**Steering Committee Conference Call: April 28, 2015**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS, UMaine), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Marilyn ten Brink (EPA), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. ICUC**

Christine Tilburg brought the Steering Committee up to date on the ICUC project. The team hopes to release the RFP this week or early next. Jim Latimer mentioned that there is a US company that has requested the RFP. Christine is also aware of a Canadian group that is interested.

**2. Directional document**

The Directional Committee has finished their effort on a framework for ESIP 2.0. A document describing the framework has been drafted and approved by the Directional Committee and is attached to the agenda email. Jawed Hameedi pointed out that there is a typo in the references section of the document.

**3. NEERS Feedback**

Christine provided feedback from the April 17, 2015 NEERS meeting. Jim wondered if other ESIP people were present. Christine stated that Paul Stacey (Eutrophication and Directional), Amanda Babson (previous EPA assistant), Hilary Neckles (Aquatic Habitats), and Robert Buchsbaum (Aquatic Habitats and Directional) were all present. Christine also mentioned an audience question about bringing health experts into ESIP 2.0 particularly with respect to human well being.

**4. Newsletter Vote**

Christine mentioned that the designer working on a framework/design copy of the ESIP newsletter has provided three examples. The group discussed the potential examples. Most people on the call liked the version with the blue header section. There were concerns about how color blind individuals might see the banner. Jawed also stated that if the print job is not high quality it might be hard to see some of the waves in the banner. The group discussed and “voted” on versions and determined that they like the color and banner on the first example. However they want the font, and banner words (date and ESIP news) from the third example.

**5. EPA-ORD Project**

Jim provided an update on the EPA-ORD project. He stated that the project is based on a comparative ecologic approach and includes estuaries from the NY/CT border to the Bay of Fundy. The project involves utilizing a lot of watershed information (example: land use) to compare with downstream estuary condition. The whole project was recently highlighted internally. There was also a discussion with respect to potential ESIP funding and whether the project might provide some funds to ESIP. Jim stated that it was unlikely as internal ORD projects are not, in general, a good source for funds.