



**Gulf of Maine
Council on the
Marine Environment**

Council
Meeting Briefing Book • V.2
Boston, MA • December 13, 2012



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Council December 2012 meeting agenda

Thursday, December 13, 2012 – EPA Region 1, Boston, MA

7: 45 AM	<p>Gulf of Maine Association breakfast and meeting <i>All Councillors are invited to this meeting</i></p>
9:15 AM	<p>Welcome, introductions, and overview of objectives for the meeting <i>Bruce Carlisle, Council Chair and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management</i></p>
<p>9:20 AM Pg 5 Information to the right Pg 13 and emailed Pg 14 Pg 18 emailed Website PDF Pg 20 Pg 21 Pg 24 Pg 26</p>	<p>Consent agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 2012 meeting summary acceptance ▪ Committee/subcommittee co-chair and leadership updates: new Habitat Restoration Subcommittee Canadian co-chair is Lee Swanson and the new Climate Change Committee Canadian co-chair is Bill Appleby (and now Working Group members) ▪ Financial documents and approval of revised 2013 budget and indirect rate (see Gulf of Maine Association meeting agenda and documents for information) ▪ Accept revised Management and Finance, Secretariat Team, State of the Gulf of Maine reporting, and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning terms of reference ▪ ESIP update ▪ GOMC Scopes of Services for all Contractor and GOMC grant lists ▪ Fund Development Project Status Report 11.2012 ▪ Gulf of Maine Council - competitive grants and solicitations received: 2006 to 2012 ▪ RARGOM/GOMC memorandum of agreement final revision and execution for December 2012 ▪ MA Secretariat 2012-2013 meeting schedule updates ▪ Gulf of Maine Council awards announcement and reminder
<p>9:30 AM Pg 26</p>	<p>Action Plan Implementation: Status and accomplishments – year 1 <i>Prassede Vella, Working Group Chair and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management with other presenters</i></p> <p>Background: In December 2011, the new five-year Action Plan was launched specifying three main goals that the Council would like to accomplish through a number of priority activities. Since then the Council committees have prepared work plans describing the process, objectives, and outcomes desired as well as the resources needed. A number of projects are underway and committees are in various stages of implementation. Examples illustrating this work will be provided by the State of the Gulf Editorial, the Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP), the Habitat Restoration Committee, and Gulfwatch.</p> <p>Outcome/desired action: The Council is asked to provide thoughts and input on the work presented.</p>
10:15 AM	<p>Break</p>
<p>10:30 AM No brief</p>	<p>Climate Change Impacts on Marine Ecosystems <i>Scott Doney, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute</i></p> <p>In marine ecosystems, rising atmospheric CO₂ and climate change are associated with concurrent shifts in temperature, circulation, stratification, nutrient input, oxygen content, and ocean acidification, with potentially wide ranging biological effects.</p> <p>Population-level shifts are occurring because of physiological intolerance to new environments, altered dispersal patterns, and changes in species interactions. Together with local climate-driven invasion and extinction, these processes result in altered community structure and diversity, including possible emergence of novel ecosystems. Aggregated effects may modify energy and material flows as well as biogeochemical cycles, eventually impacting the overall ecosystem functioning and services upon which people and societies depend.</p>
<p>11:30 AM Website posts</p>	<p>Economic Study <i>Rob Capozzi, NB Department of Environment and Local Government</i></p> <p>Background: The working group requested an economic studies inventory, jurisdictional summaries of economic sectoral data, and a summary of the habitat restoration and Gulfwatch economic case studies. With funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Gulf of Maine Association contracted to provide that information as well as a financial summary fact sheet.</p> <p>Outcome/desired action: Awareness of the contractor products and approval of process and products.</p>



<p>12:00 PM Pg 27</p>	<p>Update on implementation of Council’s decision on maritime collaboration: Coastal Zone Canada event-Working Group June 2014 meeting coordination <i>Tim Hall, Fisheries and Oceans Canada</i> Background: In response to one of the WG’s recommendations to enhance maritime collaboration in the Gulf of Maine by hosting a regular summit-type event, the GOMC is exploring the possibility of linking with CZC 14 and take advantage of this opportunity to enhance its role in the advancement of science and to promote the 2012-2017 Action Plan. Outcome/desired action: The Working Group will brainstorm possible linkages with CZC 2014 and make a recommendation to Council. This may include the formation of an ad-hoc working group and identification of any resources required.</p>
<p>12:15 PM</p>	<p>Lunch on your own and time for Councillor networking</p>
<p>1:30 PM</p>	<p>Regional partners updates <i>Fast-paced updates from Council members</i></p>
<p>2:00 PM Pg 28</p>	<p>Considerations for Fund Development <i>Gulf of Maine Councillors Don Hudson, Ru Morrison, Lee Sochasky, and Jack Wiggins</i> Background: At the June 2012 Council meeting, several fund development issues related to sources of support for Action Plan activities were raised. These included writing proposals to non-government/foundation sources, competitive and discretionary support, documentation of funds received from all sources, and cultivation of foundation and business support for issues in the Action Plan. The Council’s Ad-Hoc Fund Development Group met five times to work on these issues and prepared recommendations. (see attached) Outcomes/desired actions: The Council discusses and acts on the recommendations.</p>
<p>2:30 PM Pg 30</p>	<p>Action Plan Implementation: Plan structure to organizational structure - Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group report to Council <i>Prasde Vella</i> Background: In June 2012 Councillors asked the Working Group to take a close look at the current committee structure through the lens of the new Action Plan priorities. Councillors also offered their support to the committees in addressing their needs for implementing the Action Plan goals. A Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group was established and through a series of intensive discussions that involved committee co-chairs and council champions assessed the current status of the various committees, strove to address gaps, and developed a set of recommendations of where and how committees need support from the Councillors. Outcome/desired action: The Working Group will review the current committee organization structure vis-à-vis the Action Plan goals, and the review/discuss the recommendations to Council based on detailed evaluation of the status of the committees.</p>
<p>3:00 PM No brief</p>	<p>Gulf of Maine Times: recommendations <i>Theresa Torrent Ellis, Maine Coastal Program</i> Background: In 2008, the Council prepared a business plan for the <i>GOM Times</i>. It addresses the purpose and content; production and logistics; publication options; financing; and recommendations. Particularly noteworthy is that the appendices contain a qualitative and quantitative analysis of who our readers are and what they want from the Times. (It is based on a survey of readers; 318 of whom participated in the survey.) We need to continue to implement the recommendations of the Plan. Outcome/desired actions: The Council will look at the recommendations that will address: the purpose of the Times; ongoing methods to collect reader feedback on their satisfaction with the product and value of the Times to them; GOMC member agency commitment to actively e-distribute the GOMT with the intent of significantly increasing the readership; and making an annual commitment of the resources needed to publish three-four editions each year plus periodic/interim updates.</p>



3:30 PM Pg 33	Core services contracts update <i>Prassede Vella</i> Background: With the advent of a new Action Plan as well as evolving roles and needs of the Council, it was decided that the core services contracts need to be revised. A Request for qualifications for Council Coordination was announced in October and applications are currently being reviewed with the goal of a contract starting January 1. Currently the Fund Development contract is being discussed and recommendations have been made based on decisions of how best to move forward with this contract. Outcome/desired action: The Council is asked to review, provide advice, and approve the recommendations to proceed.
3:45 PM No brief	Visualizing Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on Coastal Marshes: Management Decisions, Model Considerations, and Regional Coordination <i>Adrienne Harrison, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</i> Background: This presentation will discuss the management concerns that are driving the interest in building a better understanding of the impacts of sea level rise to coastal marshes. A review of model considerations, including data needs, and an effort to coordinate marsh migration modeling across the New England region will also be discussed.
4:15 PM	Items removed from consent agenda
4:30 PM	Adjourn

Council meeting summary

Fredericton, NB • June 6, 2012

Councillors present: John Annala, Gulf of Maine Research Institute; Bruce Carlisle, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Mel Coté for Stephen Perkins, US Environmental Protection Agency; Perry Haines for Bruce Fitch, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Tim Hall for David Millar, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; W. Don Hudson, The Chewonki Foundation (Emeritus); Justin Huston for Sterling Beliveau, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Ru Morrison, Northeastern Regional Association of Ocean and Systems; Jackie Olsen, Environment Canada; Rene Pelletier for Thomas Burack, NH Department of Environmental Services; Susan Russell-Robinson for Wendi Weber, US Department of Interior; Lee Sochasky, Private Sector member for New Brunswick; and Theresa Torrent-Ellis for Director, ME Department of Environmental Conservation.

Councillors present via conference call: Jennifer Anderson for Vacant Director Position, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Others present: Martin Boulerice, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Rob Capozzi, Working Group Chair, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Steve Couture, NH Department of Environmental Services; David Keeley, The Keeley Group; Cindy Krum, Krum Steele Consulting; Colette Lemieux, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Ernie MacGillivray, NB Department of Public Safety; Ellen Mecray, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada; Ann Rodney, US Environmental Protection Agency; Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications; and Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management.

