**Steering Committee Conference Call: January 26, 2016**

**Participants**

Heather Breeze (DFO), Adria Elskus (USGS), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Pete Murdoch (USGS), Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. New Steering Committee Member**

Christine Tilburg opened the call by introducing Pete Murdoch (USGS) to the committee. Each individual on the call introduced themselves and Pete discussed some of his work at USGS that might intersect with ESIP’s effort. Pete is a biogeochemist who has been looking at resilience and ecosystem services in coastal environments. He also participated in the NERACOOS Integrated Sentinel Monitoring project.

**2. NEIWPCC**

Christine and Jim Latimer then discussed their meeting with Suzy King at NEIWPCC in early December. Jim mentioned that Suzy left NEIWPCC but he was able to connect with her successor (Kim Roth) at a recent Long Island Sound meeting. Jim stated that it is important to forge more of a relationship with NEIWPCC. Matt Liebman mentioned that Dan Peckham’s work is involved with the NECAN (Northeast Coastal Acidification Network) and might be a good contact too.

**3. Webinars**

Kathryn Parlee, Jim and Christine have all participated in one (or both) of the EPA recent webinars on ecosystem services. Christine stated that the group is still going through the information from the webinars and would like to move this item to the February call. Pete also stated that he was on the webinars. Jim stated that part of the issue is that the conversation about ecosystem services is moving very quickly and it is difficult to catch up. Pete agreed and stated that he went to a meeting on the topic in December and most of the meeting was spent arguing about definitions. Jim requested that Pete join the call with Christine and Kathryn to talk in more detail about the information from the webinar prior to the February Steering Committee call. Jim is hoping that the information can be presented to Steering Committee during the February call. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to set up a call with Pete, Jim, Kathryn and herself to discuss the ecosystem service webinars. This group will then report back to the Steering Committee during the February call).***

**4. ICUC**

Christine then updated the Steering Committee on the status of the ICUC smartphone app. Christine is hoping to do a soft release in February. The February ESIP journal entry will focus on the smartphone app. In addition, Christine hopes to do press releases with specific groups throughout 2016. Heather Breeze mentioned that she would like to do a press release focused on the Musquash site. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to connect with Heather about this).***

Heather expressed concerns about releasing the app at this time of the year when users are not likely to be out looking for sites. Christine agreed and is hoping that some more locations can be added in early Spring with a hard release of the smartphone app in late Spring.

**5. Upcoming meetings**

The group then discussed several upcoming meetings that ESIP might present at:

* Invitation to present at the Penobscot Watershed Conference (April 9).
* NEIWPCC presentation (May 5-6)
* NEERS (April 14-16)
* Maine Sustainability and Water Conference (March 29)
* Coastal Zone Canada (June 12-14)

**5. Annual Meeting**

It is the time of year when the Steering Committee begins discussion for the annual face to face meeting. Christine mentioned that although the ESIP meeting usually precedes or follows the GOMC meetings this year the schedule conflicts with other items on the calendar. She asked if Steering Committee members have a preference for a May or July meeting. Individuals on the call preferred a May meeting. Christine agreed to send out a Doodle calendar to see what dates in May work best for everyone. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to set up a Doodle calendar).*** The group then discussed potential locations for the meeting. The following were suggested: Seacoast Science Center (Rye, NH), Schoodic Institute (Winter Harbor, Maine), GMRI (Portland, Maine) or the Mariner’s House (Boston, MA). Christine agreed to send out a note asking Steering Committee members to rank their preferences with respect to location for the Annual Meeting. ***(Action to be taken: Ranking of locations by email).***

**Next Steering Committee meeting: February 23 at 10 AM ET**.