

Florida COOS Caucus (FCC): Meeting 2
MINUTES
Orlando, NSU Student Education Center, 2 August 2005

In Attendance:

Adrienne Carter	Nova Southeastern University
Alex Soloviev	Nova Southeastern University
Ann B. Forstchen	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Barbara Spector	USF College of Marine Science
Bill Arnold	FWC/FWRI
Bob Weisberg	University of South Florida
Brian Keller	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary/NOAA
Chris Simoniella	Sea Grant Extension
Christopher McPherson	Ocean Design Inc.
Christopher N. K. Mooers	University of Miami
David St. John	WeatherFlow, Inc.
Debbie Salamone	Sun Sentinel
Doug Wilson	NOAA
Duane DeFreese	Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute
Ellen Praeger	Earth2Ocean, Inc
Erick Larson	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
Gary Kirkpatrick	MOTE
George Maul	FIT
Georges Weatherly	FSU
Hope Botterbusch	USF College of Marine Science
Jim Cato	University of Florida
Kathleen O'Keife	FWC/FWRI
Kumar Mahadevan	MOTE
Lawrence Borne	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
Libby Johns	NOAA/AMOL
Mark Luther	USF College of Marine Science
Michael Henderson	NOAA
Michele Rowand	University of Miami
Peter Anderson	University of Florida
Peter Betzer	USF College of Marine Science
Peter Sheng	University of Florida
Regis Cook	General Oceanics Inc
Richard Dodge	Nova Southeastern University
Rick Gleeson	University of Florida
Rod Zika	University of Miami
Ron Hoenstine	DEP
Sandra Vargo	USF College of Marine Science
Sasha Yankovsky	Nova Southeastern University
Shirley Pomponi	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
Steven Browdy	OMS Tech, Inc.
Steven Wolfe	DEP/CAMA
Tom Gustafson	Nova Southeastern University

AGENDA: Florida Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (COOS) Caucus Meeting 2
Tuesday, August 2, 2005 • NSU Orlando Student Educational Center
First Floor Multimedia Room • 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

1:00PM **Welcome, Overview and Introduction** - Dean Richard Dodge, NSU

1:10 PM **Featured Speaker: Dr. Ellen Prager**, Earth2Ocean, Inc. & UM/Rosenstiel. Dr. Prager serves as Chairman of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. She will speak on: **The role of ORAP as representatives of the non-federal community and how it may have input into the President's Ocean Action Plan.**

[see: <http://www.coreocean.org/Dev2Go.web?id=207773>
<http://ocean.ceq.gov/>]

1:45 PM **Panel Discussion** on Current COOS Activities and Opportunities

Co-Conveners: Dean Otis Brown, UM represented by Dr. Rod Zika, & Dean Peter Betzer, USF
Important questions include:

What is the current status of COOS activities? What activities will be important to Florida? Who are the players? What could Floridians do to have a positive impact upon the process? [Email any additional questions to Dr. Zika (rzika@rsmas.miami.edu) or Dr. Betzer (pbetzer@marine.usf.edu)]

Subjects by Panelist

- **SEACOOS** (Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System)
<http://www.seacoos.org/>
by **Dr. Bob Weisberg**, USF
- **SECOORA** (Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association)
<http://www.secoora.org/>
by **Dr. Chris Mooers**, UM
- **GCOOS** (Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association)
<http://ocean.tamu.edu/GCOOS/gcoos.html>
by **Dr. Mark Luther**, USF
- **IOCARIBE-GOOS**
www.iocaribegoos.org
by **Dr. Doug Wilson**, NOAA
- **CARA** (Caribbean Regional Association)
by **Dr. Doug Wilson**, NOAA (representing: **Drs. Julio Morell**, **Jorge Corredor** (UPR), and **Roy Watlington** (UVI))
- **GMA** (Gulf of Mexico Alliance) and **FWRMC** (Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council)
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gulf/>
by **Dr. Catherine Corbett**, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
- **FOCC** (FL Oceans and Coastal Council)
by **Dr. Steve Wolfe**, FL DEP CAMA (Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas)
- **FOA** (FL Ocean Alliance)
<http://www.floridaoceanalliance.org/>
by **Dr. Jim Cato**, Florida Sea Grant
- **OSB** (Ocean Studies Board)
<http://dels.nas.edu/osb/>

by Dr. Shirley Pomponi, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

3:15 PM **Common Interests** - Dr. Chris Mooers, UM & Dr. George Maul, FIT
Questions to Audience: What have we learned? What is important to Florida's interests?
[Email any additional questions to Dr. Mooers (cmooers@rsmas.miami.edu) and Dr. Maul (gmaul@fit.edu)

4:00 PM **Plan of Action** - Tom Gustafson, J.D.