Others present via conference call: Becca Newhall, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Consent Agenda

The Councillors introduced themselves and added an update on their agencies. The overall theme was government agency reorganizations and other changes. The US Department of Interior, US Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada confirmed their support of and participation in the Council and alignment of their activities with those of the Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan. Ru Morrison's affiliation will be corrected in the December meeting summary from University of New Hampshire to Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems.

The DBA Gulf of Maine Association (officially the Association of United States Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment DBA US Gulf of Maine Association) met before the Council meeting. There is still a Canadian Association but the new DBA and its structure includes both United States and Canadian board members.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
The Council accepted the consent agenda with the exception of the fundraising strategy and Management and Finance terms of reference items, which will be discussed later as time allows.	N/A	N/A

Action Agenda

Update on potential impacts of the recent federal budget on programs of interest

Jackie Olsen provided an overview of Environment Canada's reorganization and focus areas. Jackie's role as Associate Regional Director General has expanded to include the Province of Québec in addition to her current Atlantic Canada oversight. Ecosystem sustainability is one of the priorities. The Gulf of Maine is supported in that priority. There is a new 30% capacity reduction with many functions now part of shared services federally. There are opportunities in the Atlantic region and for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Jackie would like the Council to engage with First Nations and aboriginal groups. The terms of reference document provides for two Council members who bring a First Nations/aboriginal/tribes perspective to the table*: one in Canada and one is the United States.

**These two Councillors bring a lens or perspective to the Council table but it is not intended that they are to be a representative of their or any other aboriginal nations.*

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Identify a First Nations/aboriginal/tribes Councilor to fill the Canadian role on the Council	Jackie Olsen	

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Action Plan workplans

Theresa Torrent-Ellis provided a history of the process to date and presented a summary of the Council’s directives to the Working Group. The Council reviewed the recommendations from the Working Group’s breakout groups earlier in the week and from the TAPAS (Tracking Action Plan Activities System that Justin Huston and Michele Tremblay developed). Rob distributed the online, dynamic Action Plan that his Department printed.

Cindy Krum provided an overview of the funding implications of the Action Plan activities. She presented an estimate of funds needed to continue Action Plan activities and core services. The total amount needed is about \$950,000. To date, just over \$50,000 is needed to fund projected operations. Requests for Council action include:

- Identify individuals to fill committee co-chair vacancies (Canada - Habitat Restoration, Outreach, & Climate; CA/US - Information Management);
- Provide funds for “continuing Action Plan activities”;
- Direct the committees to proceed with implementing the work plans; and
- Request the Working Group to continue with organizational review and offer recommendations in December.

Jackie feels that committee structure does not reflect the Action Plan. She and Ted Diers had worked to find co-chairs for many of the current committees, many of which were not active or defunct. Theresa feels that some activities do not require a committee and that an individual would best serve implementation. Susan said that moving to another model would change the Working Group membership, which is currently composed of jurisdictional representatives and committee co-chairs. Jackie recommends that there is a committee structure that is aligned to the three goals, recognizing the crosscutting and service committees. There should be clearly defined roles for champions, co-chairs, and committees with new terms of reference. Susan sees a strong alignment in the Gulf of Maine Mapping with her agency’s priorities and would like a committee or subcommittee to be formed for this activity. Justin recommended that the Working Group examine what is needed from entities implementing Action Plan activities. Bruce and Ru said that they have voiced similar concerns at the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) meetings. They want to see NERACOOS, NROC, and the Council have merged efforts vs. participating in multiple committees and want to maximize efficiencies. Jackie is concerned that these are not Canadian bodies. Susan echoed Jackie’s sentiments, which has been one of the US Department of Interior’s concerns. She said that the Council is the international coordinating body for the Department. Michele said that she has heard numerous concerns from Councillors and Working Group members that there is a lack of coordination and efficiency. They do not like receiving meeting and other information from a variety of sources. They are no longer able to make one contact to obtain the information that they need for the Gulf activities.

Jackie said that for Environment Canada, the Council is the conduit for regional coordination. She requested that the Working Group must outline who is doing what, who is reporting and when (TAPAS is not enough—she wants to hear updates from those conducting the work), and form recommendations for a defined structure for committees that are clearly linked to Action Plan activities and outcomes. She is concerned that if this work is not done (at least every six months); there may not be anything tangible resulting from the Action Plan at the middle or end of its five-year term. The Action Plan goal champions should be participating on the second day of the Working Group meetings, even if by telephone, to be part of this process.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
Develop a more robust reporting mechanism that includes work plan development and implementation updates from co-chairs and project leads	Prassede Vella	n/a
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Develop recommendations for a defined structure for committees that are clearly linked to Action Plan activities and outcomes, which will include roles ,and link outcomes to the Action Plan based on input from the relevant goal champions; this will include a schedule for periodic reporting on progress will be built into the process	Prassede Vella	October 2012 Working Group meeting

Action Plan implementation: projections of core funding needs

Rob Capozzi and Cindy Krum highlighted the core services funding needs including secretariat operations, fund development, *Gulf of Maine Times*, and Information Technology. Of the four functions, the *Gulf of Maine Times* has a shortfall of about \$17,000. Rob explained that for a couple of years, these services were “bundled” in one contract. The new approach is to go back to separate contracts. Requests for proposals will be issued over the coming year for the four core services. The Council coordination contract has been separate during the New Hampshire year and the current New Brunswick year. He feels that the Action Plan will be better served with updated contracts and new

scopes of services opened to the public. Susan said that there has recently been a lot of turnover with Working Group and Council members. There are positive aspects of the new perspectives. She is concerned that recently, there have been too many messages coming from too many individuals and wants to see a stronger Council coordinator, who is the primary point of contact, provides continuity for internal policy, is a strong support and counsel for the Working Group chair, and provides other communication and policy functions. She said that the Council has decided to put a large amount of money into its financial management but very little in its Council coordinator. She feels that funding should be re-allocated to support these functions. Theresa said that there is no money to support Council coordination. Jackie disagreed and said that it is time for the Council to look at how it spends its money and where. Internal communications, orientation for Councillors, overall Council management and logistics were once a Council function and the Council invested in it. She feels that the Council is at the point where it is not functioning well without it and that the Council is wasting its resources without that support and cannot see her and Environment Canada's continued participation without it. Cindy said that \$42,000 are allocated for future Council coordination functions. This and last year, \$36,000 were allocated for the Council coordinator. There may be \$5,400 added for this year but the total amount allocated is not just for a coordination contract but also for meeting costs, awards production and ceremony, and other Secretariat expenses. Jackie asked if she could specify where dues are spent. There are \$91,000 expected from dues in the coming year. Michele reminded the Councillors that formerly, there was a contract for an administrative assistant who provided meeting records, database updates, and other functions while the coordinator provided higher level services such as working with and assisting the Working Group chair, committees, organization management and policy, and Action Plan implementation tracking. She said that this was not a budget issue because other contractors and functions funding has been increased while the administrative assistant has been eliminated and her contract radically cut. There is a danger to eliminating budget line items such as the administrative assistant. Bruce suggested that in-kind staff may be a possibility for Council coordination functions. Justin said that it is highly unlikely that the next Secretariat in Nova Scotia will have the resources to provide, in-kind, the administrative assistant deliverables that the Council once funded. The Council cannot rely on jurisdictions with varying levels of resources for in-kind support to provide the Council with the services that it needs. Jackie feels that a cost should be determined and funds allocated to support fully he needed Council coordination and administrative assistant functions. She does not wish to distribute the request for proposals with the scope of services in its current state. She and Tim indicated that they will identify and earmark funds for Council coordination. She will contribute an additional \$5,000 for Council coordination. Justin said that there are additional funds in the reserve account that could be used to increase Council coordination as well. Theresa said that it is inappropriate to look at an allocation for Council coordination without looking at other Council functions and funding it. Rob said that the purpose of this discussion is for the Council to review the scope of services and to provide their input on the draft. Other contracts have been created and increased without looking at other Council functions. Jackie said that the Council is deciding to look at the Council coordination role and prioritizing funding for it. The Council is identifying the services that it needs and to allocated secure funding. The involvement of selected Councillors in Management and Finance will be an important part of continuing that process. Jackie says that there is no disrespect intended to any current Management and Finance process but the Council directs the Working Group. The stakes are high and Jackie said that she will not participate if the organization is not fully supported with institutional memory and efficient and comprehensive coordination.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
Council coordination and other Secretariat support is a priority for funding and scope of work revision to meet the Council's needs will be implemented by Management and Finance	Prassede Vella	n/a
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Council direction relative to prioritizing and fully funding Council coordination and other Secretariat support as well as revising the scope of work to meet the Council's needs will be implemented by Management and Finance	Prassede Vella	

Ocean and coastal protection in New England - EPA

Mel Coté provided an overview of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ocean and coastal programs in New England (Region I) whose mission is to protection human health and the environment under the statutory authorities:

- Clean Water Act,
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (Ocean Dumping Act),
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899,
- Coastal Zone Management Act,
- Oil Pollution Act,

- National Environmental Policy Act,
- Endangered Species Act, and
- Magnuson-Stevens Sustainable Fisheries Act.

