

10/28/08

**Northern Gulf Institute  
Fall Planning Meeting  
October 15-16, 2008  
Hosted by Louisiana State University  
Cook Hotel & Conference Center, Baton Rouge, LA  
Council of Fellows**

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October 15, 2008 – Council of Fellows - 8:15 AM

The Meeting was called to order by Dr. David Shaw. The following individuals were in attendance: David Shaw, Glade Woods, David Reed, Dawn Lavoie, Martha Segura, Steven Lohrenz, Rick Shaw, Russ Beard, Jeff Waters, Phil Bass, Sharon Hodge, Stacie Stroud, Todd Davison, Ladon Swann, Eric Chassinnet, Jay Ritchie, Michael Carron, Seth Dabney, John Valentine, Sara Green, David Palmer, Robert Twilley and Mary Austill Lott.

John Valentine, who was asked to attend the conference as a result of the recent loss of Dr. Scott Quackenbush, who was on the NGI Council of Fellows; introduced himself and gave a brief strategy plan of the DISL selection of a 2-yr. Interim Director. If as expected, John Valentine would be the DISL representative to NGI.

David Shaw introduced Philip Hoffman who is the Acting OAR CI Program Manager. Dr. Hoffman gave a brief personal introduction. Phil Hoffman gave a status report on the recently advertised position of NOAA NGI Science Advisor, which when the selection process is over will have an office at NGI, Stennis Space Center. This will be a 3-Yr appointment. Philip Hoffman, Mike Uhart and Todd Davison will review candidates. Hopefully position will be filled by January 2009.

Phillip Hoffman gave a power point presentation and discussed the Cooperative Institute's history and overview, hitting on the subjects of funding appropriations and more. This type of program is different from most cooperative institutes because the universities are where emerging issues are being addressed. One question that came out of this discussion was the possibility of designating the cooperative institute money as multi-year funding. Phillip Hoffman said that at this point this has not been discussed at the NOAA level. There was discussion as to the budget not hit by the financial crisis. Phillip Hoffman said that the FY09 budget is already to Congress. Yr. 4 funding project start date will be February 1, 2010. Discussion continued.

David Shaw stated that there is a favorable financial picture for NGI, but we will need help from the whole region. We have already asked for and received many letters of intent (LOIs) and will begin the process of reviewing them so that when the funds are appropriated, hopefully between February and April, 2009; the process of requesting full proposal can begin. Phillip Hoffman said that all paperwork should be in place so that when funds are allocated, we'll be ready to engage. The grant process was discussed at length.

The Cooperative Institute Review Process is good for NGI concerning the NOAA Mission. Key to Second 5-yr. extension. In January 2009-NOAA requests additional external reviewers of NGI (See SAB page for CI Reviews). <http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Reports/Reports.html> (See near bottom of this webpage); May 2009-Formal requests are sent to Science and Administrative reviewers. June 2009-Gets busy. Not sure

how to do a review of a consortium; July 2009-NOAA and NGI finalize the review agenda; August 2009 Prepare and distribute briefing book, keeping within handbook guidelines; October 2009-Onsite visit by review panel. December 2009 Preliminary Review complete. NOAA and NGI review for accuracy. There was further discussion.

David Shaw gave a short overview of the results of the Executive Council meeting held October 2, 2008, at AOML (Miami). A draft set of minutes from the Executive Council meeting has been distributed to the Council of Fellows and Advisory Council members. Year 4 funding was discussed with a project start date of February 1, 2010. Discussion continued.

Glade Woods reported to the Fellows the interactions of NGI with the 5-state governor's Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA). A short discussion was held concerning whether NGI should be principally directed by the recently developed draft GOMA Action Plan. While there was some disagreement by members of the Council, Phil Hoffman strongly suggested that the GOMA action plan be considered an important guiding document (among others). NGI staff members serve on GOMA Priority Issue teams focusing on Nutrient Reduction, Resiliency, and Education and Outreach.

Mike Carron reported on the NGI Program Office's membership on the NOAA Gulf Regional Collaboration Team. He reported that NGI has supported the team's activities by hosting team meetings and responding to identified priorities of the team (e.g., hosting the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Workshop and developing a collaborative team to develop a prototype IEA).

