a presentation (Exhibit E) on the Oceans Council's options for future planning.

1. RE: the way the Annual Research Plan goes forward:
 - a. Can we find out how many/ who responded to RFPs?
 - b. It is still an active RFP; but it will be suspended until notice from legislature on budget.
 - c. There were a variety of projects/60 applications total.
 - d. Average project cost was \$430K.
 - e. Broad interest in subjects.
 - f. Significant amount of RFPs that addressed more than one topic priorities.
 - g. There is a link on Oceans Council website to RFP webpage.
 - h. What does this information mean since there is no money for projects?
 - i. Although no money is available for the projects, it does show a demonstration of interest.
2. Suggest removing a level of detail in the Research Plan in the next plan and stay at a higher level so it is applicable for the next 3-5 years.
 - a. The current plan gives quite a lot to do at the big picture level.
3. The "Oceans 101" Presentation: the Council should try to come up with a list of who this presentation would be delivered to.
 - a. :Oceanography 101" could be combined with a Climate Change presentation.

At this point in the discussions, the Council members suggested that the observers be given an opportunity to comment on what they heard during these discussions. The following people commented:

David White, Ocean Conservancy

George Maul, Ph.D., Florida Institute of Technology
Pat Welsh, Ph.D., University of North Florida
Mitchell Roffer, Ph.D., Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Services
Jyotika Virmani, Ph.D., FLCOOS Consortium

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned for the day.

DAY TWO, Thursday, March 13, 2008

WELCOME BACK

At the start of the meeting on the second day, the Facilitator announced that there would be two public comments period: one at 9am and another at 11am before the Council planning session resumes. She also reminded members to take the contents of their packets with them when they adjourn at the end of the day.

IDM UPDATE

Ellen McCarron, FDEP, IDM Project lead, delivered a presentation on the Integrated Data Management Project (Exhibit F)

Following Ms. McCarron's presentation, Members made the following comments:

- 1) How does this (IDM Project) fit into permitted access requirements?
 - a) Scope does not currently include this but could be brought in.
- 2) Do Federal agencies have metadata standards and are Florida's compatible?
 - a) Yes and we have done a cross walk between the two.
 - b) How well it matches is not known at this point, whether or not it has all the standards needed as discovered by our work.
- 3) Research done for Permits: often very useful for overall research, should be included.
 - a) To bring in permitting research, additional standards would have to be adopted but this is possible for next year's work.
- 4) Is there an ongoing effort within agencies so it is not dependent on new funding?
 - a) Trying to make the system valuable to all agencies so it is something they use.
 - b) We need to require the agencies to use it using their existing funds to ensure this effort continues.
 - c) DEP is looking at future use.
 - d) We don't want to rebuild what is already built.
 - e) Embracing something like this may help you keep money even if you don't get more money.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was invited.

For Public Comment Guidelines, see the Council website at www.FloridaOceansCouncil.org.

One (1) member of the public addressed the Council:

Mitchell Roffer, Ph.D., Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Services

Members of the public are strongly encouraged to submit their comments in writing on the comment cards provided at each meeting or email the Facilitator; Janice Fleischer (janice@flashresolutions.com) within the first week following the meeting and those comments will be included in the Report.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLORIDA: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Member Ernie Estevez presented first (exhibit F)

Much of this information is taken from the Council teleconferences that took place during the last few months since the last meeting of the Council

Presentation on Oceans 101 presentations: oral and written

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

His wish would be that 10-12 experts around the state all agree and endorse the contents of the ultimate document/presentation

This creates a sense of collaboration among experts

It must be timely and high quality; the timeliness is a concern

Comments:

- 1) The current Climate Action Team has passed over adaptation issues
- 2) How do you tackle this in terms of a campaign; we need to mobilize the body politic; use tools of media to spread the word
- 3) Who are we trying to contact and who do we try to influence?
- 4) A single page summary is what decision makers want to see
- 5) Is there a way to link the forum with this paper?
- 6) 2 step process: first presentation to them that gives highlights of what is known re: climate change, then the forum to begin the actual process
- 7) SFERTF assigned one person to get indicators of Everglades Restoration re: CERP
- 8) You need a lead person to organize the effort
- 9) All comments supported Ernie's outline
- 10) We always try to do too much, but which of these things are most immediate and the science is most overwhelming
- 11) Yes, is there way to prioritize
- 12) Steve W: in establishing the strategy look at windows of opportunity for timing
- 13) CAT started first on "cause" and now will begin on "effect" in which adaptation will be addressed
- 14) Ernie's outline is just a strawman for discussion, there may be additional items to add at all levels
- 15) Under sea level rise: shift in biological zonations could be added

BREAK

The group took a short break.