4:50 PM **Closing Comments** - Dean Richard Dodge.

MINUTES

1:00pm: Welcome, overview and introduction – Richard Dodge welcomed everyone to the Nova Student Center on behalf of Peter Betzer, Otis Brown, and himself. Today's facilitator is Tom Gustafson.

See National Backbone slides of Richard Dodge.

After some brief housekeeping issues, Richard went into the background for this meeting, after giving the broad overview. The US has an organization called IOOS which is part of a greater whole. GEOSS is the top level. This migrates downwards to IEOS. The coastal component and Great Lakes portion is under the NOPP agencies. Regional COOS are supposed to involve user groups and user needs.

See current framework slide Richard Dodge.

Various RCOOS systems are in place. They are forming under Ocean.US. The planning for how these RAs and the federal agencies are going to interact is still in development.

See transition to RAs slide of Richard Dodge.

A challenge that has been identified at SEACOOS and SECOORA is the transition to regional associations (RAs) which will coordinate research across all stakeholders. There is a required cooperation to channel the money through the activities of the organizations. Some of the transitional elements have nothing to do with the actual observing systems.

Within the IOOS slide – Richard Dodge

Florida is lucky to sit between two organizations – GCOOS and SECOORA. We are a Gulf State and a Southeast state RA.

What is an RA? Slide. – Richard Dodge

It's important to understand that regional associations are made up of states. The grouping of states influences the dynamics of the RA.

Why are we here? See Optimize Formation of Florida's COOS slide Richard Dodge

To optimize the organization of the Florida RA. We are in SEACOOS which is already in operation.

See who are we slide – Richard Dodge

We think the caucus will engage private sector, user groups, academics, and others to stimulate dialogue.

The objectives for today, and in all of these meetings, is to stimulate dialog in Florida, the Bahamas, and in Belize. We want to develop strategies, to give updates on what is on going, and to develop interaction mechanisms.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Richard Dodge introduced the keynote speaker: **Ellen Prager, Rosenstiel School and Earth2Ocean**. Dr. Prager is also a Florida Ocean Alliance board member and ORAP board member. She will speak on **the role of ORAP in the ocean action plan**.

Thanks for the invitation to speak today. I'm wearing several hats but today it's ORAP. The ORAP panel is one means of input into the ocean arena in Washington. The bulk of funding money comes from federal agencies. They really do control the direction of the future. The question is how do we get input into that strategy? There are not many ways for us to be on those panels. Federal agencies can lose track of what is going on the trenches and day to day needs of ocean science, education, and research. ORAP offers a means of input. As a member of ORAP, I can say we are committed to make it a pro-active group.

See A Little Background slide – Ellen Prager

In 1977 National Oceanographic Partnership (NOPP) formed the National Ocean Leadership Council - NORLC. They were to discuss the direction that NOPP would take. When this was formed specific objectives were spelled out to promote national goals, national security, economic development, knowledge of the ocean, etc. However, these are pretty broad statements.

See NOPP 10 Year Plan Strategic Goals slide – Ellen Prager

The 10 year plan is on the web dated August 2004 under strategic goals on the CORE and NOPP web site. These goals make interesting points. Funded projects from NOPP have to come with several things to fit into the NOPP model to justify funding such as shared decisions, collaborative arrangements (See Why NOPP slide), share the costs and share the fruits of investments. These are not always easy to qualify. ORAP cannot directly tell the agencies what projects to fund or what RFPs to issue. IWG of NOPP decides this. They put out any RFP. ORAP can comment on the topic or suggest redirection but the federal agencies decide themselves. The big push from Washington is on partnerships combining academic/government/industry and others in the process. This fosters partnerships. If you look at the recent proposals that have been funded they usually have three or more partnerships. The old role of ORAP is as a Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) panel giving scientific advice to the US Navy. (See ORAP slide) As of July the current members are (See slide for names). 10 nominees were suggested to get 6 new members. The Secretary of Navy makes the final selection. Ellen Prager was elected chair. Steve Weisberg of California is Vice Chair.

NOPP structure – see slide by Ellen Prager

NOPP was set up under the Ocean.US national office. This was the structure based on 1997 legislation. In late 2004 in response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy final report, a US Ocean Action Plan was released with executive order.

A new governance structure was released as well. A cabinet level position is part of it under what used to be NORLC which contains the heads of NOAA, NAVY, and NSF. See governance slide – Ellen Prager. The expanded ORAP will feed what we are referring to in this slide: the aqua center box.

