**Steering Committee Conference Call: May 26, 2015**

**Participants**

Jim Latimer (EPA), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Abe Miller-Rushing (DOI), and Christine Tilburg (GOMC)

**1. Decision Support System Introduction**

Brian McGill (U Maine) joined the conference call for the first twenty minutes and introduced individuals on the call to a project he currently is involved in. The effort is a joint endeavor between the U Maine School of Sustainability and the U Maine Advanced Computing Group. The Decision Support System (DSS) is aimed at users that are only slightly computer saavy and attempts to provide information that would aid individuals like a small town manager. A lot of effort in the project has been directed at determining user’s needs. The prototype has just been released and the project team will bring together users to obtain performance feedback in the Fall. Christine Tilburg pointed out that unlike ESIP, the DSS includes predictive elements. Jim Latimer wondered if users will be able to obtain the datasets themselves. At the current time the tool does not allow users to download data but the team will likely have this conversation before the next version is released.

**2. ICUC**

The ICUC team released a RFQ for the smartphone app development on May 11. Reponses from vendors were due by 5 PM May 22, 2015. Only one proposal was received. In addition, the proposal was 10 times more expensive than expected. The ICUC team plans on holding conference call with the company to determine appropriate steps.

**3. Improvements to the ESIP webpages**

Jim Cradock has been working extremely hard to make ESIP’s webpage and webtools perform better. Christine mentioned that Jim will be joining the ESIP Annual Meeting on June 16. Jim has put together a proposal for improving the Indicator Reporting Tool.

**4. News articles**

One small change that Jim and Christine have been working on is to provide links to news articles in the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy through the ESIP webpage. Currently the list replaces the “priority indicator” list on the right hand side of the Monthly Journals webpage (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/esip-monthly-journals/>). Abe Miller-Rushing wondered if the same change could be made to the “News and Accomplishments” page (<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/esip-latest-news/>). Abe also suggested that Christine watch web traffic to determine if individuals are visiting these pages. Christine requested that Steering Committee members forward any news articles they see in local publications. Currently the links are a little “Maine” heavy as Christine and Jim both subscribed to the Portland Press Herald.

**5. 2015 Dates**

Christine proposed that the remainder of calls for 2015 follow the schedule below. Please let her know if you have conflicts with any of the following dates and times:

July 21 at 10:00 AM ET

August 25 at 10:00 AM ET

September 22 at 10:00 AM ET

October 20 at 10:00 AM ET

November 24 at 10:00 AM ET

December 15 at 10:00 AM ET