Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council
November 7 & 8, 2007
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ellen McCarron, Florida Department of Environmental Resources (FDEP), CHAIR

Rob Brown, Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies (FLERA)
Chris Brooks, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS)
Graham Lewis, Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD)
Linda Lindstrom, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
Mark Rials, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
Steve Richter, Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
Kathryn Muldoon, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Bob Vincent, Department of Health (DOH) (Day 2)
Megan Wetherington, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

There were 3 observers the first day and 1 observer the second day.

Day One: Wednesday, November 7, 2007

AGENDA REVIEW/MEETING GUIDELINES

Council Chair, Ellen McCarron, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back. She explained that on the day prior and the morning of this meeting, several members of this Council attended an Integrated Data Management (IDM) Workshop for the purpose of developing the process to be used at the upcoming scientific discipline-specific IDM workshops.

 She then turned the meeting over to the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer.

Ms. Fleischer began by reviewing the Agenda (Exhibit A), Meeting Guidelines and Public Comment Guidelines. For meeting Reports, exhibits, Guidelines and other Council documentation go to http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/WaterMonitoringCouncil/ .

LIAISON UPDATE

Council Liaison, Steve Wolfe, delivered his Liaison Update (Exhibit B). Mr. Wolfe informed the Council members of the status of the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council's approved budget as well as the status of their work up to the present time.

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INTEGRATED DATA MANAGEMENT (IDM) STATUS

Mr. Wolfe explained the basis for the upcoming discipline-specific IDM meetings. Because of the frequent differences in terminology among the scientific disciplines and the information technology arena, a set of terms were agreed on in order to ensure that when a term was used, everyone understood its meaning for the purpose of the workshops.

Terms:
   Data: multiple pieces of data
   Datum: one piece of data

- **Data**: measurement result values, discrete observations or measurements (e.g., "12.4")
- **Metadata**: data descriptors (e.g., "units, MDL")
- **Metadata element**: a single data descriptor
- **Metadata standard**: a formalized collection of metadata elements
- **Metadata framework**: a standardized approach to handle metadata standards
- **First-Tier Metadata** – Metadata that is needed for all data: basically Who, What, When, Where, Why
- **Second-Tier Metadata** – Metadata necessary for suitability assessment that is specific to a subset of data.
- **Discipline** – in this context, a scientific arena that is expected to produce/use data that is assessed differently from 'other' data. That doesn't mean that all data in the discipline is assessed differently from that of other disciplines.
- **Sub-Discipline** – Information may lead to creation of sub-disciplines or just splitting to create more disciplines
- **Question** – That asked about data as part of determining its potential suitability for a user's purposes. (e.g., was sample collected in my location of interest?)
- **Search** – Collecting data that potentially meets the requirements (for data quality, sampling location, etc.) of the user.
- **Search Result** – a set of data potentially meeting the requirements; may or may not include associated metadata.
- **Result Value** – the result of a measurement or observation of some type.

Mr. Wolfe asked the Council if they wanted to develop the terminology for the IDM workshops. Their answers were:
1. Let the subject matter experts do it at the discipline workshops.
2. Don't want to get down to that level.
3. Makes sense to allow the discipline groups define the terminology.
4. This council should be reviewing the output of the workshops.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Wolfe noted that due to the IDM workshops and other changing items, this Council's regular meeting schedule may need to be changed. It was decided that, once the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council's schedule was set, Mr. Wolfe would send out meeting dates for this Council so there are no conflicts.

One member noted that a summary of decisions made regarding the meeting schedule, the IDM final schedule, contracting, etc. needs to be posted on the website as well as having the Council Liaison communicate more with this Council regarding these items. It was decided that a summary will be sent regularly to Council members by email to be followed up by a short Liaison update at every meeting on the agenda.

BREAK

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The group then took a short break.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1 person commented:
        Katherine Byrd, FDEP

Note: Public comment is not transcribed. If anyone from the public desires to have his/her comments appear in the Report of Proceedings, they can 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.

MONITORING COORDINATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Wolfe delivered a presentation outlining the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Governors' Action Plan format as a sample for use by this Council as they develop their Monitoring Coordination Strategy (Exhibit C). As part of his presentation, Mr. Wolfe suggested changes in the terms at each level of the plan since it was felt that the GOMA Plan terminology was somewhat confusing.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Council broke into two small groups to continue to review and refine the Monitoring Coordination Strategy. Ms. Fleischer and Mr. Wolfe each staffed one of the small groups and captured their decisions and suggestions on computer as the small group worked.

The small groups continued to work until the meeting was adjourned for the day.