Where is Ocean.US in the new strategy? The issue of science integration into resource management is going to play a strong role in what goes on in the future. Agencies have decided who will sit on this committee. The aqua box is meeting every other month and at first I was taken aback by the new chairs. The reasoning behind the change for the CEQ and OSTP to be in charge is to have a direct line to OMG to get the funding.

Expanded ORAP slide. One of my goals as ORAP Chair is not to have any one stakeholder overrepresented. Education, industry, resource management, etc. needs to be balanced. It must have a wide breadth of people.

The ORAP Membership Plan and Nomination Committee slide were displayed for clarification, 6 new members are wanted right away. Final selection is done by the Secretary of the Navy.

Ellen provided the June 23-24 ORAP meeting quick summary in slide of same name. At its meeting, ORAP felt that on specific topics they did not have the breadth needed. The Education sub-committee formed.

Sub-panel on industry/commercial panel will look into how to get industry into IOOS. We are not looking for CEOs but people who represent broad swath of industry. See also the industry sub-panel slide. ORAP can ask for advice from anyone we think we need. We want a diverse group.

National priority for the ocean action plan. *See looking ahead slide.*

At last meeting I provided input as a stakeholder representative which never happened before. In the past we did not get information on what was happening on the federal level and we could not be proactive. The federal agencies are more willing to make us part of the discussions. We are not just getting briefings. We are actively involved. I can bring information from meetings such as this to these panels.

There is movement afoot to bring us into working group discussions which gives us more participation in the process. Several topics have come to the forefront including IOOS and ocean education. It's a win-win for everybody. Science integration into resource management, GCOOS and other partnerships are all important. You have to come to the table with a collective voice – from the national level down. We must have proposals which represent the collective to get new money. Individual programs won't get it. Infrastructure needs are a hot topic. Being the cynic I ask where is the new money? We will continue to

move forward and we need to push for new money. The current administration isn't going to put in new money. We have to push Congress. We can't assume administration will do this. We have to use the public, industry and other supporters to get the message across. Players involve right now are committed to seeing something happen. I hope we can be more pro-active and garner advice from groups like this more than we did in the past.

Q&A

Peter Betzer asked, what about fleet renewal? Will it be only NSF? Ellen answered that the fleet across the board is expected to be addressed not just NSF. A report will be issued in the fall.

Rod Zika asked if the RAs are to have formal tie to ORAP. Ellen answered we won't know until the Ocean.US determination is made. There are no formal links right now.

Mark Luther - The NFRA is keeping an arm length today because of not being able to lobby. A common voice in Washington for all voices is needed. Ellen replied we haven't figured it all out yet.

Shirley Pomponi asked could we have a NFRA rep on ORAP sub-panel? Ellen replied that was good suggestion.

Chris Mooers stated in the past CORE gave staff support to NORLC activities. Will that stay the same? Ellen answered, yes. The Navy itself provides ORAP support. NOPP at CORE provides support. The question has been asked can the NORLC automatically become the new aqua box. It's not clear. Lawyers are all debating it. They are currently acting like the NORLC is the aqua box.

Tom Gustafson stated federal money has two parts. How much is going to be needed and when would we be ready to spend it? What is the big picture of that bread box? Ellen answered that the closest idea is in the ocean commission report. The whole thing is nebulous right now. Can an ocean budget be integrated that goes to OMB? That's still under discussion. The commission report is what people are looking at.

Mark Luther stated when the subject is less than \$5 billion in 5 years – the feds don't pay attention. This seems like a lot of money to us but this is way down on the noise level of the issues going on in Washington. Why is it so hard to get this money?

Ellen responded, even before the commission was established, Admiral Watkins said he could get us funding if we came to him with a united ocean community statement. That is still the same problem. Public support is also an issue. They don't understand why something like a coastal observing system is important. The relevance to people lives and the products to come out of it are not clear yet.

Chris Mooers asked Ellen if she thought it would be beneficial to have an integrated budget. Ellen said the answer is not clear.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Richard Dodge announced following the panel discussion there will be a chance for the audience to speak to the panelists.

Panel Members Presentations

Bob Weisberg – see Weisberg Powerpoint slides

I want to show you what SEACOOS is doing, specifically in Florida. I want to scare you a little bit. Getting involved in ocean observing is not a step to be taken lightly. It's a major commitment. We have certain objectives at USF: one is to develop an observing system for the western shelf, model support, etc. (*See objectives slide*)

We plan to use a multi-sensor array and generate products for 3D fields as well as material properties. This will take in properties of the water column, surface and subsurface telemetry, etc. (*see tools in play*)

The National Backbone slide.

