

Minutes of First Meeting of

“Florida COOS Caucus”

TUE/7 JUN 05 in Orlando at NSU/SEC

NOTE: COOS (Coastal Ocean Observing System) refers to the coastal ocean (*viz.*, the (200 nautical mile) EEZ, including inland to the head-of-tide) component of IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing System).

HOST: Dean Richard Dodge (RED) NSU;

CO-CONVENERS: Dean Otis Brown (OB) UM and Dean Peter Betzer (PB) USF

FACILITATOR: Tom Gustafson (TG) NSU

ATTENDEES:

Adrienne Carter (AC) NSU

Alex Soloviev (AS) NSU

Alex Yankovsky (AY) NSU

Bill Arnold (BA) FLF&W

Bob Weisberg (BW) USF

Charles Kovach (CK) FLDEP

Chris Mooers (CM) UM

Chris Simoniello (CS) USF/SEACOOS/FL Sea Grant Ext

Frank Muller-Karger (FMK) USF

George Frisk (GF) FAU

George Maul (GM) FIT

Georges Weatherly (GW) FSU

Manhar Dhanak (MD) FAU

Michele Rowand (MMR) UM

Michelle Hempil (MH) MOTE

Mitch Roffer (MR) ROFFS

MJ Matthews (MJM) FOA

Nancy Marcus (NM) FSU

Nick Shay (NS) UM

Pat Welsh (PW) UNF

Peter Ortner (PO) NOAA/OAR/AOML

Peter Sheng (PS) UF

Rick Gleeson (RG) FLDEP

Rod Zika (RZ) UM

Sandra Vargo (SV) FIO

Steve Morey (SM) FSU

Peter Sheridan (PSh) NOAA/NMFS

Acronym List

NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service
NWS – National Weather Service
OAR – Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
WFO – Weather Forecast Office
SEACOOS – Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System
GCOOS – Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System
FOCC – Florida Ocean & Coastal Council
NERRS – National Estuarine Research Reserve System

FULL POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON FTP SITE AT:
ftp://dwarf.ocean.nova.edu/FL_COOS_CAUCUS/COOSCAUCAUS1_Presentations/

MINUTES

10.15 – WELCOMING (& OVERVIEW) REMARKS (Richard Dodge)

10.15 Richard Dodge (RED) opened (see presentation)

10.25 - INTRODUCTION (Otis Brown and Peter Betzer, Co-Conveners, Moderators)

Otis Brown (OB): Where do we go from here? The purpose of these discussions is to share information.

Peter Betzer (PB): Two reasons I feel why we are here today:

1. To progress with ocean science, we need to integrate our work, efforts and support policy development that will inject the necessary funding into the ocean sciences.
2. If we look at the presentations list, we see that we have done a good job of getting people together to address these problems. We must connect with the users.

10.30 Frank Muller-Karger (FMK) presentation

Q&A:

Chris Mooers (CM): I would like to see the five top priorities of Gulf of Mexico Alliance again.

FMK: Every state had previously developed these priorities but they are very incomplete

Peter Sheridan (PSh): Yes, from 1988 onward these priorities were developed by the EPA in the Gulf of Mexico with the same narrow band of water so while this was previously addressed decades ago, a lot of changes still need to occur

FMK: It was driven by the states previously but now the White House is involved

Tom Gustafson (TG): I think what Peter is saying is that now, with the 200 nautical mile coastal ocean view, the historic work on near coastal waters needs to change to incorporate this 200 mile zone inclusive of the entire Gulf of Mexico as a semi-enclosed sea.

10.30 Chris Mooers (CM) presentation

Q&A:

Mitch Roeffer (MR): We are not looking at the broader picture

CM: We are looking at the broader picture and using global modeling with lots of nesting going on. However a lot of problems are local so we have to be able to zoom in with high resolution. If you look at the field of meteorology, we see similar multi scale issues and approaches.

10.45 Rick Gleeson (RG) (FLDEP for Kacky Andrews) presentation

Q&A:

CM: What is the funding level that DEP has available for COOS?