Adjourn

Day Two: Thursday, November 8, 2007

PRESENTATION –COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING efforts around FLORIDA

Dr. Jyotika Virmani, FL COOS Consortium, delivered a presentation on coastal ocean observing efforts around Florida (Exhibit D).

At the conclusion of Dr. Virmani's presentation, Members made the following comments:
1. Who started the global initiative?
    a. Really just sprung up, a need for the science and events brought it to the forefront.
    b. Measures tsunamis.
2. Does the Indian Ocean have anything?
    a. Yes, but there is a problem around the world with piracy of equipment.
3. How does NOAA work in with this?
    a. They are a big portion of the federal initiative
        i.   Equipment
        ii. Observations
        iii. Generally utilized on larger projects
        iv. Funds
4. Your information on waterborne pathogens, is this from the University of Miami study?

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     a. Yes, and there are other universities that are doing this too.
     b. It is still very much Research and Development for waterborne pathogens.
     c. Should be only a few more years for the automated pathogen samplers to become commercially available.
5. Is there any activity from the Midwest U.S. region?
     a. No, only from where it dumps into the Gulf.
     b. There are scientists looking into this, rainfall, snow, etc.
     c. Great Lakes has a separate regional association.
6. The land based monitoring is part of the observation system just not the ocean observing system.

MONITORING COORDINATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT-SMALL GROUP REPORTS AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

Following Dr. Virmani's section of the agenda, each small group reported the results of its work the day before. When the small group with which Mr. Wolfe was working attempted to display the results of their work, it was discovered that there a computer failure had corrupted the group's file and much of the work had been lost. Attached to this report as ==Exhibit E== is the document containing the re-created work of the small group that considered the first two sections of the Plan and the captured work of the small group that worked with Ms. Fleischer on the last three sections of the Plan.

At the conclusion of the small group reports, Ms. Fleischer, the Facilitator, asked the following questions which were discussed by the Council members:

<u>Who is the audience for this document?</u>
1. Any funding entity will need to know you are serious and need to see this plan.
2. Outreach will need to see this Plan; appeal to other agencies.
3. Two possible documents: one for the public and one for more internal science based.
4. May need three additional documents:
     a. Very short for legislators.
     b. A little more for their staff (may include monitoring agencies).
     c. Something for general public (the legislators and public may really be the same document).
5. Most south Florida monitoring is dictated, we need to also target the federal and state regulatory agencies.
6. The last piece is the "who" will do it; include this in the Plan so anyone reading it knows their role in what needs to be done.
7. We are doing this plan because we have 4 charges from the Oceans Council, the first two are being done (IDM, etc), and this Plan goes to our second two charges on coordination of monitoring.

<u>Do you want long and short titles for Action Items as was suggested by Mr. Wolfe's outline?</u>
1. Work using long titles for now, they can always be shortened
Council Agreed with No Objections

<u>Do you want the "Why do this?" portion as suggested by Mr. Wolfe's outline?</u>
Yes, include the "Why do this"
Council Agreed with No objections

Public Comment

2 people commented:
     Jyotika Virmani, Ph.D., FL COOS Consortium

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Cathy Katsikis, Laboratory Data Consultants Fl, Inc. (LDC)

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OPEN FORUM

A new Agenda item was added to this meeting's agenda which will become a regular section of each meeting. It is called the "Open Forum" and it is a chance for Council members to discuss anything that is on their minds with regard to announcements or Council work. Generally, it is not a continuation of work scheduled for a meeting, but is used to capture thoughts and comments of the Council members for use in future meeting agendas.

The comments made by members were:
1. When we are in Live Oak, have a presentation by a volunteer water monitoring group.
2. We should have community groups that are doing volunteer water monitoring do presentations at every meeting from that area.
3. What information do you want from the volunteer presentations:
    i. Why are you monitoring?
    ii. What do you do with respect to monitoring?
        1. What do you measure?
        2. Parameters do you measure?
        3. Frequency?
        4. Where does your data go?
        5. How much does it cost?
        6. Has this group received any training?
    iii. How do you do the monitoring?
    iv. Is there any quality control?
    v. Limit the time groups have to address us.
    vi. Only one representative from any one group.

EVALUATIONS/ADJOURN

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

OBSERVER COMMENTS RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING

"Please add these questions to your notes for the November 7-8 meeting:
1. *Where is the listing of workshop leads?*
2. *Who is on the metadata expert council?*
3. *When discussing strategy with the expert council, was this made public?*
4. *Where is the written version of your final plan on getting metadata standards? Currently it would appear the council is confused as to what has been decided upon and I know listening in as an outsider it is confusing.*
5. *What contractor will be used for the metadata standards plan, if any?* "
Kathy Byrd
Environmental Administrator
Data Services Section
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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