Cape Hatteras compared to all of Florida map has all NOAA resources shown. Buoys are sparse. Buoys measure winds not the water column. NOAA is attempting to get in that area. Meanwhile SEACOOS went ahead to develop its own resources. 10 different moorings are in place including tide gauge stations and other equipment driven by resource managers. Attempts have been made to utilize existing platforms. Coastal stations have been added. There are huge gaps between GA and Florida. Existing programs come together in SEACOOS. GA and SC colleagues will be adding radar later this year. SEACOOS is not the only observing show in town. See other non-SEACOOS regional resources slide.

WFS in situ slide – From this map you can see there is room for additional assets.

See lessons learned slide – We don't want to just throw things in the water. We want to make use of the process so far. Real-time data is essential. It's not that simple to keep things working but as long as it's recorded internally that is useful. The bottom layer provides conduit for movement across the shelf. Surface information alone is insufficient.

Improper boundary conditions will affect the model. The shelf interacts with the deep ocean. You cannot think of only what is typical. Continental shelves have inter-annual variability. Recommendations were developed. We want to describe fields of variability. We need to set up observations in a logical manner. All the modeling and observations functions must be coordinated.

The point is we've done a lot in SEACOOS. A lot of lessons have come from it including COOS design recommendations. You have to do coastal ocean science to understand how to model it. You can't separate the science from the observing. Huge gaps need to be filled in wind products, SSTs and color products.

Q&A

Rod Zika asked, what is the current status of COOS covered area. Have you done analysis of how much data is being used by the community?

Bob answered we haven't done that analysis. We are trying to build a science based system and promote it across a large portion of the users. 25% of the funds are for education. You have to build something worthwhile for them to come. We are doing this at the same time. At SECOORA we organized into teams to get more users. Fisheries and Emergency Management groups are being formed.

Mark Luther stated that marketing surveys haven't been formally done. Some users we know very well. Chris Simoniello has been working on a comprehensive Florida list.

Peter Betzer stated the Kingfish association is using some of this. We need people to help us implement the system.

Ellen Prager added that storm center communications groups have been encouraged to use the IOOS. The Tampa station is an example. You might be able to get the word to local meteorologists to use this information. Bob stated when a reporter only has a minute to report it's tough to get them to use new sources. Ellen clarified that the storm center will put it into the TV ready story for the meteorologist.

Rod Zika commented on the slide of the density of east coast measurements that the east coast is bare. Bob pointed to the national backbone slide that shows lots of gaps. Clusters exist because of grouping of resources. Pan handle and NE coast needs work.

Chris Mooers gave the caucus the overview of SECOORA. *See slides.*

SECOORA has been under development for several years. It is broad in scope. The organizations goal is to provide stewardship to and from the national backbone. Another responsibility is to operate RCOOS. It is not an R&D program per se.

SEACOOS was set up 4 years ago and is funded for 3 years. The idea to divide the country into regions has existed since the beginning. As soon as the RA idea was on the street we had to create SECOORA. The office is in Charleston in SC with modest funding up to \$300K per year. The steering committee has 9 members. FL has $\frac{2}{3}$ of the coastline and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the population of all the states. SECOORA has had 3 workshops in the past 3 months.

SECOORS agenda – *see slide.*

Short term governance document will be implemented to get things rolling. The business plan is in the works. Overall SECOORA hopes to be certified in the next year.

Other activities include sponsoring a value added industry workshop. Mitch Roffer and I are on that committee. We want to form partnerships with companies. SECOORA has been asked to contribute to the national backbone planning.

AREAS of Activity slide – These elements will be used in the business plan. Resources are limited. We can't be all things to everybody. We need solid foundations.

SECOORA needs to get RA and RCOOS concepts of operations in place, stakeholder links and a marketing strategy. While this is happening the FL-COOS Caucus has opportunities to bridge links to the Bahamas, Cuba and other places, to shape agendas and priorities and to help on committee and participate in workshops. Outside group interactions are embryonic.

Q&A

Rod Zika: systems engineering needs were brought up at SECOORA last week. Where does FL fit in to all of this? Perhaps the space industry? Aren't we ideal for this task? Chris responded that Florida ranks with California and Massachusetts.

Bob Weisberg cautioned, we have to be careful how we define systems engineering. We have pieces in FL. An actual observing system is much broader. That requires user group and scientist discussions. Coherent designs are needed to solve problems. We have had some narrow definitions of what that is.

Mark Luther updated the caucus on the National Federation of Regional Associations that is a sub-set of the National Office or Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observations and is working to get IOOA legislation through Congress. This would encourage legislation to get money flow into the process. (*See IOOS legislation slide*). There are parallel bills on the House side. NFRA is attacking the budget offices to build significant levels of funding.

