



**Executive Committee Meeting
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
October 27, 2003**

Meeting Summary

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) hosted the Fall 2003 Executive Committee Meeting of the CW CESU on October 27, 2003. The 18 participants at the meeting represented all of the current federal and six of the research/university partner organizations (Pennsylvania State University and the University of the District of Columbia were not represented) and three prospective partners (William and Mary (W&M), National Aquarium in Baltimore (NAB) and NASA). A list of participants is attached. In addition to handling CW CESU past and future business issues, other objectives of the meeting were to 1) vote on the admittance of W&M and NAB to the CW CESU, and 2) to address the issue of NASA becoming a member of the CW CESU.

The meeting began at 9:45 with Dr. Lou Pitelka issuing a brief welcome to all present. Dr. Andy Miller (UMBC), Technical Representative from the newest partner, welcomed all participants to the UMBC Technology Center and to the meeting. He gave a brief overview of UMBC and went on to summarize the major departments and centers that could collaborate with partners in the CW CESU. Dr. Miller went into a bit more detail on the different NASA – UMBC joint centers on campus, listing how each center is structured and it's major on-going projects.

Presentations by the two potential partners (W & M and NAB) followed Dr. Miller's welcome and comments. Mr. Glenn Page, Director of Conservation at NAB, summarized the structure and staff of the NAB, it's overall budget and the nature of its audience. Mr. Page proceeded to list the major conservation activities of the NAB and the staff and partners involved therein. Currently, the NAB collaborates with at least 2 federal agency partners (DOD at Langley AFB and the NPS at Fort McHenry). Mr. Page also stressed the importance of public interest, involvement and ownership in NAB and Chesapeake Bay conservation activities, and how that has contributed to the success of the conservation projects. Mr. Page went on to describe the NAB expansion project to begin in 2005 (Australian River Gorge) and the park outside the new exhibit (i.e. the waiting area) that will house a learning center for the Chesapeake Bay watershed (a large scale map). Mr. Page foresees other opportunities in the park for education and outreach on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Another imminent expansion of the NAB is the Center for Aquatic Life and Conservation located on a waterfront brownfield in Baltimore. It was obvious from Mr. Page's presentation that NAB has a staff and volunteer army that may be of use to the CW CESU partners. In addition, the NAB campus itself will be a great forum for public outreach and education on issues paramount to the CW CESU. Mr. Page graciously offered to host the CW CESU Federal Managers meeting at NAB this summer.

Dr. Rich Lowry, Acting Director of the American Studies Program at William & Mary, gave a general overview of W&M and summarized the expertise that the college could bring to the CW CESU. Dr. Lowry discussed the major projects and collaborators within the W&M departments/programs that will be of most interest to CW CESU partners: the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the American Studies Program, the History Department, and the Anthropology Department. Dr. Lowry noted that the cultural resources faculty at W&M will be very valuable to the CW CESU partners not only because of their level of

experience but also because the faculty have joint appointments in multiple departments – giving them a broad understanding of the issues. Dr. Lowry himself will be an asset to the CW CESU Executive Committee because he is the only CW CESU Technical Representative with a cultural resources background.

The CESU National Council NASA representative, Dr. Ann Clarke, spoke next on the potential involvement of NASA in the CW CESU. Dr. Clarke describes herself as an ecosystem ecologist who recognizes the need for science that is applicable to all scales in the environment. Dr. Clarke is encouraged by the CESU program and the CW CESU partnership as a vehicle to bring together multiple federal agencies to pool their funds to produce useable results. Dr. Clarke explained that NASA's organization is that of 6 separate Enterprises; each Enterprise has its own separate strategic goals, objectives and implementation strategies. Each Enterprise draws on several NASA Centers, while the staff at each Center can contribute to several Enterprises. Each of these Centers has an environmental management staff that is committed to maintaining their environmental resources and doing ecosystem science. Environmental stewardship of the property managed by these Centers (i.e. environmental impact reviews) is one way NASA can utilize the experts of the CESU. In addition, NASA creates immense volumes of data but currently does not have the capacity to interpret and use this newest data. Help in this area is another opportunity for collaboration among CW CESU partners and NASA. Dr. Clarke expressed that 80 percent of NASA's research is done through competitive contracts and grants with for-profit entities. The remainder of the research is done through cooperative agreements that are consistent with the Space Act of 1958. If NASA joined the CW CESU, the resulting partnership would create new opportunities for the agency to work with universities to meet the goals of the Space Act. Further discussion between NASA and the university partners is needed to reach the goals of all parties involved.

