

Meeting Minutes

Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership

Location: GOMOOS office

Date: 8/03/2004

Attendees: L. Mercer, E. Richert, D. Mountain, P. Bogden, S. Most, B. Branton, J. Quintrell

1. Formalities:
 - a. Minutes from 061404: accepted unanimously
 - b. Today's meeting will run 1:15 - 4pm
 - c. Agenda
 - i. EPA issue with MOU
 - ii. Maine Bond Issue (Josie)
 - iii. IOOS and regional association
 - iv. Membership issues
 - v. Exec committee actions between now and November
2. Maine Bond Issue (Josie)
 - a. Opportunity for regional coordination on capital requests (tangible assets) to the Maine Legislature from a coalition of marine interests
 - b. Requests for individual organizations and shared assets would be used to
 - i. Fund Maine portion of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnerships
 - ii. Set up servers, programmers for on the order of 10 institutions, hardware and software – requested \$1M
 - iii. Allocated on a competitive basis based on criteria from the coalition
 - iv. Evan and Philip have participated with Josie on conference call to define needs, relate status of partnership, establish relevance to coalition
3. General discussion on current projects in the region
 - a. New project in conjunction with SWAMP – Great Bay, Wells, Waquoit National Estuarine Research Reserves are the local relevant agencies that would help to implement a part of the partnership.
 - b. Canadian entities (GeoConnections, OBIS) are also moving ahead.
 - c. Bob described Sloan project that funds nodes in the Southern hemisphere while Northern nodes will be self-funded in pursuit of global ocean observing infrastructure from a biological standpoint.
 - d. Discussion on FGDC project – deliverable is a portal. Final meeting is on Monday (8/9) in Boston. Philip has suggested that the Data Partnership would be the logical entity for maintaining the portal, protocols.
 - e. FGDC metadata standards, OBIS schema are all being worked with at CMB. Portal is not yet up and running, but the work is underway at BIO. GeoConnections has a fill-in form for describing data at the collection level – solves many issues with describing data. Still need to go to the individual scientist to get the data, but at least a first step. Helps toward creating a catalog – discovery.
 - f. Firewall issues tackled as part of FGDC project at BIO. Much of the initial problem has been overcome.
4. EPA
 - a. Jerry Pesch at EPA has not been able to get approval from general counsel to sign the MOU. MOU implies obligations that the agency may not commit to.

- b. Do we need to have a side agreement? Perhaps a non-voting option – Cooperative Agencies. Evan will investigate the suitability of this with Jerry.
 - c. Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center has Sustaining Members (provide funding), Associates (non-funders).
5. Other Membership Issues
- a. Wells NERR has signed up
 - b. Canadian Geological Survey – Philip Moir has been helpful in getting the issue back on the table. In principle it appears to work, but no word yet.
 - c. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – starting its own new center (Center for Ocean, Sea Floor, and Marine Observing Systems (COSMOS). Evan has contacted Bob Weller to see if WHOI/COSMOS wishes to become a Partner.
 - d. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has signed on, opening the door for other DEP organizations. Working on Maine, Mass DEPs.
 - e. Issue remains as to whether a subset of an institution represents the larger institution.
 - f. Ocean Observer = Individual or Organization collecting marine data for the purpose of sharing with other interested parties on an ongoing basis.
 - g. Canadian targets include members of CMB and provincial contacts.
 - h. Evan continuing to gather contacts and potential partners, US Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resource Canada (Sackville, NB), Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, Provincial fisheries agencies will be the focus of the next few months. Trying to capture a large percentage of the available datasets in the initial partnerships.
 - i. Nature Serve – classifying the environmental features of the ocean floor in North America – physical and biological. This may need to be followed up on.
6. Regional Association
- a. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is promoting regional associations. Ad hoc alliances of PI's will not suffice – need to be able to take on liability, have structure, have legal status.
 - b. Evan will seek funding from NOAA to organize
 - c. Ocean Data Partnership should be involved
 - d. Up to \$100K/year for up to 3 years – would cover travel and pilot programs
7. Other Exec Committee Actions
- a. Draft documents distributed – goal is a work plan reviewed, approved and assignments made at the November meeting
 - b. Workplan
 - i. Incorporate a high-level inventory of available datasets, table to include:
 - 1. partners
 - 2. databases
 - 3. storage
 - 4. metadata
 - 5. policy for datasharing outside of agencies
 - 6. how is datasharing currently accomplished
 - 7. create a template that each partner fills out – personally filled out by Sylvia. Use the mandatory elements of the FGDC online form.
 - 8. Lou Van Guelpen is good at this . Sylvia to consult with Lou. Start with existing metadata standards.
 - 9. Start with existing conditions of partners

- c. Governance steps
 - i. identify potential funding sources
 - ii. determine the steps necessary to fully participate in a Gulf of Maine regional association
 - d. Things to be done after November
 - i. Assignments
 - ii. Timeline
 - iii. Budget: Members/Host
 - e. Convene working groups – Linda/Philip to let me know who the 3-4 people will be by Friday. Sylvia to call individuals and arrange meetings.
 - i. Technical committee goals by Nov. 16
 - ii. Governing committee goals by Nov. 16
8. Next executive committee meeting Thurs Oct. 7, 10AM at GoMOOS.