GCOOS (*see slide GOOS, GOOS Board of Directors, and Board meeting slides*)
GCOOS has Texas A&M as the home base. They started out without a SEACOOS partner. Oil and gas along the coast are the big influence. There have been several GCOOS workshops. Many signed on saying they agreed to play nice together. An MOA was formed with 40 parties, 11 are from Florida. The Board of Directors was elected this past June. I am one of the board members. The first meeting is in August in Houston. The regional certification process through Ocean.US will begin. The GCOOS draft is on the website.

Workshop slide contains extensive details, Public health is identified as a critical issue in the gulf. January in St. Peter there will be a workshop. Rita Colwell will be there.

Parallel organization – Alliance for Coastal Technologies. *See slide*. The group means to foster the development of new coastal technologies.

See IOOS Sequential development slide. New sensors needed in the network. See ACT partners slide .

Q&A

Peter Betzer asked will oil and gas be the major proponent in IOOS? Private companies objected once data was required to be submitted to NOAA since it wiped out some industry. GCOOS and SECOORA overlap. How can we move this concept forward?

Mark answered: by reaching throughout the SE, at the governors' level, we could play to those strengths. Bob Weisberg asked, at the national level, has there been discussion of how the money will flow? Will NC get money from both SEACOORA and GCOOS. Mark answered, it is very vague. It will be sub-system specific. Maybe it will come from the Gulf to Florida. It depends on the issues. Nothing is hammered out yet.

Chris Mooers asked will national funds be divided up equally to all the regions. Mark Luther again stated it's not hammered out yet. Maybe this would work with the blessing of the regional association.

Tom Gustafson asked what GCOOS has done in partnering with Mexico? Mark replied that Mexico has signed the MOA. Texas A&M has been visiting Mexico. We must reach out to our international neighbors. The Great Lakes group has the strongest international ties.

Doug Wilson – NOAA. Caribbean Region Association (CaRa)

I'm coming at this from many fronts. CaRa is one of the 11 Ocean.US organizations. *See CaRa slide.*

I am presenting this on behalf of the CaRa. There is some history involved here as I have been involved in Caribbean research for many years. I am presently involved in a sub regional association in Chesapeake Bay area observing system and we are going through the same issues. I am also involved in MCOORA: the Ocean.US official RA equivalent for the Mid Atlantic. CaRa is one of the 11 Ocean.us RA's for the US EEZ in the Caribbean including PR, USVI, Navassa Island which is administered by the DOI. Up until 2004 there were 10 US regions as we thought the southeast would take care of it. Then we had a workshop in St. Thomas and decided that the US Caribbean had their own set of unique problems and began lobbying for that. Last year we got our proposal funded from an RA grant for approximately \$200,000. The PI's were listed (*see slide*). The initial foci include coastal and marine tourism and coastal hazards which is a necessity for PR and USVI as the entire social fabric is tied into the coastal ocean. The money is not in yet so this program is not very far advanced. One important focus for change is the under representation of the black and Hispanic communities. UPR and UVI are also minority focused. So there is a lot of opportunities for the southeast to work with these universities and minority serving institutions. Another opportunity is to actively seek collaborations with these minority institutions is for the US to develop their technology and transfer all the US has to offer via the IOCARIBE-GOOS association and alliance. There is a lot of common interest with Florida and the Caribbean. *See 11 objectives from slide that were decided on at foci.* There are many great opportunities to reach out and establish programmes with these potential partners. For example, bringing scientific expertise and training programs into the regions.

Doug the spent time covering various issues in the Caribbean. CaRa. *See "Proposal highlights" slide.*

Doug Wilson – GOOS Regional Alliances - See network slide.

IOCARIBE – GOOS – *see slide* We are at the point of trying to implement the plan.

Tsumanis are part of this. Doug stated it is very hard to sustain a system. It's not necessarily just money. Proof of need has to be part of the studies.

Caribbean warning system – sea level network. We are planning to move this ahead as part of a partnership. There is international and US funding for something like this.

Needs list slide: Partnerships, products, sustainable demonstration project and leadership. Assets – Coastal economics, mandates, latent institutional capacity. Executive level mandates need to be followed up on.

Q&A

Peter Betzer suggested, perhaps the World Bank can help in this process. Doug replied, if you can get the international side funded there is bound to be a US link. Peter added non-traditional funding might work. Doug mentioned the tourism sector or the Caribe Bank could be part of it.

Rod Zika mentioned another demonstration project is to use the Explorer of the Seas that has an extensive array of equipment. It's already funded through NSF, SEACOOS and other resources. How do we get that to actually happen so some of these institutions will take advantage of the opportunity?

Doug Wilson stated CaRa is designated as the group to work within the region. This is a step forward. Several pilot projects such as a storm surge mitigation project could be pushed in IOOS.

