



**Federal Managers Meeting
National Aquarium in Baltimore
May 27, 2004**

Meeting Summary

The 2nd Federal Managers Meeting of the CW CESU was held on Thursday, May 27, 2004 at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The 35 participants at the meeting represented all of the current federal (23 attendees) and research/university partner (12 attendees) organizations (except for the University of the District of Columbia), and the CESU National Network Office (1 attendee, a guest speaker). A list of participants is attached. The main objective of the meeting was to speak directly to the federal managers and provide them with illustrations of the kinds of projects that are running through the CW CESU cooperative agreement, how they were initiated, and how they will benefit the participating federal agency and research partners.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Glenn Page (NAB) welcomed the meeting participants, reiterating the Aquarium's role in the CW CESU as a communicator of science with the opportunity to influence public stewardship. Don Boesch (UMCES) followed Glenn with some opening remarks about the CW CESU, including a general description of the partnership and what it can do for the federal agency personnel.

Status of CW CESU and CESU National Program

Nancy Castro (CW CESU) gave a brief status report on the CW CESU, including a time line of major events since the original CW CESU Cooperative Agreement was signed in August 2001, the evolution of the partnership from the original 4 federal and 8 research partners to its current 5 federal partners and 9 research/university partners and 3 potential new partners (JMU, NASA, NRCS), and the total number of projects (37) and cumulative funding as of April 2004 (\$2,224,263) for the partnership. The CW CESU searchable experts database, with its 475 members, was demonstrated. It will be on-line on the CW CESU website within the next month.

Jean McKendry (CESU) presented a brief status report for the CESU Network which included the following topics: over 1600 projects in the program, the last CESU is finalizing paperwork now (Hawaii), an increase in overhead from 15 to 17.5% became effective May 1, 2004, perhaps the coastal CESUs should have a joint federal managers meeting. Jean was also asked to comment on the review and renewal process for each CESU at the end of its 5th year. Jean reports that the 4 CESUs that were established in 1999 as part of Round 1 of the program were recently renewed. The National Office has strived to make the process as efficient as possible; guidelines for the process are available on the CESU website. Jean shared important incites from the first round of reviews including: there is no required number of projects needed for renewal, multi-federal agency projects were significant, more minority institution involvement is needed, and research and technical assistance projects are strong in number, while the education projects need to increase. When asked about the status of the Fish & Wildlife Service, Jean reports that they are very active but are not members of all of the CESUs. Regarding continued funding for basic operations of individual CESUs, Jean reports the person leading this effort is Alan Ek, of the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges (NAPFSC) and the University of Minnesota. He should be contacted with questions and comments of support.

Federal Agency Updates by Technical Representatives

John French (USGS): USGS is mainly a research organization (and requests that their personnel be contained in the Experts Database). John reports USGS projects will most likely be hybrids – with some components being funded through the CESU cooperative agreement and other components from federal agency to federal agency.

Geoff Walsh (BLM): The BLM has recently added Gary Cooper as a Field Manager in the Eastern States region. Jeff McCusker, BLM Recreation Manager was also in attendance. Geoff reports that although the BLM owns only a small amount of property in the watershed, he sees opportunities for projects with the CW CESU involving invasive species work, cultural projects, recreation and environmental education.

Glenn Markwith (DOD): The Navy has no line item for the Chesapeake Bay Program and therefore no money is earmarked for environmental work in the watershed. There are 66 military installations that could potentially use the CW CESU expertise. Glenn suggests that the contact information for the installation natural and cultural resource managers be available on the CW CESU website and that they be contacted directly regarding collaborations.

Bill Lellis (NPS): Bill presented a NPS summary of CW CESU projects, including the number of project and funding total for each fiscal year (01-04), funding source, and projects per partner. All partners are currently involved in projects with the NPS.

Rich Pouyat (USFS-NRS) and Al Todd (USFS – S&PF): Rich gave a brief overview of how the USFS is structured. He presented more detail about his unit of the USFS, the Northeastern Research Station (NRS), which receives approximately 17% of the \$43 million of USFS funds. Rich's home office at the UMBC is the only USFS NRS unit in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The USFS NRS currently has 2 projects with UMBC through the CW CESU Cooperative Agreement. Al Todd reports that the USFS State and Private Forestry represents the manager's side of the USFS and has a budget of \$35 million. Their work is predominantly done under cooperative agreements. A state of the forests report is scheduled to come out by the end of the year that will list a set of questions that could be answered by experts associated with the CW CESU partnership.

New Partner Abilities

Rich Lowry (W&M) and Glen Page (NAB) presented overviews of their institutions and the associated expertise available to the federal agencies of the CW CESU. William and Mary is rich in cultural resource and social and natural science experts. The National Aquarium in Baltimore believes it will play a significant role in public education and communication of science for the CW CESU. In addition to a committed conservation staff, NAB garners heavy public involvement and has hundreds of committed volunteers (including certified dive teams).