We next heard from the Technical Representatives of each of the federal partners. Dr. Bill Lellis, the NPS Research Coordinator for the CW CESU, spoke on the status of the NPS projects within the program. Since its establishment in fall of 2001, the NPS has 46 funded projects through the CW CESU totaling \$2.3 million (FY 01: 3 projects totaling 425K, FY 02: 19 projects totaling 700K, and FY 03: 24 projects totaling 1.2 million). Funding for these projects has come from the NPS National Capital Region, North East Region and the Washington Office. The Inventory and Monitoring program money was significant in all 3 years. Dr. Lellis explained that he met two very important goals for himself as the NPS research coordinator for the CW CESU: 1) to find CW CESU partners for funded projects that had no designated researcher, and 2) to have at least one NPS project at each CW CESU partner. Dr. Lellis addressed the fact that in FY 03, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences (UMCES) was awarded a large portion of the projects and money from the NPS. The majority of this money originated in the NPS Inventory and Monitoring program. The nature of these projects (mostly counts) fit with the time and research interests of the researchers at UMCES. Calls for these projects were broadcast via email and on the CW CESU website, and mostly UMCES researchers responded. Dr. Lellis went on to list his goals for the coming year (FY 04): 1) increase communication with university partners, 2) identify new sources of NPS funding, 3) collaborate with other federal agencies (the NPS cannot carry the CESU alone), and 4) decrease competition and increase collaboration among CESU partners for NPS funds. The NPS continues to be a very active and valuable partner in the CW CESU.

Mr. Glenn Markwith, DOD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator, began his comments by saying that, like all federal agency environmental offices, his office is "over committed and under funded". Last year the DOD experienced severe budget cuts as a result of the increase in national security expenses. He is hopeful that the same cuts will not occur this year. Mr. Markwith explained that significant funds are available for environmental work through the Legacy Management Program, a program that funds DOD natural and cultural resource projects not earmarked for payment with installation funds. Mr. Markwith is the point of contact for these projects and should be contacted for further discussion. He believes that if we increase awareness of the CW CESU program and expertise at the installation level, the number of DOD projects within the CESU will follow suit. Those installation environmental officers that are aware of the CW CESU are waiting to see how the two current projects Markwith has with our partners work out. Mr. Markwith will provide the host office with a list of current points of contact at the military installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Mr.

Markwith stated further that the DOD is using a new ranking criteria for project funding; projects must be associated with the Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act to be considered.

Dr. Mike Erwin, the USGS Technical Representative, reported that last year the USGS was unable to fund any projects in the CW CESU. Dr. Erwin believes the same will hold true for the upcoming year. The USGS has a strong commitment to furthering work in the Chesapeake watershed through its own Place-Based Studies Program. The USGS continues to collaborate with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the US Army Corp of Engineers on restoration studies that include student opportunities. A question was asked about involvement of the USGS Water Resources Division (WRD). The USGS WRD is not a member of the national CESU program and would need to join to be eligible.

Dr. Rich Pouyat, the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station (USFS NRS) Technical Representative, offered comments regarding their involvement in the CW CESU. Dr. Pouyat stated that the USFS had 3 main organizations within it: State and Private Forests, National Forests and Research & Development. The USFS NRS has over 400 employees (with 90 permanent scientists) and its main office is located in Newton Square, PA. Dr. Pouyat and 2 other USFS scientists work out of a satellite office on the campus of UMBC. Currently, the work of USFS NRS scientists on the Baltimore Ecosystem Study is funded through an existing cooperative agreement with UMBC. Future funding for this work will move through the CW CESU cooperative agreement. Dr. Pouyat reported that conversations are taking place between USFS and partners in the CW CESU regarding a “state of the forests” project and educational opportunities for students.