Chris Mooers stated when thinking of the Caribbean we should think of Canadians who are very active there and also include England, France and the Netherlands. Doug added the African sea-level network is getting \$5 million.

Sandy Vega stated, it seems to me that CaRa is more allied with the Caribbean than with the US. That won't make it conducive for other Caribbean nations to participate. Groups are divided by English and non-English speaking countries into UPR and UVI.

Rod Zika stated the White Water to Blue Water State Dept. organization objective is to develop an idea of what the gulf and Carib problems are and their resources. Those might be helpful for FL COOS to look at.

From the audience, when you were showing us the assets on the slide you took them away for various reasons until we were looking at a ghost town of a COOS. This is exactly what we do not want to happen. Can this COOS withstand downturns in the economy? It needs to be linked to other organizations to keep it going.

Doug Wilson replied we have to develop ownership. People have to stand up and say we need that.

Steve Wolfe – Oceans and Coastal Resources Council

The Florida Ocean Initiative was launched in 2004. Gulf state alliance was set up by Governor Bush. It is meant to identify common interests and to develop a concerted plan for the gulf. Meeting will take place next week to finalize the action plan. There are weekly teleconferences. The federal agencies have been involved in all the teleconferences.

Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Act is brand new. *See slide.* There are 14 statements of intent.

Florida Oceans Council slide – the driving emphasis was to get the legislature to fund ocean research. They want a process that will guarantee a result if they put money into this. Somebody that knows the areas will identify to them and help them direct their funding so it will accomplish what they wish to accomplish. They want us to identify gaps in research as well as coastal resource assessment.

First 3 tasks are due January 15th. If we don't make that deadline there is no money for that research. Council members have not been named yet.

Florida Coastal & Marine Water Quality Monitoring plan - Add missing pieces that are needed. Integrate with GOOS.

Q&A

Peter Betzer asked if the council will be in place by the 8th of August? Steve answered the council operates through the EPA. We are going to try to put as much structure in place ahead of time.

Peter then asked if the water quality monitoring project has as one of its goals to underscore COOS. Steve replied it was meant to be combined with GOOS. We have given up on one monitoring system that can accomplish both goals.

Peter asked couldn't we combine FL forces? Steve replied we need to get more federal funds into the gulf. The temperature in Tallahassee is good. Ellen Prager asked if CaMa is going to provide support? Steve answered "I'm that person. My job is the council."

Doug Wilson stated this is called in the ocean action plan and the national water monitoring plan. Work into both structures and try to get them to work together. Steve added we need to fill gaps and fix overlaps. It's not a simple thing.

Kumar Mahadevan stated, in the upcoming meeting at the Hart institute in Corpus Christie – most of the governors will be there. I assume GCOOS is in the summit and the alliance. Mark Luther replied not in the alliance

Jim Cato stated he thinks the gulf alliance has ticked off anyone who isn't a federal employee. Ellen added it was a huge mistake that the stakeholders were brought in the day after the federal meeting happened and just told the stakeholders here is what we did.

Bob Weisberg stated his thanks to Richard Dodge, Peter Betzer and Otis Brown. He stated, besides the 30 new acronyms I've learned, here are the people who have spent that last 30 years working with these systems. Let's be sure that those who are engaged in this work are truly engaged.

Mark Luther announced the FL Aquarium in Tampa is the location of the next GCOOS meeting.

Chris Mooers asked if GCOOS is all of Florida or just the west coast? Does Tallahassee care about the East Coast? Steve answered they are concerned with the gulf coast only.

Jim Cato – *no Powerpoint slides*

Florida Ocean Alliance 1999 – government, industry and academia. There is a need to focus on the coast and oceans. Mission statement is on the web. It is an all encompassing mission statement. We were charged to monitor and publicize issues and give testimony to bills. We have done all these things. We have 15 board members at the moment.

We have been a volunteer organization. As we have developed we put together a statewide conference in Miami. Our next effort was in Tallahassee in the form of Oceans Day at the state capital. FIO does the logistics for us. All of our members and other groups come to the State Capital. Mote has a reception each year. Ellen Prager often does presentations. SeaGrant had a statewide poster contest. Kids got to meet their representative. We've done those kinds of things to create publicity for the oceans. We host a private sector lunch through the department of community affairs, and other activities each year to promote conversation with the alliance. Due for members is \$250 per year and consequently our budget is quite low. Members usually step up to the plate to help with events. We would like to see this group grow, in particular industry members.

Six years ago we started and it's time to think about the next step for our group. All of our activities came from within the organization. The FL COOS caucus has asked us to take on the role to keep up these meetings. We have to figure out how to do this. Tom Gustafson has written a letter to the chairman of our organization and voiced to us what that you want us to undertake and convene the FL COOS meetings. Perhaps we can generate fees for this. What do you want this to do? How could we encourage more to join us so we can pay for these things?