The EPA's ocean and coastal program's include

- National Estuary Program,
- Ocean dumping/dredging,
- Vessel waste management
- BEACH Program,
- NPDES/NEPA Technical Assistance,
- NEPA compliance for EPA actions,
- Scientific monitoring and research,
- Regional partnerships, and
- National Ocean Policy.

These programs work with federal partners and provide support to the Region I states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Mel outlined the National Ocean Council's organization. The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Developing an economic model for evaluation of program and/or organization success

Rob Capozzi and Steven Couture developed an approach to evaluate the value of the Council's programs and the Gulf of Maine itself. From Rob's and Steve's briefing note: "A cursory inventory of available sources of information points to existing economic reports, valuations, and studies, on such varied topics as aquaculture and fisheries, recreational activities, wetlands conservation, habitat restoration, stream restoration, infrastructure protection, etc. A formal gathering of this information by the WG can help [the Council] identify gaps and succinctly summarize existing economic analyses. This is an opportune time for us to attempt to determine the overall value of the Gulf of Maine, with justification based on the value of protecting the activities, economies, livelihoods, social fabric, and culture of this coastal and marine entity. A bio-geophysical model measurement could generate sector specific valuations and reports that could highlight many of these assets. The Working Group requires guidance from Council as to what important economic questions need to be answered to quantify the value of the Council's work." Rob asked the Council had further questions that would be part of the study design for the economic evaluation and what resources they would be able to bring to the process.

There are issues that can be explored that are Gulf-wide and that information can be presented regionally. Other issues may need to be disaggregated on a provincial and state level. Mel felt that this would be an expensive effort. Susan said that USGS has an extensive effort underway for its programs. She feels that working with existing efforts to build on them or identify gaps and find a niche where the Council's study can be relevant and useful. Jackie needs to see the results of her involvement in the gulf of Maine Council relative to jobs, economic development, and other improvements that she can document with policy makers and for the public. Tim said that some of the work has been conducted in the State of the Gulf of Maine reporting. Susan said that the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership is a valuable program as part of this effort. This is an area of interest for Department of Fisheries and it would be willing to contribute to that aspect of the study. Justin has worked as co-chair on his Department's study committee. He said that it is very challenging on reaching consensus on what questions needs to be answered. The best approach would be to find what key questions need to be answered for everyone. Bruce feels that the Council should be aware of other and related efforts. John said that the Sea Grants programs have issued a request for proposals for assessing the value of their products. Lee wants to see information that can help advance the Council's initiatives with policy makers. The study should demonstrate the Council's work's value. Don feels that this is important for Council recipients to provide information that can be used in a study. This information should include the monies leveraged by the Council's investment. Jackie said that economic drivers, such as local investment leveraged, is a powerful message. Ru said that as the NERACOOS staff, he is very interested in any results of the Council's study. Bruce said that NROC will be receiving US federal funds to conduct a "sectorial" study in the fall. It will be challenging to come to consensus and achieve a common methodology and output with related and parallel efforts. Justin said that one of the Council's roles could be to work with existing efforts and contribute to them to get its products as part of other studies. Rene said that in his efforts to fund his Department, he needs this kind of data and information to justify it as well as investment in efforts such as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The Working Group discussed the importance of indicating preference in the request for proposals process to bi-national consultant teams (such as universities) or firms to assure that data access is maximized. The Working Group agreed to work with their individual organizations to see if there are funds and other resources available to pay for this study. It may not be too costly to build the inventory of existing studies but substantial funds will be needed to conduct the studies. Jackie recommended that an analysis for commonalities be part of the inventory process. She volunteered Environment Canada staff to provide an initial commonalities/gaps/inventory. Tim said that Department of Fisheries and Oceans would be willing to provide financial support. Susan will identify resources with her Department, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The timeline is to provide the Council with an inventory and gaps identified at the December 2012 Council meeting.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Decision	Lead/contact	Due date
An economic study of the Gulf of Maine will be explored with disaggregated data for each jurisdiction and federal agencies, including a study design and funding recommendations.	Prassede Vella	n/a
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Councillors will be provided with a draft study design so that they may add their own questions that would be answered with an economic study as well as recommendations for funding the study	Rob Capozzi and Steven Couture	October 2012 Working Group meeting and December 2012 Council meeting

Update on regional inter-organizational ocean and coastal collaboration report

Rob Capozzi provided the Council with background information on the Richert report and actions to date. The report was commissioned by the former Maine State Planning Office and was based on a few interviews and was provided the day before the December meeting. Many found the recommendations to be alarming. The Working Group feels strongly that the Council should maintain its autonomy, implementing its Action Plan, and delivering its programs on the ground. The Working Group analyzed the report and its recommendations and formed its own recommendations (from the summary that Rob drafted and projected for the Councillors):

- Continue to implement the GOMC Action Plan while exploring collaboration and efficiencies
- Explore opportunities for committee collaboration within the context of the Gulf of Maine, recognizing the broader boundaries of organizations such as Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC), Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), and Regional Committee on Ocean Management (RCOM)
- Potential committee collaborations could be with NROC's Ecosystem Health and Coastal Resiliency Committees

Logistical efficiencies include:

- A regularly convened summit, beginning with the 2014 Coastal Zone Canada conference for partner organizations. This event can recognize the Council's twenty-fifth anniversary
- Using current communication technology and other tools to maximize remote participation in meetings. The future Secretariat will explore convening the spring or fall meeting virtually
- Coordinating with partners and co-scheduling meetings so that travel may be combined
- Updates from organizations as a standing agenda item will be included in agendas for the GOMC and other organizations' meetings. Partner organizations will be asked to provide their updates for the GOMC's Council meeting briefing books

Regarding the co-convening of events, Don said that adequate time is provided for any partner groups for their own meetings. Susan said Michele just conducted a large event in New York State with the Great Lakes and Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panels, Army Corps of Engineers, two Sea Grant Programs, and Notre Dame University for several meetings, a field trip, two workshops, and an evening reception through concurrent and joint sessions. Those three days included a joint reception. Ellen and Susan stressed that it is important for US federal participants to maintain time for their one-on-one meetings with Canadian peers.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

Decision (implement on a trial basis)	Lead/contact	Due date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to implement the GOMC Action Plan while exploring collaboration and efficiencies ▪ Explore opportunities for committee collaboration within the context of the Gulf of Maine, recognizing the broader boundaries of organizations such as Gulf of Maine Council, Northeast Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, and Regional Committee on Ocean Management; Pilot committee collaborations could be Ecosystem Health and Coastal Resiliency ▪ Consider a regularly convened summit, beginning with the 2014 Coastal Zone Canada conference for all partner organizations; this event can recognize the Council's twenty-fifth anniversary ▪ Use current communication technology and other 	Prassede Vella	n/a



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tools to maximize remote participation in meetings ▪ Explore convening the spring or fall meeting virtually and coordinating with partners and co-scheduling meetings so that participants' travel may be combined. ▪ Updates from organizations as a standing agenda item will be included in agendas for the GOMC and other organizations' meetings; partners will be asked to provide their updates for the GOMC's meeting briefing books 		
Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The Working Group will implement the Council's decision on maritime collaboration recommendations, as outlined in the June 2012 meeting decision item	Prassede Vella	Immediately

Overview of RARGOM activities: 2010-2012

John provided institutional information about the Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine, established in 1991. The organization is composed of member organizations that pay annual dues. They have an annual budget of about \$25,000. The key is to provide management agencies with scientific information for their decision-making. Plans include co-scheduling the fall symposium on October 9, 2012 in Portsmouth, NH with the Council's Working Group meeting and a new format for theme sessions. RARGOM is offering its assistance to the GOMC with peer reviews of publications, programs, and other products. Tim said that there is an opportunity to meet the Council's Action Plan commitments on Ecosystem Based Management with RARGOM and the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership. IN eighteen months, John will be moving to New Zealand and will no longer be the RARGOM chair or participating as the US Senior Science Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Councilor. The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Coordinate the October 2012 GOMC Working Group meeting with the RARGOM meeting.	Prassede Vella	October 2012