After lunch, the CW CESU Executive Committee members in attendance met in executive session to vote on the admittance of the NAB and W & M into the CW CESU partnership. Both potential new partners received unanimous votes of approval from those present. Technical Representatives from the University of the District of Columbia (Dr. Joanne Favors) and the Pennsylvania State University (Dr. Jim Lynch) were not present. Once their votes are obtained, results will be reported to the CESU national program office and the Cooperative Agreement amendment process will begin. It is anticipated that there will be unanimous support for the admission of NAB and W&M.

Following the vote, Dr. Pitelka led a discussion about CW CESU operations. The following topics were covered:

- Summary of Last Year: Last year’s highlights were mentioned. The CW CESU Annual Report for October 2002 to September 2003 was given out to all participants.
- Project Paperwork: Technical Representatives were reminded that, for EVERY project processed through the CW CESU, the Host Office must keep two things on file: 1) a copy of the fully executed modification to the CW CESU Cooperative Agreement (e.g, an NPS Task Agreement with all the pertinent signatures), and 2) a copy of any and all final products of the project (e.g, report, poster, manuscript, video...).
- Communication: How do we improve communication among partners? More specifically, Dr. Lellis asked, “What is the best way to reach the target audience?” He stated that for all of the notices he sent out looking for help – he got responses from about 20% (both positive and negative). Points made were: 1) when RFPs are circulated, if researchers aren’t familiar with the CW CESU, they may not even read the RFP, 2) send RFPs to the university Grants Offices to distribute to the appropriate people, 3) make site visits to the universities to educate experts and administrative persons on the CW CESU, 4) Nancy Castro would update CW CESU communication tools (PowerPoint presentation and brochure) and look into initiating a newsletter, and 5) the idea of internal federal agency websites was mentioned by the BLM.
- Managers Meeting in the late spring or early summer: Mr. Glenn Page of the NAB offered to host the upcoming meeting. It was agreed that we should invite federal personnel that attended the managers meeting last year. In addition, we should invite as many federal agency managers as possible to help

further the cause of the CW CESU. Glenn Markwith (DOD) is supplying a list of service leads in the Chesapeake Bay area. Dr. Ann Clark (NASA) said she could do the same if needed.

- Rotation of Executive Committee members: If deemed necessary, the host university could ask the appropriate person at a partner agency or institution to assign a new employee to the CW CESU executive committee.
- Support of Host Office Operations: Ways to fund host office operations (Nancy Castro's time, meeting expenses, phone, copies, travel etc.) were discussed. Lou estimated a cost of approximately 10K per year. Federal agency reps seemed to think that asking for funds to cover "operational expenses" would not be approved by their agencies. However, if we were to draft requests for funds that described a specific task or tasks – funds could be found. The immediate need would be funds to finish the CW CESU experts database (an intern or student to help complete the database, some programmer time, maintenance). Nancy Castro will draft a request.
- Immediate goals: The Managers meeting in the Spring/Early Summer. A productive and well-attended managers meeting would go far to improve communication and advertise the CW CESU.
- NASA: What's the next move? Dr. Miller (UMBC) believes university officials will need a clear understanding of what NASA will fund through the CW CESU. The wording of an agreement and the types of projects funded need to be specified. Dr. Clarke stated again that the CESU program wouldn't usurp their existing grants program. Dr. Pitelka noted that the text in an amendment to add a new partner is standard, but perhaps an addendum could be added to satisfy all concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

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Participants

Executive Committee Members

Glenn Markwith (DOD)
Geoff Walsh (BLM)
Mike Erwin (USGS)
Jim Sherald (NPS)
Rich Pouyat (USFS)
Lou Pitelka (UMCES)
Ron Barry (FSU)
Les Vough (UMCP)
George Taylor (GMU)
Andy Miller (UMBC)
Bill Lellis (NPS)

Other Guests

Rich Lowry (W & M)
Glenn Page (NAB)
Ann Clarke (NASA)
Nancy Castro (UMCES)
Angie Ashley (NAB)
Claire Welty (UMBC CUERE)
Mike McGuire (UMBC CUERE)

Executive Committee Members Not Present

Joanne Favors (UDC)
Jim Lynch (PSU)