RG: Current ocean funding is allocated to NERRS. However, a recent expansion in this funding would allow us to go after it.

Charles Kovach (CK): Can you provide insight on the locations you used?

RG: They are fixed stations where the spatial and temporal coverage revolves around 30 minute intervals. Each location was chosen in conjunction with protected long term areas as opposed to any upstream sites that are cited for development.

PB: Can you tell me how the funding for the Oceans Act works?

RG: There must be \$\$ available, but I do not know exactly which vehicle.

TG: I may be a little behind in my information however I believe Senator Ken Pruitt has been an advocate for ocean funding. As the soon to be President of the Senate (2006-2008), he will have significant influence and the ability to successfully support well documented funding needs, especially if matching federal funds are available.

And in order to reserve funding for ocean science, every year a new budget is developed, in response to ongoing and recognized needs. Billions of new funds every year are allocated to build new programs. State agencies at the direction of the Governor, provide a framework for recommended priorities and the legislature reacts to the governors budget with their own priorities. While Jeb Bush will have something to do with the allocation of any ocean funding next year during the next 4 to 8 years, the problem is that the next governor (unknown until November 2006) will have to be made quickly aware

of the use for any allocations of ocean funding. On a positive note, Senator Ken Pruit will be presiding as President of the Senate to help bridge the informational gap and could help continue or expand ocean science funding allocations. Similar observations should be made to Speaker Designate, Marco Rubio, the speaker of the House for the 2006-2008 term.

11.05 Bill Arnold (BA) FLF&W for Gil McCrae presentation

Q&A:

FMK How do you see yourself as a scientist? Also your agency represents a split system, do you send the same people to the same council and the two separate regions?

BA: I want to see better organizational structure to include a biological component. We have funding for biological programs and research but I would like to see the direction of funds toward sensor development. While I am not on the Gulf of Mexico or the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Councils as they are finfish orientated, these Councils have to deal with the regional nature of fish population problems. The Councils deal with separate issues so I would like to see more integration due to the strong connections between fish populations that transport genomes via currents up the coast and link populations that are otherwise isolated. The physical oceanography drives all of this.

CM: Does your organization participate in SECOORA and GCOOS?

BA: At a previous meeting two years ago, we discussed how the fisheries could be incorporated into these organizations but there was no outcome. We need to take more concrete action.

11.30 Charles Kovach (CK) presentation

Q&A:

MR: We would love to have DEP involved in GCOOS

11.45 Mitch Roofler (MR) presentation

MR: User needs are diverse. The industry is not aware of any COOS. Those few who are aware of COOS think that the money goes to academia and not to the private industry. They question if COOS will help industry or compete with it. The private industry does not want to see copycat products provided by universities free on the web. Trust is also an issue.

Q&A:

FMK: Are you involved with government sponsors and public data availability?

MR: Once the government starts putting value on public data then that is where the problems lie. While taxpayers pay for the raw data they do not pay for .e.g, shipping routes for cruise lines. We have spent many days with COOS people discussing how we

do not want to develop similar products. SEAGRANT is a classic example where a good product was developed and then turned over to the private sector. Another is using buoy data to calibrate NOAA satellite data. If you provide maps of eddies to oil companies, then you are stepping into the private industry.

TG: Private sector companies are getting raw data and then manipulating this data for profit, how do we address this issue and protect the ecosystem?

Bob Weisberg (BW): A need exists for a balance because Rick Santorum will harm people with this bill. If the NWS provides a wind vector map then it should be free to the public sector. However, if competition exists with Horizon Marine, then that is not good and a balance is needed. Now as a COOS community, we need to be careful not to destroy what we are trying to build in an integrated ocean observing system.

MR: We are carefully watching and participating.

TG: What we need to do is to expand this meeting while agreeing on a rightful Florida policy. Then work with SEACOORA and GCOOS and figure out how to organize our thinking so that we know what to ask for. If we send the correct signals, we can get the funding in both public and private sectors. This is only the first meeting. The next meeting should include a bigger array of people to expand this discussion and help coordinate Florida's best interests and requirements.

