**Steering Committee Conference Call: January 31, 2016**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (USGS), Jawed Hameedi (NOAA), Jim Latimer (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (ECCC), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. GOMI and Sediments**

Christine Tilburg updated individuals on the call regarding the water quality sampling in 2016 for the Gulf of Maine Initiative project. Christine mentioned that all water sampling results have been delivered and she is currently working through the dataset. She also mentioned that she is re-analyzing the Bay of Fundy sediment samples. She thinks there is an interesting story comparing the sediment samples to the coupled Gulfwatch samples. She wanted to know if people on the call would be interested in forming a smaller group to potentially write a paper. Jawed Hameedi asked how many sediment sampling stations are available. Christine stated that there are around 16 sites. Jim Latimer stated that he is interested. He cautioned that bringing in water results would probably make the paper too confusing. Adria Elskus stated that she is interested too. Christine said she’ll send out an email to all of the individuals that helped determine the best sampling plan for the sediment portion of the proejct. She hopes to send out the email relatively soon. ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to bring together small committee to discuss a potential paper).***

**3. Susan Russell-Robinson ICUC sites**

Christine reminded the group that Susan Russell-Robinson donated enough money for two new ICUC sites in each state and province. She requested that one site for each jurisdiction could be selected to ease a data gap. The other site should be a “place of wonder”. Christine stated that she has a small list of suggested sites but would prefer for the suggestions to come from the jurisdictions. Kathryn Parlee mentioned that she has received the suggestions from Nova Scotia. She will see if she also has site suggestions for Maine or Massachusetts. Christine wondered if it would be good to select people from the Working Group to pressure for the remaining sites. Kathryn offered to speak to Peter McLaughlin (NB). ***(Action to be taken: Christine needs to follow up with Kathryn regarding sites for Nova Scotia and others. Kathryn will connect with Peter McLaughlin).***

Adria mentioned that she had recently been speaking with Ben Lecher about his work to take pictures of water levels at stream headwaters. Ben was not originally aware of the ESIP ICUC smartphone app but was keen to learn more about the project. Christine stated that it would be a good pairing between the app and Ben’s area of interest. She also wondered if local schools might get involved too. Adria agreed to start the conversation with Ben and the ICUC team.  ***(Action to be taken: Adria and Christine need to arrange a call with Ben Lecher).***

**3. 2017 Call Dates - revised**

Christine reminded the group that the upcoming Steering Committee call dates had been revised. The new dates are:

* February 28
* March 21
* April 25
* May 30

Jim Latimer wondered if the group should be thinking about when the annual Steering Committee meeting might be. Christine stated that a date could be selected at this time. However, if funds are not found there will not be a program manager available. Kathryn informed the group that the June Working Group meeting will be in Portland, Maine on June 7-8. The group selected June 6 for the ESIP annual meeting. Christine stated that she will connect with the Audubon Center about their conference room in March if it appears the meeting can move forward. ***(After the call: Susan Russell-Robinson offered her place in Norway, Maine for the meeting).***

**Next Steering Committee call February 28, 2017 at 10:00 AM ET**