Chris Mooers stated the FOA has stakeholders in your membership that we desperately need in our organization. Jim agreed the ocean community is too fragmented already. Kumar Mahadevan added that FOA membership can be much broader. If all of those who were involved with COOS in some level the FOA would grow.

Jim agreed the next step is for the FOA to grow. FOA has had an influence at time in Tallahassee. Private sector members are extremely helpful in Tallahassee. FOA need COOS participants. We have just a few expenses. More non-academic sector members are needed.

Steve Wolfe told Jim he is too modest in explaining how influential FOA has been in the legislature.

Shirley Pomponi – Oceans Act of 2000 *See slides*

JSOST – must come up with the oceans policy plan. The Oceans Studies Board will be asked to review the plan. It is due March 2006 with December 2006 publication as the goal.

The Ocean Studies Board is part of the National Academy of Science. NAS is honorary membership. They are expected to advise the nation. National Research Council is part of the division on Earth and Life studies which houses the Ocean Studies Board. Appointments are 3 year terms. They meet 3 times year via Public forum. They will meet again in DC in November. We discuss issues important to the members. This meeting is not attended by Federal government attendees. We invite experts to advise us. We come up with ideas for studies that need to be created. Committee memberships are nominated to specific studies. Things like conflicts of interest are considered, etc. The NAS will review the studies at length as well. The final study carries weight that could effect legislation. This helps organizations like NSF decide where their priorities should be.

At the last OSB, one of the most important issues was the ocean infrastructure – OOS and also fleet renewal issues. What I see as one of the major issues that we must speak with one voice. For example, if we say we need to double the amount of funding, they will ask what we are going to spend the money on. We haven't yet come up with that answer. They are going to tell us to come back when we know what we want to do.

Tom Gustafson gave thanks to Shirley on behalf of the caucus. So much of what the Ocean Studies Board does can affect what comes out of this group. How do we speak with one mind through FOCC? A broader stakeholder group is needed to speak to us and help us to come to that one mind. Shirley stated “We have a state government interested in hearing what we have to say. Shame on us if we can't come up with this.”

Further Discussion: Chris Mooers & George Maul, leaders

Chris Mooers asked what have we learned today? George Maul stated other issues need to be considered like global marine biology. Peter added biological and chemical sensors are behind in the physical sensors. Rod stated ACT evaluates sensors etc. NSF or ONR has very little money to sponsor sensor development. Tom Gustafson asked if there is some way for Florida to come up with the R&D costs.

Duane Dufreese – There is a language problem on the process side and that is the public doesn't understand it. I can sell manatees all day long. Thermohaline systems, forget it. There is a disconnect in the human value side of this. \$7 billion was approved in state funding for land acquisition. Many of you look who to federal funding should know we have

120 days before the next session ends. We need to get the wording to these people to generate the funding. A common language is needed.

FOA can help bring people together to feed into to the FOCC. Tom asked, do we construct that and do we construct that right now? The FOA is the presenter of it. The FL COOS Caucus can help feed into this. Ellen stated if FOA is going to present a strategy, it has to be wider than OOS and needs to include education and so forth. That makes it more difficult.

Steve Wolfe added the key part is that the Council has to come up with what the management questions are.

Ellen stated that to be significant in the public, instead of just bringing the community together, is to ask the users what do you need. I've asked Steve Lyons – what do you need? He said he needs a platform at each of the Bahamas. That can be incorporated into the plan.

Mark added when we talk about COOS we are talking about everything you have just said. Ellen stated the user community is not fully integrated.

Tom asked if you were to write a strategy. FOCC is going to write it by the end of December. How does that draft get done? What date do you need to draft so the FOA can embrace it. Steve answered 3 meetings are scheduled. Late September, November and December.

Tom asked how does FOA or FL COOS Caucus contribute to this. Steve Wolfe answered by prioritizing and making the needed recommendations. Tom stated, we need to think big. What should be the size of coastal observing in FL?

Kumar Mahadevan spoke up to say that pilot projects are already being discussed in FOA. He is coming from a COOS-less organization like the smaller groups that are collecting backyard data. That is the challenge, to bring these people to the table. If I look at FL interests, FL COOS is one unit that takes in both the gulf and the state. Will GCOOS and SECOORA be responsible for our needs if we don't have our own COOS. It takes energy away from the issues.

Bob Weisberg stated his criticism of the ocean report. It's a phone book! We need a unifying theme that allows us to bring everything into one simply stated concept and go from there.