Engaging the foundation community

W. Donald Hudson began the discussion with highlights of the briefing note that David Keeley prepared with Lee Sochasky, Peter Lamb, Jack Wiggin, and himself. There are unanswered questions about this effort regarding from which organizations the Council is willing to accept funding. Don feels that more funder fora are needed to cultivate funder prospects. John has conducted these sessions with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the results were not positive. He feels that it would be better for a supportive funder to convene its peers for the Council. David feels that the Council could expand its re-granting role following the Action Plan and Restoration Partnership Grants Programs. Jackie said that the Canadian Grantmaking Association can be a convener for an event. She said that the majority of the \$800,000 in the briefing note came from those sitting at the Council table and it is not through fundraising. She said that there isn't capacity within the Council for a full-fledged funding effort. She suggests that she could lead the effort to contact the fundraising association. Capacity must be built for the committees to write proposals such as contracted assistance. Theresa wants to see the funding development contractor fill this role. Susan said that in the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership, there are very clear deliverables. She said that there have been instances where the fund development contractor approached ESIP with funding sources that were not a good fit and it did not work. She welcomes Lee's and Jackie's expertise with funding matching and proposal writing. Don said that some of the Council's nonprofit partners may perceive that the Council is competing against them for grant funding. Lee said that one of the greatest challenges will be to address the administrative overhead when talking to prospective funders. Theresa suggested conducting an analysis of what funds will be sought, for what projects, and how the process will be administered, which includes criteria for return on investment. Bruce feels that many funders would be willing to invest in the Council's value added portfolio of products, such as ESIP and Habitat Restoration. Ru said that the Council must include in its analysis that many funders are only willing to fund new projects for a limited time. Theresa said that the Council isn't a traditional membership nonprofit. Justin said that there is great potential with the private sector to provide funding for its products. Don says that people give to people and the entire effort is based on personal relationships. The funder fora are important for this reason. Jackie said that Habitat Restoration and Conservation and EcoSystem Indicator Partnership should be a focus for fundraising and re-granting. The Council may wish to staff a display at the Canadian Grantmaking Association spring or fall meetings. Jackie said that re-developing sustainable Council capacity is essential. Theresa feels that this has already been done at past Working Group and Council meetings and the funders' forum. Ru says that NERCOOS is interested in conducting this process and doesn't think that the Council has the structure necessary to do so. Michele said that The Corporate Fund (associated with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation) has a board self-analysis tool, which is a requirement for applying for funding to help build capacity. Ru is interested in working on an analysis effort and Don said that the Gulf of Maine Association may be the organization to go through the board analysis process vs. the



Council doing so. He said that the Association should add staff and positions to build it into a more traditional nonprofit organization, recognizable as such by prospective funders. Susan said that some of the US federal sources are very concerned about the current administrative rate and possible increases that additional staff would bring. Tim said that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has legal concerns about its participation in the Council relative to its relationship with funding organizations.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
The core ad-hoc group of W. Don Hudson, David Keeley, Peter Lamb, Jackie Olsen, and Lee Sochasky will work on a presence at the Canadian Grantmaking Association and other funding prospect strategy development.	Don Hudson, Lee Sochasky, and Jackie Olsen	

Guest presentation: New Brunswick's Emergency Measures Organization

Ernest MacGillivray, Emergency Measures Organization, NB Department of Public Safety provided an overview of the emergency preparedness and mitigation of risk caused by flooding events and other emergency events, including anticipated future climate change impacts for New Brunswick.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

EcoSystem Indicator Partnership update

Susan Russell-Robinson provided an update of the program to date. She and Kathryn Parlee are the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP) co-chairs. There are over 128 individuals from 68 organizations working on eight subcommittees with an emphasis on information specific to the member provinces and states. ESIP conducts annual evaluations. The results inform revisions and other programmatic changes and developments. They have updated the indicator reporting tool, which is revised to use a Google map platform, resulting in faster graphing, better layer organization, and better metadata tables. Journal pages are maintained and updated. These pages could be highlighted as part of the Council's news. The EcoSystem Indicator Partnership is requesting that experts make entries in the journal on a rotating, monthly basis.

The *Eutrophication Issues in the Gulf of Maine* fact sheet was released in May 2012. Fact sheets for contaminants, coastal development, and fisheries are slated for release from the fall of 2012 through the spring of 2013. Fact sheets are colour-coded and cross-referenced with financial and design assistance from Environment Canada. As of these recent activities, Christine Tilburg is speaking with Eastern Charlotte Waterways who will be participating in ESIP.

Bruce said that this is all a great example of the Council serving as a coordinator and hub for bi-national federal, provincial, and state coordination. He suggested that each month a jurisdiction is assigned to find a journal author. Bruce suggested that on the online updates, partner organizations' logos be added to the relevant website. The list of partners needs to be more easily found on the website. Tier-two will be started in July to determine the next indicators issues, such as invasive species.

Further information is available in the meeting briefing note posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Action	Lead/contact	Due date
Interested Councillors and their staff are invited to provide journal entries including solicited them through monthly jurisdictional assignments	Christine Tilburg with Councillors and Working Group members	immediate

Guest presentation: The Saint John River Society

Molly Demma presented a background on the St. John River, designed as a Canadian Heritage River. The river is nominated locally and designed federally over a three-year period. The designation does not come with regulations. It provides a profile and recognition for he communities' regards for the river. The organization received a Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Visionary Award last year.

Further information is available at <http://www.SJohnRiver.org>.

The presentation is posted at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/presentations/201206/>.

Items removed from the consent agenda and other business

The fundraising strategy issue was covered earlier in the agenda. The Management and Finance terms of reference will be part of the overall organizational analysis for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.



December meeting plans and closing remarks

Perry Haines passed the gavel to Bruce Carlisle. Bruce expressed his thanks to Perry Haines, Rob Capozzi, and the New Brunswick team for a great year. He committed to maintaining the high level of work that New Brunswick provided and the Working Group and committees for their ongoing efforts. He would like to focus the Massachusetts year on sea level rise, blue water issues such as ocean acidifications, and maritime trades and economies. The MA Secretariat schedule is posted at http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/docs/gomc_wg_june_2012.pdf.

Summary prepared by Michele L. Tremblay, natresource communications

Indirect cost rate recommendation

Background: Each year the Gulf of Maine Association (Association) reviews the auditor's indirect cost rate calculation (the actual indirect cost rate from the prior fiscal year). The Association (and GOMC) then approves an indirect cost rate that goes into effect in December following their meeting.

GOMA Approved Rates for Last Four Years:

December 2008 = 16.59

December 2009 = 19.24

December 2010 = 20.61

December 2011 = 20.61 (approved rate was lower than auditors calculation)

Average rate over the past four years = 19.26%

Fiscal Year 2012 Auditors Calculation:

FY 2012 audit = 21.32

The Gulf of Maine Association can decide on an indirect rate that is different than the rate calculated by the auditors. As you can see above, at the December 2011 Gulf of Maine Association meeting, a rate lower than the auditors calculated rate was approved. The new indirect rate calculation from the FY12 audit is 21.32%. The average rate used for the past 4 years is 19.26%.

Recommendation:

Gulf of Maine Council:

The recommendation is to set the rate at 19.26% (average over last four years) to go into effect December 14, 2012 through the December 2013 GOMC meeting. The rate would apply to new funds applied for or received after December 14, 2012 and would only apply if allowable by the funder and/or the Gulf of Maine Association has not made a different decision.

Fiscal Agent Arrangements:

Fiscal agent agreements will be locked in for three years at a time. Fiscal agent arrangements will be one-half the indirect rate rounded down to the nearest whole number unless otherwise decided by the Gulf of Maine Association.

Recommended Action: Review purposes only.

Submitted by: Cindy Krum GOMA Executive Director with review by Don Hudson, Board Chair, and the GOMC Management and Finance Committee

Accept revised and new terms of reference

Management and Finance, Secretariat Team, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee, and State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting Committee

Management and Finance Terms of Reference

Purpose

Management and Finance (MF) serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment by managing and reporting on the Council's programmatic, personnel, finance, and budget directives.

- Programmatic – MF takes the lead and works closely with the Council, Working Group and Committees to develop and implement annual work plans that implement the five-year *Action Plan*. It oversees all related contract procurement procedures (e.g., requests for proposals, contract negotiations, contract reviews) including external and internal budget decisions.

It facilitates inter-committee coordination, establishes and monitors implementation of Council procedures (e.g., *Reference Handbook*), and coordinates internal policy. It organizes Council and Working Group meetings as needed including the development of agendas and reporting out of the results. It seeks to secure funding in support of approved Council initiatives and projects.

- Personnel – MF is responsible to the Council for all contractor/personnel decisions. In doing so it will delegate appropriate authority to the committees, ensure they have adequate support to perform this work and will make recommendations to the Council as needed.
- Finance and Budget – MF prepares the annual budget for Council and Working Group review and then oversees its implementation. (It can amend the budget if the changes do not cumulatively exceed 10% of the approved budget.)

Membership

Management and Finance is composed of a representative designated by each state and province, one provincial member at-large, one federal representative from each country, and one Gulf of Maine Association member from each country. The current Working Group chair serves as MF Chair.