12.00 Working Lunch

Provider capabilities

3 minute presentations targeted

12.15 Nancy Marcus (NM) FSU (no ppt presentation) –Focus point: we need more monitoring and acoustics programs and research

12.20 Georges Weatherly (GW) FSU (ppt presentation)

12.25 Pat Welsh (PW) UNF (ppt presentation)

12.35 Michele Hempil (MH) MOTE for Kumar Mahadevan (ppt presentation)

12.40 Peter Sheng (PS)UF (ppt presentation)

12.50 Bob Weisberg (BW) USF (ppt presentation)

Q&A:

TG: How much time do you spend linking the biological and physical oceanographers?

BW: Not enough

12.56 Frank Muller-Karger (FMK) USF (ppt presentation)

12.59 Manhar Dhanak (MD) FAU (ppt presentation)

13.06 George Frisk (GF) FAU (no ppt presentation) There is a large amount of Navy funding in an effort this summer for installing 1700 hydrophones in the planned Ocean Acoustic Observatory off Port Everglades. This is a major engineering challenge dealing with passive antisubmarine warfare including radiative marine noise to an understanding of shallow water acoustics in the littoral zone. The NSF is pushing for Orion and Neptune. We also see a push towards projects in internal wave propagation and noise generated by breaking internal waves. In the past, the US Navy has been sued by NGO's for noise disturbance involving marine mammals, and therefore this is another topic utilizing these acoustic observatories. However, security issues pose a problem and may prevent progress. What we want to know is above and beyond military operations.

13.10 Alex Soloviev (AS) NSU (ppt presentation)

13.18 Sasha Yankovsky (SY) NSU (ppt presentation)

13.20 Richard dodge (RED) for Bill Venezia (ppt presentation)

13.22 Peter Ortner (PO) AMOL (ppt presentation)

13.26 Rod Zika (RZ) UM (ppt presentation)

13.31 Chris Mooers (CM) UM (ppt presentation)

13.35 Nick Shay (NS) UM (ppt presentation)

13.38 Steve Morey (SM) FSU (ppt presentation)

Infrastructural entities

13.44 Sandra Vargo (SV) FIO (ppt presentation)

13.48 Chris Simoniello (CS) SEACOOS/FL Sea Grant Ext (ppt presentation)

13.51 MJ Matthews (MJM) FOA (see one page handout)

13.52 George Maul (GM) FIT (ppt presentation)

Plan of Action

14.00 TM: Date for next meeting: August 2nd (Orlando) FOA will be invited to host it or NSU will if necessary. We need 100 participants or more. Please circulate SECOORA list and bring colleagues from the private sector that care about these issues across Florida. We need to populate a 25 member SECOORA board with half or so of the members from Florida. We need ongoing, broad-based public and private efforts.

14.30 - PLAN OF ACTION (Otis Brown and Tom Gustafson, Moderators)

- SECOORA, GCOOS, and other priorities
- Formation (or adoption) of a Florida COOS stakeholders group
- Further communication; e.g., identification of additional stakeholders, a broader meeting of stakeholders
- A Florida-COOS inventory is needed. Chris Simoniello is currently working on such information for SECOORA. She encouraged submittals to her to add to the list.

OB reinforced TG's points by stating that this Florida COOS Caucus want to be a growing process. OB encouraged everyone to be involved with SECOORA so that it will be inclined to address Florida's needs. Florida's issues are complex and diverse and it is clear that a handful of institutions cannot deal with all of them. We also need some players in this process that we have not thought of yet. OB encouraged the submissions of additional names.

TG: A report on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governor's meeting is needed at the August 2nd meeting. A rigorous agenda needs to be distributed early with a summary of the issues.