Cultural Resource Issues

Heather Huyck (NPS and W&M) was recently assigned to head up the cultural resource side of the CESU program in the Northeast Region, which includes the North Atlantic CESU and the CW CESU. Her role will be to work to match research people with NPS managers. Heather presented a few cultural resource project types, including conferences and administrative histories. Heather sees a key to the success of the CESU program is for the federal managers and research/university personnel to be as “bilingual” as possible when thinking about, discussing and designing projects.

Project Talks

Bob Hilderbrand (UMCES), Water Resources: Bob has 4 projects with the NPS (and the MD Dept of Natural Resources) involving fish and aquatic invertebrate inventories and water resources monitoring protocols. One major objective of these projects is to help the NPS hone their predictive capabilities and help distinguish between degraded versus healthy sites.

John Young (USGS), Research: John used the CW CESU to work with researchers at Appalachian Laboratory, UMCES to process images for a forest mapping project in the Shenandoah National Park. The project met the USGS needs for technical assistance (image processing) and also created a research collaborative partnership.

Glen Markwith (DOD), Education & Management: Glenn was successful in establishing 2 projects with CW CESU research partners. One project was for technical assistance with water quality mapping at DOD sites in the Chesapeake Bay. The second involves the regional implementation of the DOD Chesapeake Bay initiatives. Tasks associated with this project include a 2 day DOD Commanders Conference and website development.

Bill Lellis (NPS), Policy Development: Bill worked with researchers at Penn State University to organize and conduct a workshop for NPS and other federal land managers on developing strategies for management of chestnut blight and reintroducing resistant chestnuts to the National Parks.

Jean McKendry (NPS and CESU), Social Sciences: Jean is working with Penn State University on the only social science project in the CW CESU. The main task of the project is to produce socioeconomic atlases for 15 national park units. These atlases will be distributed to park superintendents and staff. This social science project cuts across several CESUs and is fulfilling national needs, not just regional needs.

Katia Engelhardt (UMCES), Technical Assistance: Katia worked with managers at the NPS to establish a scope of work for vascular plant surveys at 4 national parks in the Chesapeake watershed. The project focus is riparian buffers. Katia has found that as buffer width increases “nativeness”, or the number of native species present, increases. This observation is not only a significant research finding, but will help in establishing appropriate management practices in the parks.

Questions & Closing Remarks

Don Boesch offered the closing remarks reiterating that the CW CESU is a work in progress and that it’s encouraging to see all of the partners engaged and motivated. He recognizes that work in the Chesapeake watershed must be trans-disciplinary in nature – that interfaces among social, cultural and natural science issues are critical to understanding the past, present and future state of resources in the watershed. Don asked for questions/comments and received the following:

John French (USGS): We should focus more on urbanization in the watershed – and encourage more involvement of historically black colleges and universities.

Jean McKendry (CESU): Education component of the CESU program is important one. Education of the federal work force is one purpose of the CESU program - training of the old and building new federal employees.

Al Todd (USFS S&P): Impressed with the range of projects.

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Participants

Federal Agency Representatives

Bureau of Land Management
Geoffrey Walsh (ES)
Jeff McCusker (ES)
Gary Cooper (ES)

Department of Defense
Glenn Markwith (Navy)
Pedro Morales (Legacy)

National Park Service
Bill Lellis (CW CESU)
Darwina Neal (NCR-CUE)
Diane Pavsek (NCR-CUE)
James Serald (NCR-CUE)
Perry Wheelock (ROCR)
Heather Huyck (W&M and NPS)
Sue Salmons (ROCR)
Laura Illige (ROCR)
Sara Stone (Museum Res. Ctr.)
Dianne Ingram (CHOH)
Tina Orcutt (CHOH)
Mel Poole (CATO)
Dan Sealy (NCR NRS)

U.S. Geological Survey
John Young (LSC)
John French (PWRC)

USDA Forest Service
Rich Pouyat (NRS)
Al Todd (S&PF)

University/Research Representatives

Rich Raesly - Frostburg State University
George Taylor – George Mason University
Nancy Castro – Univ. of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science (UMCES)
Donald Boesch – UMCES
Katia Engelhardt - UMCES
Bob Hilderbrand - UMCES
Les Vough – Univ. of Maryland College Park
Claire Welty – Univ. of Maryland Baltimore
County
Rich Lowry – College of William & Mary
Bill Easterling – Pennsylvania State University
Glenn Page – National Aquarium in Baltimore
(NAB)
Angie Ashley – NAB

CESU National Network Representative

Jean McKendry - CESU