Support

The Council Coordinator, Development Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, and the Executive Director of the Gulf of Maine Association provide the necessary contractor support. In addition, other Council contractors, agency representatives, and committee co-chairs may assist as needed and contracted.

Decisions

Decisions will be made by consensus.

Secretariat Team Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Secretariat Team serves the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC), Working Group, and Management and Finance. Its purpose is to advise the Secretariat on matters related to routine policy, budgetary, logistical, and contract issues. The Secretariat Team develops options to facilitate the smooth operation of the organization for implementation by other GOMC groups.

Organization

- a. **Membership:** The Secretariat Team consists of a representative from the immediate past, current, and future jurisdictions to serve as the Secretariat. The Council may appoint additional members by consensus of its members.
- b. **Chair:** The Working Group Chair facilitates the Secretariat Team's calls, meetings, and processes.
- c. **Meetings:** The Secretariat Team is expected to conduct the majority of its business through telecommunications and email. It may meet as needed and agreed upon by its membership.
- d. **Decisions:** The Team has limited decision-making abilities. It may take action on matters directed to its attention. Decisions will be made by consensus. The Secretariat Team will forward its decisions as recommendations to the body that requested its involvement.
- e. **Support:** The Council Coordinator, Gulf of Maine Association Executive Director, and the Development Coordinator provide support to the Secretariat Team and participate in its discussions.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Committee Terms of Reference

Context

The Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Committee was accepted as a full Committee by the Council on June 15, 2011 following recommendations arising from an ad-hoc committee.

Purpose

The Committee will:

- Investigate and make recommendations on appropriate roles/activities for the Council in CMSP;
- Track and exchange information on CMSP policies and activities on both sides of the border; and
- Develop and implement an annual work plan and review progress.

Meetings

At least once every year, the Committee will meet face-to-face to:

- Review accomplishments of the previous year;
- Establish priority work tasks for the following year; and,
- Establish the annual budget.

The Committee will strive to hold three conference calls per year to review progress and discuss current issues of mutual interest in the field of CMSP to the Committee members.

Meeting ground rules

- Announced 10 days in advance to all committee members and will normally be held in conjunction with a GoMC Working Group meeting.
- A minimum of three participants (at least one from each country) plus one of the co-chairs will represent a quorum.
- Decisions will be by consensus.
- Meetings will be open to all interested parties.
- Minutes of all meetings will be distributed to Committee members by the co-chairs.
- Conference calls will be announced by the co-chairs.
- Committee presentations given at the Working Group or Council level will reflect the views of the full committee.

Membership

There will be two co-chairs, one from the U.S. and one from Canada. The committee will strive to have membership from a U.S. federal agency, a Canadian federal agency, a U.S. state, a Canadian province, or a delegated (academic, non-profit, private) member from these jurisdictions. Each department, agency or organization on the Working Group and Council can, if they so choose, nominate a person to serve on the Committee. The respective Working Group members in each jurisdiction will make appointments to the Committee.

Chair Responsibilities

- Set the agenda for meetings;
- Chair meetings;
- Publish and distribute minutes of meetings;
- Speak on behalf of the Committee; and
- Direct the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Committee and the Council.

Reporting

Meeting summaries will be prepared by the one of the co-chairs, and will be sent to all members and the GOMC Coordinator.

The Committee will provide updates to the Council and Working Group on at least a semi-annual basis via briefing notes in meeting documents or presentations at Working Group and Council meetings.

State of the Gulf of Maine Reporting Committee Terms of Reference

Context

At the June 2009 meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council (GOMC), the Council decided to go forward with a State of the Gulf of Maine Report, based on the framework presented in the Scoping Document (Walmsley 2009). The aim was to complete portions of the report (the context document and several theme papers) for the June 2010 celebrations of the 20-year anniversary of the Council. The development of the report continued incrementally after that. The State of the Gulf of Maine Report is a modular document. The main products are:

1. Context Document,
2. Theme Papers on priority issues, and
3. Website.

Purpose

The Committee will:

- Provide strategic direction on the Gulf of Maine Council's State of the Gulf of Maine Report,
- Provide editorial advice and guidance to the State of the Gulf Report editor,
- Review theme papers and other material prepared for the State of the Gulf of Maine Report,
- Oversee the content of the State of the Gulf of Maine Report webpage (part of the Council website).
- Collaborate with other Gulf of Maine Council committees to effectively disseminate State of the Gulf materials to our primary audiences and widely communicate the results and findings so as to inform decision-making.

Meetings

At least once every year, the Committee will meet to:

- Recommend individuals to serve as co-chairs (one from each country);
- Review accomplishments of the previous year;
- Establish priority work tasks for the following year; and,
- Establish the annual budget.

Meeting ground rules

- Announced 10 days in advance to all committee members.
- Normally will be held by conference call but will occasionally have face-to-face sessions in conjunction with GOMC Working Group meetings.
- A minimum of three participants (at least one from each country) plus one of the co-chairs will represent a quorum.
- Decisions will, by preference, be by consensus. If a vote is necessary, a majority of those present is required. Each jurisdiction will have one vote.
- Meetings will be open to all interested parties.
- Minutes of all meetings will be distributed to Committee members by the co-chairs.

Membership

There will be two co-chairs, one from the U.S. and one from Canada. At a minimum, the committee should have membership from a U.S. federal agency, a Canadian federal agency, a U.S. state and a Canadian province. Each department, agency, or organization on the Working Group and Council can, if they so choose, nominate a person to serve on the Committee. The respective Working Group members in each jurisdiction will make appointments to the Committee.

Chair Responsibilities

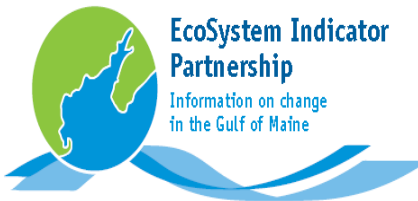
- Set the agenda for meetings;
- Chair meetings;
- Publish and distribute minutes of meetings;
- Speak on behalf of the Committee; and
- Direct the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Committee and the Council.

Reporting

Meeting summaries will be prepared by the State of the Gulf Report editor or a meeting co-chair, and will be sent to all members and the GOMC Coordinator.

The Committee will provide updates to the Council and Working Group on at least a semi-annual basis via briefing notes in meeting documents or presentations at Working Group and Council meetings.

Ecosystem Indicator Partnership update



ESIP and the Delivery of Ecosystem Indicators

Fact Sheets Out and About

ESIP has now released five fact sheets since 2009. Each fact sheet is a stand alone product yet contains the essentials of ESIP: our branding and focus on unbiased delivery of indicator information. The table below shows both hard-copy and downloads from the ESIP webpages.

Fact Sheet	Original Release*	2009	2010	2011	2012 (through October)	Total
General ESIP Sheet	July 2009	321	290	791	263	1665
Aquaculture Fact Sheet	January 2011			494	318	813
Climate Change Fact Sheet	February 2011			554	237	791
Aquatic Habitats Fact Sheet	October 2011			365	360	725
Eutrophication Fact Sheet	May 2012				426	426

* The AwStats program used by GOMC's IT team does not have downloads available pre-August 2011.

Evaluating Through Interviews and Web Survey

ESIP has spent part of the summer and fall conducting evaluation interviews through both phone conversations with ESIP organizations and through a web survey for a project funded by EPA. Results from the survey through November 14 are below:

Question 1: Are you familiar with ESIP?
Quite familiar (66%)
Familiar (24%)
Not familiar (10%)
Question 2: Do you find the individuals you work with place a high value on scientific data?
Yes (93%)
Mixed (7%)



Question 3: What one or two questions regarding the Gulf of Maine are you frequently asked?
Questions centered around water quality (eutrophication, macroalgae, impacts of aquaculture, etc). (24%)
Climate Change questions (SLR, changes in water temperature, changes in molt cycles, ocean acidification) (22%)
General questions about the health of the Gulf (22%)
Questions about fish stocks (lobster and clams included) (20%)
Question 4: What has been a difficult part of your job that additional data or products would have made easier?
Need for data that has been synthesized/analyzed or even available in the right format (20%)
Difficulty obtaining information (issues with "knowing where to look") (15%)
Data on a finer scale than is provided (10%)
Information on eutrophication (10%)
Long-term conditions of a local place (10%)
Question 5: Are there too many organizations providing data in the Gulf of Maine? Is the opposite true?
Not too many (44%)
Too many (24%)
Question 6: What emerging issues do you think will become important in the next 2-3 years? 5-10 years?
Climate Change (76%)
Eutrophication (22%)
Ocean acidification (15%)
Fish stocks and biotic interactions (12%)
Question 7: When you've used ESIP products in the past what form have they been in?
Print form (fact sheets) (59%)
Web information (tools and articles) (59%)
Downloadable data (15%)
None of the listed (15%)

GOMC competitive grants and solicitations

Received 2006-2012

Gulf of Maine Council - Competitive Grants and Solicitations Received: 2006 to 2012

During the past six years the Council has written over twenty competitive funding proposals and ten were funded. In addition, the Council has solicited over thirty-six organizations to become sponsors of the Gulf of Maine Times and eighteen have become sponsors.