White Board Notes (posted on wall)

1. COOS policy and objectives driven efforts.
2. On Thursday governors' staff are meeting in Naples and we need to find out what goes on there so we can share information and discuss issues so we are on the same page.
3. We need help with COOS coordination: SECOORA, GCOOS, FOCC, CARA, IOCARIBE-GOOS.
4. Influence COOS policy and funding. Decisions a) Administrative (SECOORA, GCOOS, etc.) b) Legislative (federal, state, UN, etc.).

PB:

- 1) Emergency Management applications
- 2) Fish populations and larval systems
- 3) Acoustics could be used to address societal problems
- 4) Case for Real time observations \$\$\$

BW: 1) Near coast US offshore (bridge the gap) 2) FOCC

GM: Water/Hydro issues development etc.

MJM: Wetlands and Watersheds (see handout)

List of committee to see Jim Murley FOA re: caucus: volunteers include:

- Chris Mooers
- Bob Weisberg
- Frank Muller Karger
- George Maul
- Richard Dodge
- Peter Sheng
- Manhar Dhanak

TG: We need broad consensus from experts to present the ocean observing issues to politicians and policy makers and expand their informational base. We will need to get on COOS coordinating committees. We need to share knowledge in scholarly fashion. The Caucus will create a more active COOS academic and user community. In about 5 years or so the next program enhancement of federal funds may become available, and we can go after this opportunity and use these funds to improve COOS and preserve oceans resources.

FMK: We need to discuss some time sensitive issues i.e. the next FOA board is meeting on June 15th. Someone should go with a clear message that came out of this meeting. We already have a message to take on July 27 to SECOORA meeting.

TG: Peter Betzer, Otis Brown, and Judy Gray are the only members of the SECOORA steering committee and they are in the best position to respond to Florida needs through a balanced and area wide representative board. We should try to get majority of the board members from Florida. By rotating the board after two terms, we can use Florida's diverse talent pool of potential board members. On July 27th the SECOORA workshop will address the proposed business plan and the end product of the workshop can be affected by the numbers of Floridian's who are present at the workshop. In addition, we need to get the SECOORA board right.

White Board Notes (posted on wall)

Moving on: getting federal agencies invited to 2 August meeting includes USGS etc. Rick Gleeson can discuss FOCC activities and also get DEP, FFWC, DOA, SFWMD, NPS, NMS

PB: groups should include pilots – Allen, Thompson, Tampa, Port Directors, Science Offices: NWS/WFOs, Coast Guard, Homeland Security, FEMA, Fisheries Management Council (Gulf & Atlantic).

TG to discuss Florida Lamda Rail with Pat Welsh and Peter Sheng to improve data transmission capabilities within Florida and the SECOORA region.

Rod Zika (RZ): In looking at meteorological data, models have no consistent QA/QC control of data. If we make a strong statement about this we would be the first state to do so. A question to consider: How do you guarantee the quality of your data when dealing with real-time data?

TG: If this is a five-year effort, it will be important to make a good case for the providing of governmental funds (federal and state). Information and data management problems need to be part of all our funding efforts.

FMK: May I suggest a more rigorous agenda with summary of issues.

TG: We need to gather a small group beforehand to frame the agenda in preparation for the next August 2nd meeting. FMK, CK, CM, SM, and PW all volunteered to be on agenda subcommittee. This subcommittee can meet to frame the issues and then proceed with decisions.

TG: The focus of Florida COOS Caucus should not be limited to SECOORA but include GCOOS and related topics. Whom can we ask – TG and Chris will discuss further

FMK: We need to keep tabs on Gulf of Mexico Alliance with summit in November. Maybe we can get in touch with someone from Governor's office to coordinate this?

1530 – CLOSING (& SUMMARY) REMARKS (Dick Dodge)

In brief summary,

- We need to unite and look for mechanisms to unite. This needs to be inclusive and not exclusive.
- We need to involve all users in the process.
- We need to try to implement recommendations of US COP
- We need to recognize the State of Florida as a major player and should be able to integrate its concerns with the other SECOORA and GCOOS states.
- We need to continue to promote Florida's agenda through the Florida COOS Caucus process.

Thank you all for attending.

1540 - ADJOURN