Sharon Hodge reported on the NOAA Diversity Internship Program (held during the summer of 2008 in collaboration with NCDDC and Jackson State University) and discussed plans for the Diversity Internship Program to be held in the summer of 2009 in collaboration with NCDDC and NMFS (and possibly other NOAA offices).

The review process as outlined in the Cooperative Institute handbook giving NGI the opportunity to see how we are meeting NOAA requirements was discussed. The timeline for this process was discussed in detail. There are a couple of possibilities for participating in the review process: Tele-presence, a way to highlight areas; and Multimedia. Philip Hoffman suggested that this be thought about now, so the review process can go as swiftly as possible. There will be three possible grades: Outstanding, Satisfactory (Less time or lower funding level), and Unsatisfactory (Will not renew). Discussion continued as to consideration that NGI is a pioneer and trend setter. It will be important to show leveraging and discuss other resources that help keep us afloat. The review will be discussed with the Fellows at the May 2009 meeting.

### Recommendation from May Advisory Council meetings:

R1- Expand NGI participation to cover all working groups. GOMA- NGI is involved in Education, Nutrients, and Resiliency. Some problems were expressed with Florida DEP. Direction of funding was discussed, with the questions of sending funds to NGI as a whole rather than the five individual states. Opportunities to leverage funding. At the Corpus meeting, guidelines were given. The 5-Yr. plan is based on 3-Yr. plan. Would like major events like ribbon cuttings, expanding partnerships. If we get to a point where funds can be directed straight to NGI, it would help. Discussion continued.

R2-Research Priorities for Yr-4 should be reevaluated identifying research priorities. GOMA was used as key within the call for LOIs, GCSC developed needs assessment and Sea Grants to identify research needs. We are working for multi-year projects.

R3-NGI establishing additional requirements on future projects. NGI is working to develop projects together and getting NGI more integrated with NOAA, i.e. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and others. They see that NGI is the prototype to follow.

R4-NGI Communicating science to non-science community-Several examples of how this is being implemented was discussed, i.e. Research spotlights were shared with Earth Gauge.

The floor was open for discussion. There was much discussion concerning defining Education and Outreach and also the concern for funding for research to not take a backseat. Upon CI Review, original NGI projects have to have an outreach plan.

After Fellows received RFP's they were sent to the Advisory Council, but no responses received back.

After Web developer is hired, NGI is ready to transition to an expanded website. We need to look at Education and Outreach as related to Research. Discussion continued.

GOMA research priorities – Very broad and inclusive. Stay with course of NGI, broad, but resulting with good research projects. We need to look at the Alliance to nudge our process, not redirect it.

The Annual Conference will be held at the Riverview Renaissance Hotel in Mobile, AL May 2009.

Upcoming outreach and the Minority Internship Program for 2009 events were discussed. There was much to say about the style of outreach and education. Every institution needs a point of contact for Education and Outreach. It needs to be looked at as it relates to research.

Lunch Break

**October 15, 2008 - Plenary Session- Advisory Council and Council of Fellows - 1:30 PM**

David Shaw called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Each person present introduced himself. Welcome from Rick Shaw, LSU. LSU spotlight by Robert Twilley. See: <http://www.research.lsu.edu/csa/links3.shtml>. The floor was open to questions about programs going on at LSU.

David Shaw introduced Philip Hoffman as new CI Program Manager, and named the members of the NGI Executive Council which is chaired by Bob Atlas of AOML. Other members include Louisa Koch, Education, Margaret Davison, CSC, Gary Carter of NWS, Roy Crabtree of NMFS, AL Powell of STAR. The Executive Committee met on Oct. 2, for their first meeting. NGI is groundbreaking. First cooperative institute of a consortium of many universities. NGI is unique because it does not sit next to a research facility driving the priorities. 25% of NGI funding is to encourage NOAA to work with the university partners. Yr. 4 is calling for all projects to be collaborative, with all five universities and with NOAA.

The new Council of Fellows met this morning, and Yr-4 is a chance to recalibrate the approach and priorities for NGI. We don't need a new set of priorities, but need to find research that has appropriate levels of outreach. Look for high profile efforts and products. Mike Carron put out an RFP calling for

Letters of Intent (LOIs.) We need to look at what our priorities are and how can we become more effective and efficient.