Source	Purpose/Date	Amount
Indicators		
NOAA/CICEET	Indicators development (2006)	\$20,000
NRCAN (GeoConnections)	ESIP - develop tools and provide on-line access to spatial data and information from distributed sources over the internet (2007)	\$150,000
NERACOOS	ESIP – organize and convene users workshop (2010)	\$14,000
Science Translation Project		
NOAA/CICEET	Support GOMC science translators (2006)	\$40,000
Gulf of Maine Times		
Maine Community Foundation	Develop business plan for the GOMT (2008)	\$5,000
NH Charitable Foundation	Develop business plan for the GOMT (2008)	\$5,000
GOM Sponsors ¹	Support production of the Times	\$29,500
Habitat restoration		
Cox Charitable Trust	GOM Habitat Restoration and Conservation Strategy, restoration coordinator and IT support (2009)	\$63,500
NH Charitable Foundation	GOM Habitat Restoration and Conservation Strategy AND restoration coordinator (2009)	\$10,000
Maine Community Foundation	GOM Habitat Restoration and Conservation Strategy AND restoration coordinator (2009)	\$6,000
Climate change		
NOAA/Climate Program Office	Climate change research, communication and local grants (2011)	\$285,000
		\$628,000

¹ Examples of sponsors include: UNH/Northeast Consortium, SeaPlan, NEOSEC, NH Charitable Foundation, Census for Marine Life, CLF, Nature Conservancy Canada, CINAR, TNC New England,

RARGOM/GOMC memorandum of agreement

Final version and execution for December 2012

JOINT STATEMENT

by

***The Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine
and
The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment***

The parties to this Joint Statement are:

- a) The Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine, (herein referred to as RARGOM). RARGOM is a representative of the marine scientific community and has interests in the oceanography, ecology, natural resources, and environmental quality of the Gulf of Maine (Appendix A).
- b) The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (herein referred to as the Council). The Council is established by the five Governors and Premiers bordering the Gulf of Maine, to coordinate transboundary resource management concerns and to promote activities that sustain the ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine (Appendix B).

Recognizing

- that the Gulf of Maine is a vast ecosystem of inestimable value to the region;
- that the wise management of the Gulf, including transboundary issues, is of utmost concern to all parties;
- that while each party has its own distinct mission, operates independently, and represents a different segment of the marine enterprise (Appendices), together they share a common interest in the Gulf of Maine; and
- that effective communication and exchange of information among the parties will avoid duplication of effort and maximize the effective use of resources,

Therefore, the parties declare that they will:

- 1) consult with each other as a source of review and advice in their respective spheres of authority or expertise;
- 2) RARGOM will seek active consultation from the Council on the science topics for its Annual Science Conference as well as other science meetings that RARGOM hosts, such as its Theme sessions and Symposia.
- 3) collaborate where appropriate in developing and periodically refining complementary marine research and environmental monitoring agendas for the region; (the Council's priority goals and objectives will be articulated and implemented through the Council's Action Plan and annual work plans; the role of RARGOM will be to assist in the design and review of scientific aspects of these programs and plans);
- 4) promote the exchange of information among themselves and with user groups, including but not limited to scientific data and information systems, meeting announcements, newsletters, media events, reports and other publications;
- 5) respect and mutually enhance their independent missions, as stated herein and elaborated in Appendices A and B; further recognize and promote the participation of other organizations and programs in the region that are involved in marine issues.
- 6) allow for the Association of US Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, when requested by RARGOM, to assist that organization by providing fiscal agent services including receiving, disbursing and accounting for funds that the organization receives.

SIGNATURES:

Kevin Friedland, Chair
Regional Association for Research on the Gulf of Maine

Date

Bruce Carlsle, Chair
Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Date

APPENDIX A

ARTICLE III Mission and Objectives

RARGOM is an association of institutions that are actively involved in research, management and stewardship activities related to the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. RARGOM was founded in 1991.

RARGOM is an advocate for science and research in the Gulf of Maine. Its basic missions are to facilitate a coherent program of regional research, promote scientific quality and encourage regional coordination and collaboration among researchers and environmental decision-makers residing at its member institutions.

Its specific objectives include the following:

1. To serve as a catalyst for development of research visions, programs and infrastructure serving the regional interest
2. To promote and encourage the coordination of marine research and monitoring in and around the Gulf of Maine.
3. To provide scientific and technical advice and planning for federal, regional, state/Province and local agencies and organizations
4. To serve as an agent for communication of regional activities, resources and funding and employment opportunities to its members
5. To communicate the need for and results of scientific research on the Gulf of Maine
6. To foster communication and collegiality in the Gulf of Maine research community

APPENDIX B

(Summarized from the Operating Guidelines of the Council on the Marine Environment)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

Principles

The following principles help guide the Council and participating agencies in their decisions involving the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Each principle is congruent with international protocols, as well as state, provincial, and national legislation in Canada and the United States.

Ecologically sustainable development

The Council seeks to meet the region's current social, cultural, and environmental needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Working in partnership with others, it strives to sustain ecological processes and enhance the region's quality of life.

Ecosystem-based planning and management

The Council supports collaborative management that integrates economics and ecological values and objectives, emphasizing natural rather than political boundaries.

Environmental protection through precaution

The Council supports conservation of the coastal and marine environment, and urges its members to proceed with caution when scientific information is incomplete to avoid environmental degradation.

Public information and participation-based planning and management

The Council is committed to a participatory process that informs and engages the public in setting priorities, forming policies, and pursuing efforts to conserve the Gulf's environment.



Meeting Schedule for MA Secretariat July 2012 – June 2013

Proposed meeting schedule 2012-2013

Working Group Meeting	Council Meeting	Other	Location
March 5-6, 2013		TBD	Nova Scotia (?)
June 11-12, 2013	June 13, 2013	Awards Ceremony	Massachusetts

Submitted by Prassede Vella, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management

Gulf of Maine Council Awards

Background

Do you know a *group or individual* who has worked professionally or selflessly volunteered to improve the Gulf of Maine? A *volunteer* who has devoted his or her life to natural resource and environmental issues in the Gulf? A very special *coastal management professional* who works in the Gulf of Maine? A *member of industry* that has gone above and beyond requirements to be a good Gulf citizen? A *community or a group within a community* that exemplifies a sustainable environment and economy?

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment conducts an annual solicitation process for its Visionary, Longard, Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership, Industry, and Sustainable Communities Awards. This is one of the most visible and positive activities that the Council conducts each year. In my daily monitoring of Council media coverage and website crawler hits, no other program receives so much mainstream attention from mentions of award winners in conference biographical summaries to media releases involving awardees to radio, newspaper, and other print and electronic media carrying awardees' quotations. This is often in the context of those quoted having an elevated profile in part, because of their awards.

There are five award categories that facilitate up to fourteen individuals or entities being able to receive these awards.

- One group *and* one individual—paid professionals or volunteers are eligible—in each province and state* will be selected to receive a Visionary Award.
- One Longard Award will be selected to honour a lifetime of achievement in his or her volunteer work.
- One individual will be selected for the first Susan Snow-Cotter award to recognize a coastal management professional who exemplifies outstanding leadership or exceptional mentoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed.
- One industry will be selected to receive the new award.
- One group or a group within a community will be selected for the new Sustainable Communities award.

Action or outcomes requested: please

1. Consider nominating a deserving volunteer or professional individual or group for a Visionary Award, an individual volunteer for the Longard Award, a professional for the Susan Snow-Cotter Leadership Award, a business for the Industry Award, and a community or group within a community for the Sustainable Communities Award.
2. Visit <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/opportunities/> or click on the "Opportunities" link on the Council's home page to view previous award recipients and download the nomination forms.
3. Distribute the monthly emailed awards call for nominations widely and encourage colleagues to work together to submit applications.
4. Do not hesitate to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net if I may provide any guidance or other assistance with your nominations.

Submitted by Michele L. Tremblay, naturesource communications



Action Plan Implementation: Status and Accomplishments – Year 1

Background

In December 2011, the new five-year Action Plan was released specifying three main goals that the Council aims to accomplish through a number of priority activities. A year has gone by and the committees have been busy preparing work plans that describe the process, objectives, and outcomes desired as well as the resources needed. A number of projects are underway and committees are in various stages of implementation. Examples illustrating this work will be provided by various committees including the State of the Gulf Editorial, the Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP), the Habitat Restoration Committee, and Gulfwatch.

Action or outcomes requested

The Council is asked to provide thoughts and input on the work presented.