Tom Gustafson stated the Gulf Alliance has occurred. It isn't the governors of NC and GA. Bob restates, I'm looking for a simple scientific statement. We want to unify topics together and have a program that applies itself across all those issues, fisheries, red tides, and storm surge analysis. Land acquisition was one simple unifying idea.

Chris Mooers replied COOS was the idea. Bob Weisberg said we could focus on fisheries and show how that bears on all other issues and develop modeling tools that apply to everything else. A simple overarching concept is needed.

Ellen Prager stated the FOA has been using the economic value of coasts to Florida as the unifier. Bob Weisberg stated that economic values were already given to fish, the cruise industry, etc. at SECOORA

Duane said you are jumping past the business concept to what do you want to fund. It's good if our first message is about establishing a permanent funding mechanism. The ocean is the foundation of ocean economy – period! The key is to channel the political will. FOCC has a short timeline to get something brilliant on the table. You don't have time to get it to this legislature. We want a FL 10 year funding plan (dock fees or whatever) which includes economic values of fisheries, OOS, etc. The beach gets mentioned by the public all the time – you almost never hear about the oceans.

Peter Sheng stated we need to look at economics and weed out the hundreds of recommendation from the ocean report. If we can demonstrate what the coastal observing system can do to cut down hurricane damage it would get significant attention. If we don't do the cost benefit analysis, people think it's just an academic research project. We need an integrated approach between the deep ocean and estuary approach, etc. More stakeholders and emergency managers are needed.

Chris Mooers said we need to have fisheries and coastal hazards plus shipping, boating and beaches. SECOORA should engage the governors in the regional association. We would need to ask Governor Bush to participate in GCOOS and SECOORA. Tom Gustafson stated we are in a dead heat with the November meeting of GCOOS. In November 2006 a new governor will be instated. Chris Mooers stated Texas and NC might not like it if Florida's governor attended. Peter Betzer mentioned that oil spill patterns would justify the connection with the east coast concerns. Tom added we need to think about a governor's interest in these issues. If the people in this room would be helpful in drafting it, would COOS themes be things we could work with?

Steve Wolfe stated the description I like is to start building the funding pipeline. We need to keep focused on this. We want legislators to be confident to get this flowing.

Duane stated that Senator Pruitt in his talk with FOA said to come up with a big bold statement. If we don't set this pipeline we will lose at least 12 months. What are the critical needs this year? A statewide economic study costing \$1 million. It can be done for less than \$1 million. The pipeline must start first. Ellen stated they want to have a plan for quick results. They want framework for the council but also include a couple of projects so they see fast results.

Tom asked who is going to draft the FOCC? Steve Wolfe answered "me". Tom asked, do you want assistance? Steve answered we are trying to get together the main managers statements. We have to hang this plan on this.

Bob Weisberg stated I heard numbers for the fisheries, cruise lines, etc. We already have these numbers that we heard at SECOORA. Why do we have to reinvent them? Duane

replied we don't know what the research part of it is. What is the value of ocean research as an industry as part of the economic engine of Florida? Bob asked isn't there a formula for these published numbers? We can come up with an astounding number now. Peter Betzer stated we had state agencies try to understand what they had. Until we integrate our groups we don't know the true value.

Tom stated we want a first draft. Is there something in writing? If so, get it to Otis and Peter and Richard and maybe we can give you some help in raising the questions. Tom also stated we need to help the EPA write the draft for the FOCC. Ellen Prager asked should this be done in conjunction with the FOA? We need to agree we need the collective voice. What would the first priority projects be? Peter Betzer asked the board members present: Do you agree with this?

Tom stated we need to collect our thoughts. Not just us but also those on the mailing list. We need a drafting session, working with FOA. Our next meeting needs to be earlier.

Kumar mentioned the FOA has been focusing on a comprehensive study. That is where we are heading. Senator Pruitt said to get some of the good studies funded, they need to be represented from FOA.

Tom suggested the FOA could open this meeting to whoever you want to invite to look at the small hurdles and then go for the bigger long term pipeline. Chris Mooers asked what does Senator Pruit consider big? Tom answered \$150 million, annually for 10 years. This is not a big thing if it comes from FOA with the support of the community.

Ellen Prager stated FOA is already talking about the small hurdles and the big pipeline. What are a couple of small to medium projects that would benefit Florida COOS. The advice we need is what projects would benefit Florida the most.

Steve Wolfe said impaired waters program is court mandated to clean up waters. Florida is the poster child and it includes coastal waters. Once you have something identified as an impaired community you have to have the waters parameters as part of this.

5:15pm Dick Dodge announced the end of the meeting.

Peter Betzer stated a sooner date than November is needed for the next caucus.