Executive Council directed NGI to move beyond loose confederation of projects to coordinated system of projects. Mandate that David Shaw feels very strongly about. We need to be thinking about priorities. Hold our "feet to the fire" to see how they fit into a comprehensive whole. Mike Carron shared that the Fellows had reviewed recommendations from the last meeting. David Shaw shared that NGI begins its 5-Yr evaluation at beginning of Yr-3. The evaluation is a 3-4 day review process which will take place in Oct. 09. SAB and LOIs and suggestions from NGI. There was discussion as to who would make up the review board.

Glade Woods discussed the NGI Science Center to be built at Stennis. It will provide room for NOAA. \$4,461,000 is in place and looking for more sources to total \$9M. He passed around a photo of a similar building. There was discussion about location of the building as well as possibility of making it a "Hurricane Ready" building.

Todd Davidson discussed the position of NOAA Science Advisor. The position closes October 17, 2008. This person will help to maintain a better working relationship with NOAA. Hopefully this person will come to work the first of CY-09.

David Shaw discussed NGI opportunities, GOMA; NCDDC (Diversity interns) NGI is the lead entity for applications of UAS in the Gulf Region. Taking DOD technology to civilian systems hurricanes. Start \$2M for FY-09, to \$6M; grow to \$150M by 2012. NOAA just hired Robbie Hood UAH, NASA working in Boulder for this project.

NOAA has to decide what to do with UAS. WISDOM -Sandy McDonald came to David Shaw in February and had an idea about tracking the movement of hurricanes. CI moved money and funded company to make GPS balloons for the project. There was discussion as to whether FSU benefited. Yes, several examples were provided.

Different teams have been set up in the collaboration i.e. NGI's involvement with NOAA IEA and GOMA. Grid catalog is not helpful. Members discussed research plans.

The Advisory Council asked for various length projects. Don't want to compete with Sea grant by doing projects that last 1 year. Looking at longer projects. Looking at how to handle data management. Considered data collection coordination, even workshops. Another thing discussed was the performance metrics, i.e. how many grad students, papers produced, etc.

It was suggested by Russ Beard that NGI not only think about NOAA collaboration, but to also think about other Federal Agencies.

Meeting adjourned 3:30 PM

4:00 PM -Tour of Mississippi River Model

5:00 PM- Presentation by C.C. Lockwood of Photography

6:00 PM-Reception-Energy Coast and Environment building Rotunda

October 16, 2008 - Council of Fellows - 8:30 AM

The following topics were highlighted in the discussion: Mike Carron discussed data issues of having all NGI funded research ultimately stage data on NGI servers. NCDDC has proposed using funding from the NOAA portion of NGI used to place a data manager at each institution to ensure that data are identified (and in some cases mined from earlier work), metadata produced, and data are eventually stored on NOAA or NGI servers.

Mike Carron continued by discussing the Year-4 LOIs recently received and their focus on collaborative research. A general discussion took place concerning whether NGI wanted an open proposal process or to "control" the development of collaborative and integrated projects. The various models for managing a program were discussed from "Open Calls" to "Omnibus Submissions."

The challenges of funding collaborations were also discussed as the YR4 LOIs had multiple institutional budgets represented in their overall budgets. The challenge of evaluating and managing that information was discussed.

Additionally, there were discussions about the NGI themes and "What NGI was and wasn't?" Discussions centered on identifying activities that fit NGI and those that are outside the scope. This was a ranging conversation that continually resurfaced throughout the morning's discussion.

An extensive discussion developed concerning the long-term strategic for NGI, problems with NGI Identity and possible actions. David Shaw strongly encouraged the other institutions to collaborate with MSU and USM on NGI's approach to Washington. The current situation was discussed and the fellows also discussed the political reality of working the "earmark" world and the difficulty of each university to move funds to other institutions, especially, out of state. The need to educate the institution leadership and the Congressional leadership on both the regional effectiveness of NGI and the individual institutional benefits of membership was also discussed. The possibility of the Program Office creating some materials for the institutional and Congressional audiences was discussed.