Submitted by Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management



Coastal Zone Canada 2014: Opportunity for Collaboration

Coastal Zone Canada (CZC) 2014 is currently in the initial planning stages. This will be the twentieth anniversary of this biennial conference series that provides an opportunity for professionals and interested parties to engage in dialogue on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) and to help shape the future of ICOM in Canada and beyond. This is an international conference series and CZC 2014 will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 15 – 19, 2014.

CZC 2014 will coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Gulf of Maine Council and being held in Nova Scotia provides an excellent opportunity for the Council to participate and feature aspects of its world class programs in the Gulf of Maine bioregion. The event also coincides with the hosting of the Council by the Province of Nova Scotia at roughly the same time as the June Council and Working Group meetings.

This also provides an opportunity to respond to one of the Council's June 2012 recommendations which was to explore the possibility of the Council hosting a regular summit - type event. The rationale was to enhance logistical efficiencies and collaborative opportunities and to promote the 2012 – 2017 Action Plan.

Possible activities and next steps

In response to the Council's June 2012 request, the following ideas can be brainstormed along with others to help us develop possible approaches:

- Endorsement of CZC 2014 by the Gulf of Maine Council.
- Host a theme session that focuses on specific activities of the Council such as indicators, State of the Ocean reporting, bilateral collaboration, habitat restoration etc.
- Host a special event in conjunction with CZC 2014 as an anniversary event or as the first of a regular series of Gulf of Maine "summits". US DOI (USGS) has indicated an interest in helping to sponsor this type of an event.
- Hold the June 2014 Council and Working Group meetings in conjunction with CZC 2014 in Halifax.
- Submit a poster presentation showcasing the various aspects of the 2012 – 2017 Action Plan.

Action or outcomes requested

The Working Group will brainstorm possible linkages with CZC 2014 and make a recommendation to Council. This may include the formation of an ad-hoc working group and identification of any resources required.

Submitted by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes Working Group Representative

Considerations for fund development

Background: At the June 2012 Council meeting Councilors identified some fund development issues that required further discussion. During the past five months the Ad-Hoc Fund Development Group (Sochasky, Hudson, Wiggan, Morrison) met by conference call on five separate occasions and developed the following options for Council consideration.

Council Request #1: Identify the key issues with the Council accepting non-government and corporate funding to support implementation of the Action Plan and offer suggestions on how to manage these issues.

Issues	Options for managing situation
External perceptions of undue influence on Council foci when accepting and using foundation or corporate support	Know the agenda of respective funders before approaching them Continue internal use of the <i>Notification of Intent to Apply</i> policy. Recognize that it engages M&F but not Councilors directly M&F could provide "alert" to Councilors when a funding proposal is being developed Identify the external audience for Council financial reports. Prepare a method to track and report on all cash and contributions of good and services in lieu of cash. Determine how to report on funds managed by GOMA vs. others. Produce graphic annual income and expense statements. Communicate in the GOMT and on our web site about all sources and uses of funding
Councilors feel beholden or indebted to others	Be attentive at the Council level to understanding different perspectives and points of view Be clear the Council, not its individual members, is the recipient of the funding
Council competing with local/regional organizations for funding	Prepare competitive proposals and let the funder decide who to support Look for funding opportunities that result in GOMC distributing most of the funds/re-granting to others (e.g., similar to the habitat restoration grant program) Pursue funding for projects that have region-wide impacts and that build on GOMC strengths. Examples include information collating/data management, monitoring, mapping, etc.

Council request #2: Identify methods to secure non-competitive support for Action Plan priorities.

Pursuit of non-competitive funding (e.g. discretionary resources such as cash, staff, contributed services)	Approach member and non-member agencies (e.g., NRCAN, FEMA, Army Corps) agencies for discretionary resources (e.g., cash, staff, contributed services). Routinely inform Council agencies/members of all fund development needs. Engage Councilors in identifying a more transparent way to match up funds with needs such as information in meeting packets on needs and timing.
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Council request #3: Identify ways to engage funders in a collaborative manner

Be seen as a valued partner by the region's foundation community	Routinely communicate with them about the Council and its partners progress and needs in implementing the Action Plan Serve as a regional forum to bring people and resources to bear on the region's leading issues. Stimulate increased financial support to address issues in the Action Plan. (see example below)
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Launching a New Collaboration Vision: Great Lakes Funding Community

The Great Lakes funding community is launching a new, bi-national funder collaboration and we want you to join in! The collaboration will involve a diverse range of funders interested in protecting and restoring the environmental resources in the Great Lakes basin. Over the years, there has been some limited collaboration among Great Lakes funders. These efforts have been informal, and mostly involved a small, core set of large, private foundations. Currently, the funding community — including family, community, corporate, and government funders from across the United States and Canada — is formalizing a collaboration based on a framework for sharing information and working together in ways that are strategic, efficient, innovative, and fun.

The Big Picture: Bringing the Pieces Together

Funders in the Great Lakes basin face many challenges in understanding and addressing this crucial and complex system and the role they play, individually and collectively, in protecting and restoring it. In addressing complex issues, Dr. Manuel Pastor of University of Southern California shares an analogy from a community organizer in Sinaloa, Mexico, about the importance of recognizing that we are all in the same complicated environmental, economic, and social "jigsaw puzzle." And that every piece — of every size, shape, and hue — is important because you need it to complete the puzzle. You make progress by putting the pieces together and ultimately not knowing where one ends and the other begins.

The Great Lakes funding community wants to work together more strategically to build the "jigsaw puzzle." In order to achieve this vision, the community is committed to:

- increasing knowledge and deepening relationships among the collaboration participants;
- understanding how individual funder priorities align and fit with other funder and non-funder priorities in the region;
- sharing lessons about successful and unsuccessful funding approaches and strategies and identifying gaps in funding and efforts in the region;
- bringing additional funders to the table to help build the puzzle;
- developing and refining its goals and activities over time to best meet the needs of involved funders.

Laying the Groundwork

This effort has been shaped by an 18-month process undertaken by the Great Lakes funders, including in-person meetings, work groups, a query of model collaborations, surveys, and phone interviews with funders basinwide.

Key Findings and Features:

1. There is great enthusiasm and interest in this effort! Nearly 50 funders of varying scope, type, and size from across the region, in the United States and Canada, have expressed interest in being involved. Given funder time constraints, this effort must be efficient, strategic, and valuable to participants to be successful.

2. Activities of most interest: Learning/update calls on key Great Lakes issues, an annual in-person meeting, mapping/inventory of funders and projects, and focused work groups.

3. This effort will be inclusive and aim to serve the needs and interests of the range of funders across the region. It will recognize that the needs of participants vary and change over time, and will work to complement other efforts including the Healing Our Waters — Great Lakes Coalition.

4. Three to four work groups will be established around issues or shared interests. Possible work groups include communications/outreach, policy and advocacy, research/science, and capacity building.

5. The initial structure of the collaboration will include binational co-chairs and an advisory team designated to provide oversight. Specific implementation and coordination duties will be undertaken by a person/team to be identified and secured.

6. Achieving greater impact over time will require developing a common agenda and vision for change, sharing approaches for measuring success, participating in mutually reinforcing activities, and regular communication. We know this can't all happen overnight. Fostering a collegial atmosphere, creating the space for shared learning, and focusing time and effort on building relationships are critical and key elements of this exciting and emerging Great Lakes funder collaboration

Submitted by W. Donald Hudson, Jr., Lee Sochasky, Jack Wiggin and Ru Morrison

Action Plan implementation Part I: Plan Structure to Organizational Structure

Background

The adoption of a new Action Plan 2012-2017 in December 2011 triggered a series of discussions among Working Group members on the best approach to implement Action Plan priority activities. The GOMC is made up of several committees which over the past several months have been developing work plans outlining a strategy to address relevant priorities to fulfill the goals of the Action Plan. The importance of the roles of the Committees in implementing the Action Plan was brought to the forefront during the meeting in June 2012 when Council asked the Working Group to:

“Develop recommendations for a defined structure for committees that are clearly linked to Action plan activities and outcome, which will include roles and link outcomes to the Action plan based on input from the relevant goal champions; this will include a schedule for periodic reporting on progress to be built into the process.”

In addition Councilor volunteered to serve as goal champions and assist the Working Group in this effort. A Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group was established and conducted in-depth discussions with Committee Co-Chairs and goal champions to understand the status of each committee, identify its link to Action Plan activities, assess the availability of resources, and understand its readiness to implement the activities. Through this process the Ad Hoc group was also able to identify whether all activities in the Action Plan could be addressed by a committee and where there are gaps or loose ends.

