**Steering Committee Conference Call: November 26, 2013**

**Participants**

Adria Elskus (UMaine and USGS), Jim Latimer (EPA), Matt Liebman (EPA), Abe Miller-Rushing (NPS), Kathryn Parlee (EC), Christine Tilburg (GOMC), and Peter Wells (Acadia/Dalhousie).

**1. Think tank for ESIP 2.0**

In October the ESIP Steering Committee discussed individuals that might be invited to participate in ESIP’s 2.0 Directional Committee. Jim Latimer suggested that individuals should be “big thinkers, not just in one area, but broadly…”. Adria Elskus agreed with this comment. The following individuals were suggested: David Page (Bowdoin), Jeff Hyland (NOAA), Hilary Neckles (USGS), Jim Latimer (EPA), John Brawley (Woods Hole Group), Paul Stacey (Great Bay NERR), Chris Deactuis, and Jerry Neff (Neff and Associates in place of Peter Chapman). Adria also suggested Dr. Emily Monosson (freelance writer) and Dr. Michael Kinnison (U Maine). Christine wondered if the Steering Committee could craft the invitation in December and mail it out in January. The individuals on the call agreed with this schedule.

**2. Criteria completed**

The Steering Committee then discussed the finalized ESIP indicator criteria. There were some final small revisions but the criteria are as follows:

* Is the indicator scientifically valid? (consistent with current conceptual models)
* Can the indicator be measured and studied feasibly?
* Are there accurate data available?
* Are data publicly available and transparent?
* Is the indicator relevant to users?
* Is it comparable regionally?
* Is it useful at different scales?
* Is it comparable to targets, thresholds, or standards in the states and provinces?
* Does it build on or augment existing efforts?
* Does the indicator represent ecosystem properties fundamental to ecosystem structure and function?
* Is the indicator bringing us to a new level of understanding?

**3. Coastal Zone Canada abstract**

Abstracts for Coastal Zone Canada (Our Coasts: Legacies and Futures) are due December 16th. The Steering Committee discussed submitting an abstract for a poster in the “Knowledge and Information: Data Use and Accessibility, Information Management”. In addition, the Steering Committee felt that ESIP should submit an abstract for an oral presentation in the “Environmental Impacts: Climate Change, Human Induced Challenges and Community Responses. In particular the Steering Committee felt that the presentation in the environmental impacts session should be based on a story. Christine will send the abstract out for comments prior to the deadline.

**4. ICUC App Committee?**

Recently Abe Miller-Rushing suggested that there would be value in bringing together individuals with citizen science application or program experience to serve as a sounding board or expertise committee for ESIP with respect to the ESIP smart phone app. The Steering Committee discussed this idea further. Adria wondered what groups Abe was thinking of. He mentioned the Maine and New Hampshire Healthy Beaches project. In addition, people at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the Maine Cooperative Extension (Signs of the Seasons program) also are working with citizen science groups. Abe stressed the importance of identifying the goals for ESIP as “science goals” and “outreach goals”. Christine thought that February would be a good time to start bringing some people together for this.

**5. NEIWPCC Abstract Submission**

Jim Latimer mentioned that he submitted an abstract for ESIP to the NEIWPCC Nonpoint Source Pollution meeting (April 29-30, 2014 in Newport, Rhode Island). The abstract was based on the EPA-ESIP effort with respect to watersheds and impacts at the coast.

**6. Upcoming conference calls**

Jim Latimer has requested that the date of the December call be changed. That call’s date was moved to December 19th. See below for suggested dates in 2014.

* December 19th
* January 21st
* February 25th
* March 25th
* April 29th
* May 27th.

All calls would be at the normal 10:00 AM ET.