Mike Carron suggested that each Fellow have their team respond to various RFPs by building multi-institution proposals and submit through NGI as a way of improving the Institute's branding and building a stronger organization. Since there are no overhead charges for fellow institutions funds received by NGI from these proposals would be passed directly to the collaborating institutions. Twilley discussed the benefits of working within the NGI framework in RFP competition: multi-organization unit, regional research organization, etc.

It was agreed that the NGI Program Office would review all NGI LOIs, organize them in a way that facilitates selections and have a follow-up meeting with the Fellows in late-November or early December to select projects to be invited to develop full proposals.

(Attachment 1)  
Advisory Council Recommendations to Council of Fellows  
From the Fall NGI Conference  
October 15-16, 2008  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

R1 Consider (Executive Council #17) - Conducting Sea level rise- Habitat secession. Ties into infrastructure to better forecasting, better housing – holistic approach

R2 Consider (Executive Council # 22)-Recruiting and retaining social Scientist- Build internship through NOAA

R3 Consider (Executive Council # 25)-MPB funds (\$35K) in place by National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC)-Video of NCDDC support for storms.

R4 Consider (Executive Council # 30)-Minority Program- Get Louisa Koch involved

R5 Consider (Executive Council #36)-Working with Geoffrey Scott at the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research in Charleston, South Carolina.

R6 Consider (Executive Council # 40)-Build sensors within NGI (e.g. brave busters made in Canada)

R7 Consider (Executive Council #43) - Leverage other funding. NCDDC work with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL). This should not exclusively drive our science research decisions, but serve as one criterion. Be careful to not aim too broadly.

R8-Go beyond physical, biological; chemical go into Information Technology as an important area of research, Ecosystem Data Assembly Center (EDAC)protocols to be considered. Fellows look for Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) between NGI directly with each letter of Intent (LOI) to facilitate funding transfer.

R9- Investigate individual MOUs with each LOI to help with funding transfer

R10-A key topic is "risk" and "risk assessment."

R11-Have met recently with Department of Homeland Security. And there is potential for collaboration with research institutes on areas of storm surge, sea level rise and more. Talk about a broader possibility.

R12-Nutrients and agriculture are linked to hypoxia. Does NGI have a team member who can predict what it will do to fresh water density? Water diversion might have an effect on the oxygen supply. The lower Mississippi River. Can NGI model 100 years ago, 80 years ago (before major fertilizer inputs and levee system)?-Then we will know what occurs naturally versus inputs from farmers. NASA presented one project in Biloxi that might contribute-is NGI teaming with them?

NOAA's National Ocean Service does put out a hypoxia forecast. Has this been implemented? We have done so much to changes in the hydrology. We have problems today, because of building dams, clearing streams, etc. in the last 150 years. Do we have a vision to where we were 150 years ago in comparison to what is going on today? Work on this has already been done.

It would be good to see the long range impact; if we increased the nitrogen by 50%. What would the impact be?"

Consider studies beyond community resiliency, ecosystem conservation and restorations.

R13-How can we relay this information to the public? How do we convey the risk so the public can understand it? Part of the problems is that the information gets screened. We are starting to put out indication maps making it scientifically correct and also that the public can understand.

R14-Define the roles of the Executive Council and Advisory Council more clearly.

The Council of Fellows work together looking at pure researchers. This gives a lot of councils in different levels and viewpoints. Enjoy the mix of viewpoints, Park Service, USGS, etc.

R15-Recommend theme-based workshops on a semi-annual basis to help focus on a particular research topic and also find sponsors for these workshops.

R16-Are we getting the appropriate level of collaboration and do we have everyone on the Advisory committee that will provide a good mix.

R17-Recommend that the NOAA NGI Science Advisor, meet with the Advisory Council to provide connections, perspective and direction.

R18-The NOAA Regional Coordinator should meet with the Advisory Council.

R19 (Executive Council #48)-Recommend individual Advisory Council members to review LOIs and proposals from their particular area of expertise.

R20 (Executive Council #20) Integration – How do we integrate different resources?

R21 (Executive Council # 12) – How can individuals (the public) be better educated on the NGI subject matter?