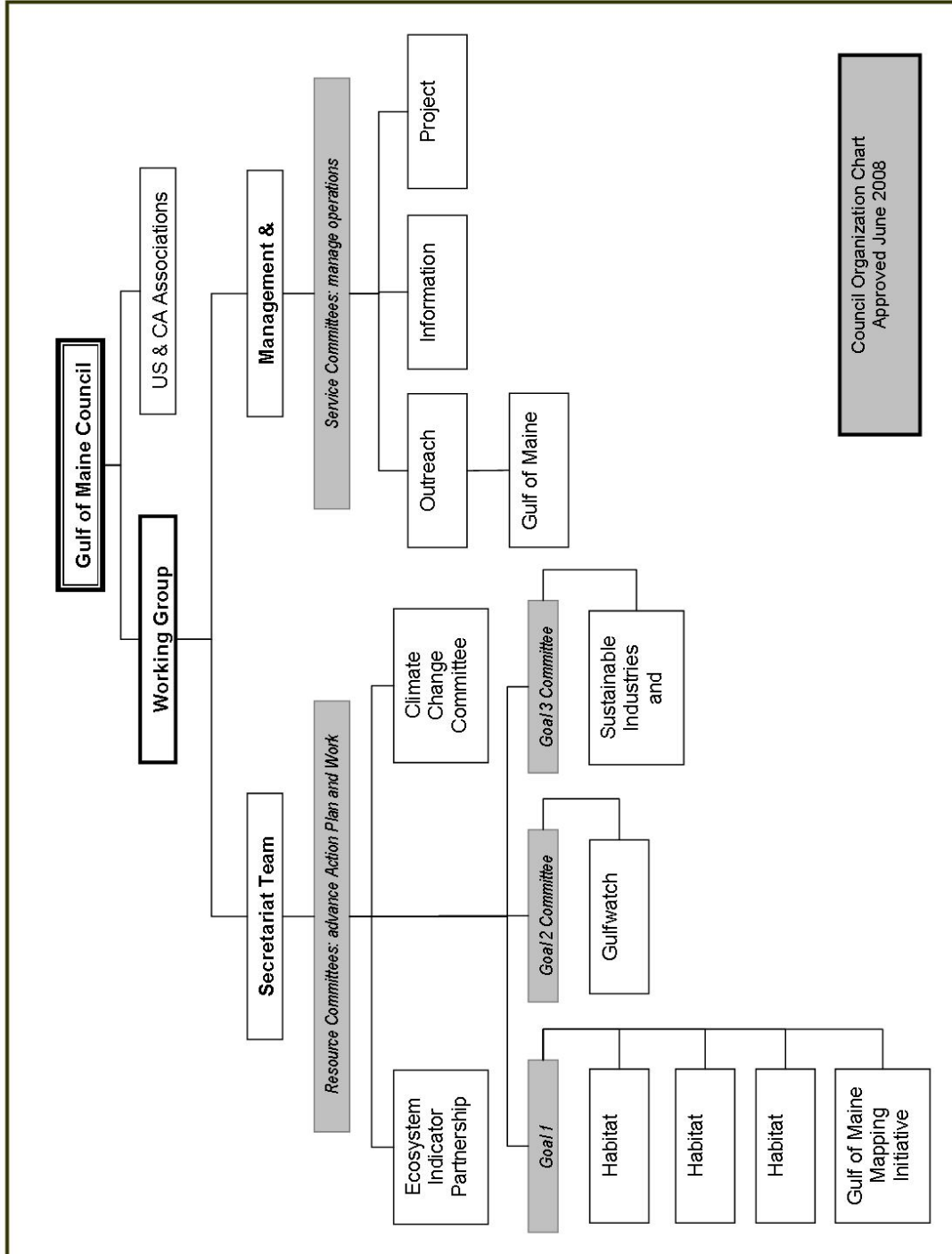
The following outcomes were produced:

- 1) An updated organizational chart
- 2) An updated spreadsheet linking each committee to an activity or activities in the Action Plan
- 3) A summary of findings and a set of recommendations/next steps that will inform Council where and how each committee will need the Council's support to accomplish its goals

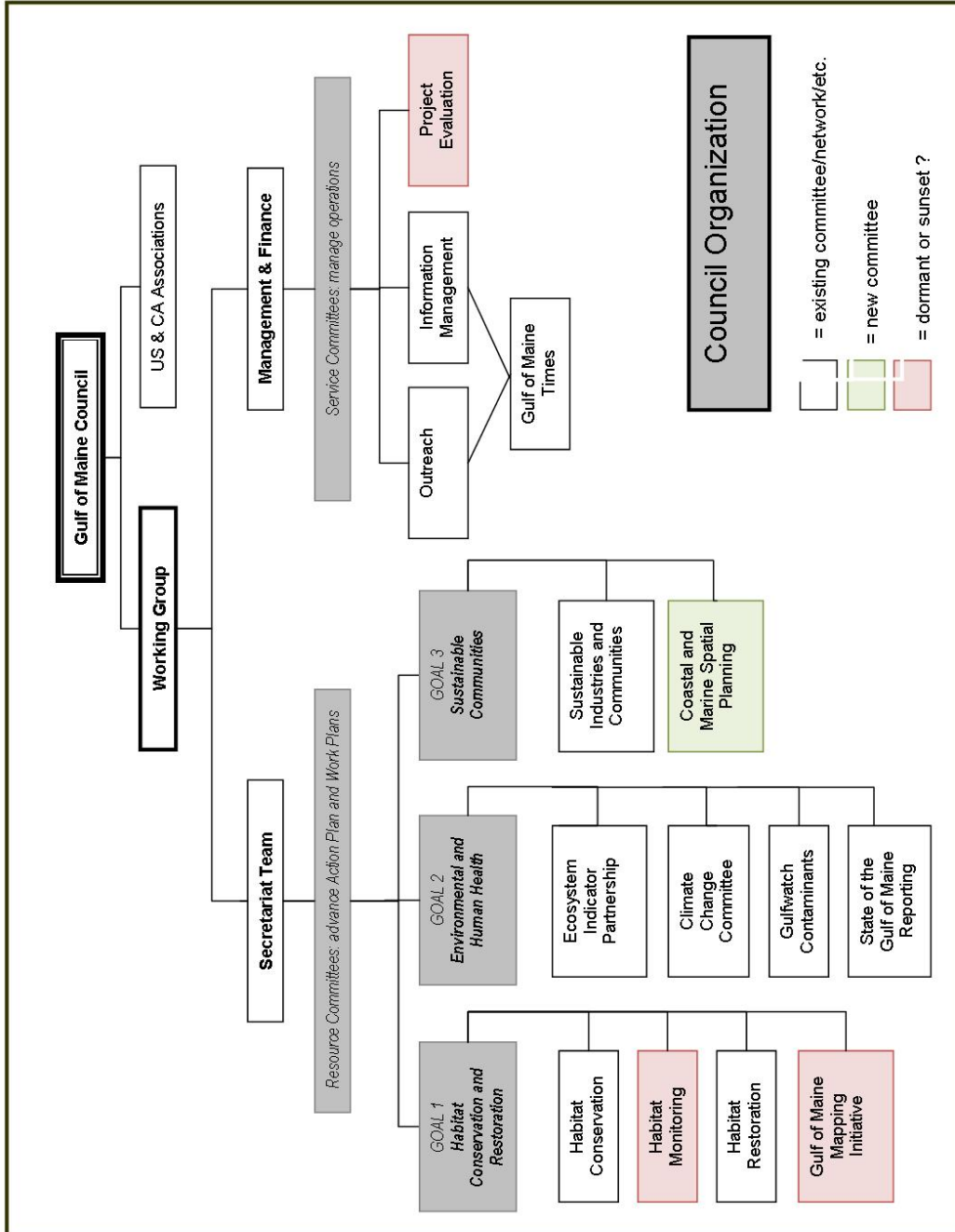
Action or outcomes requested

The Council is asked to review the committee organization structure (draft chart) based on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc group and the decision of the Working Group. The Council will also review recommendations and pledge support for the Committees in their role to implement the 2012-2017 Action Plan and carry out the Council's mission.

Submitted by Prassede Vella, obo Committee Organization Ad Hoc Group



Council Organization Chart
Approved June 2008



= existing committees/network/etc.
 = new committee
 = dormant or sunset ?

Council Organization



Core Services Contracts – optimizing support to the Council

Background

Following the development of a new Action Plan and in view of evolving roles and needs of the Council, the Working Group has discussed the need to review the current scopes of work for the core services provided to the Council. In March it was decided to look into this issue and issue RFQs for these services, starting with Council Coordination and Fund Development. A Request for Qualifications for Council Coordination was announced in October and applications are currently being reviewed with the goal of a contract starting January 1. In terms of Fund Development, various options of how best to approach and fill this need for the Council were discussed at the Working Group meeting in October and subsequently by the Management and Finance Committee which is preparing a recommended approach for the Working Group to review. Details will be provided at the Working Group meeting.

Action or outcomes requested

The Council is asked to review, provide advice, and approve the recommended approach to proceed.

Submitted by Prassede Vella, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management