SEA-LEVEL RISE AND FLORIDA: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

George Maul, Ph.D., presented a talk on sea-level rise (**Exhibit G**). Dr. Maul indicated that The Mississippi Delta is an example of what is happening today with regard to sea level rise. Due to tectonics, there is sea level rise in some places and sea level fall in others as a natural event. Humans build a large amount of dams every year that contributes to sea level rise. In Key West, ocean engineering has stopped sea level rise. If an area is economically prosperous and can spend money on engineering, they may not see the effects of sea level rise in a 100 year period. In measuring sea level rise, you must have a long period of collecting data in order to have the results be accurate in making predictions.

Member comments following Dr. Maul's presentation:

- 1) What do we do about conflicting stories from scientists?
 - a) We need to gather everyone together to agree on what the statistics are and what they mean.

- 2) What are some of the critiques of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control (IPCC) findings, like Antarctica?
 - a) Most projections say that it will contribute more to sea level fall, but you need to look more at temperature projections.
- 3) There are some projections that the Antarctic will hold more water not less.
- 4) We will be asked to respond to the contradictions among the scientists, what do people rely on? And we should err on the side of caution, take the position that this might happen.
- 5) If we concentrate on climate change and it may not be as important or immediate as other place-based management issues, would climate change take resources from those areas needing immediate attention?
- 6) Ocean acidification is also very important.
- 7) Uncertainty has a negative impact on both sides of what should be done, act or not.
- 8) Maybe we should get to some of these issues in the forums we discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 9) Presenting all sides of the issues is very good.
- 10) Any white paper should have multiple authors to present all sides but also agree on the core areas in which they do agree.

The public was invited to comment; no one commented.

PLANNING SESSION

The Council was asked how would they like to proceed in light of the budget cuts and other discussions earlier in the meeting.

What follows is a transcript of the discussion that followed:

Process for Annual Research Plan?

- (1) At least update it to say what was done/completed in each year.
- (2) List of accomplishments needs to be published.
- (3) We should at least review it on an annual basis.
- (4) Computer print out the report with a list of accomplishments that could be put into a general folder and given to the legislature (and others)

What issue to concentrate on? A forum?

- a) Look at big three: land based sources of pollution, climate change and living marine resources.
- b) We should do one key thing and do it well, let's not try to do too much. I am not sure we could do a forum by June.
- c) We might also have Council co-sponsor with some other entity (like USGS or others) instead of having our own forum.
- d) This is a small forum with only 30-40 participants.
- e) You could use your three M's: Mapping, Monitoring, Modeling.
- f) Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Advisory Council is having a marine zoning conference in 2 weeks.
- g) I like a written document (white paper) rather than a forum, but it could be a forum as well.
- h) How about producing a primer: Oceans and effects, this would be doable on teleconferences.
- i) So who does this and who pays?
 - i) USGS already has that and it could be tweaked easily by this group.

Put to the Council for Consensus:

Action Item: Council will put together a primer on oceans and climate variability that is issues oriented and succinct, look at Ernie's outline and Lisa Robbins USGS document to begin the design. This will be developed

more on a teleconference by the workgroup to be scheduled and open to all Council members or anyone they want to invite.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Consensus achieved

Action item: to develop a procedure to decide with which workshops to endorse, sponsor or partner.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Consensus achieved

Action Item: Annual Research Plan: Review of current plan and print a folder that allows computer insert with an annual update that highlights accomplishments.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Consensus achieved

Next face to face meeting of the Council is in Tallahassee April 15 and 16, 2008, what to discuss to be determined. Council Liaison, Nicole Robinson, will not be here so former Liaison, Steve Wolfe, will attend in her place. Members expressed a desire to try to have it at the Capitol.

Suggestions for the next meeting:

- Invite state agencies that are working on climate change to make presentations.
- See what FLCOOS is doing and see if it can be endorsed.
- Council Logo finalization.
- Procedural strawman.
- Ocean primer draft.

www.frrp.org Reef Resilience Conference: April 22, 2008 conference announced.

EVALUATIONS/ADJOURN

Members were reminded to complete their Evaluations and the meeting was adjourned.
