

# MINUTES

## Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Coast CESU

July 12-13, 2013

Hosted by:  
The Coastal Institute, University of Rhode Island  
Narragansett, RI

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### Participants

#### **Non-Federal Partners**

*URI (CESU Host University)*

Peter August

Deb Coty

Roland Duhaime

John King

David Robinson

Judith Swift

*BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE*

Evan Adams (conference line)

*CORNELL UNIVERSITY*

Magdeline Laba

*STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY*

Lawrence Swanson

*UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE*

Joseph Pitula

*UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON*

Jack Wiggin

*UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST*

Steven Pendery

Jessica Johnson

NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (*membership pending review of application*)

Doug Harris

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#### **Federal Partners**

*BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT*

Mary Boatman

*NATIONAL PARK SERVICE*

Amanda Babson

Charles Roman

Dennis Skidds

*NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE*

Lillian Woods (conference line)

*NOAA*

Nicole Bartlett (conference line)

*US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE*

Andrew Milliken

*USGS*

Howard Ginsberg

Meeting Agenda attached

#### June 12, 2013

- **Welcome, Introductions, General Business**

- Judith Swift (URI, CESU Host University) called the meeting to order at 1 pm. Brief introductions were made.

-- The newly revised procedure (Nov 2012) for new member applications was reviewed

#### Pending New Members

-- The North Atlantic CESU is growing, with review of new member applications pending and processing of CESU amendments for new members underway.

Marine Biological Lab

University of New England

Schoodic Education and Research Center Institute

Harvard University

Manhattan College

Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office

#### Agency Opportunities and Initiatives

-- National Park Service: Charles Roman provided a brief overview of CESU projects conducted on behalf of the National Park Service, with a focus on recent efforts to evaluate ecosystem responses to Hurricane Sandy. He commented on the NPS process of issuing Requests for Statements of Interest and Qualifications as an initial step to seeking investigators for projects, as well as the need for investigators to visit with park staffs to learn of science and technical assistance needs. In federal FY12 and 13, the NPS had CESU projects with 12 of the non-federal partners of the North Atlantic Coast CESU.

-- USGS: Howard Ginsberg announced a funding opportunity issued by the USGS National Geospatial Program in relation to the national hydrography databases. This opportunity will be announced to North Atlantic Coast CESU partners (deadline for submission of applications, 24 June 2013). Howard also discussed the active role that USGS scientists have played with regard to Hurricane Sandy response at mid-Atlantic coastal park units.

-- NOAA: Nicole Bartlett discussed several NOAA programs that are of immediate relevance to the mission of the North Atlantic Coast CESU, including EcoForecasting (northeast regional pilot), Data Visualization efforts, Joint Polar Satellite System and efforts to demonstrate uses of satellite data, Hurricane Sandy response, ocean planning, and climate change research, among other topics. NOAA has not yet been able to utilize the CESU as a mechanism for obligating funds to non-federal partners, but Nicole stated that NOAA looks forward to working with the CESU to enhance their network of coastal expertise.

-- NRCS: Lillian Woods reported that the North Atlantic Coast CESU has a history of much activity with NRCS.

#### Support for CESU Host University activities

-- Judith Swift reported on discussion of the CESU Host University Directors regarding administrative support for CESU activities supported by the host university. Several options have been discussed with no resolution at this time.

#### Student involvement in CESU projects

-- Charles Roman emphasized the need for investigators to encourage graduate and undergraduate student involvement in CESU-supported projects. The CESU provides an excellent opportunity to support Master's and Ph.D. level research, as well as internships for non-thesis Master's students and undergraduates.

-- Charles Roman discussed some successful student internship programs that have been initiated at URI, College of the Atlantic, and UMass-Boston (Jack Wiggin commented on this program). In federal FY14, pending availability of funds, the NPS expects to support additional internship opportunities that will benefit parks and students.

-- Perhaps other federal agencies can follow the models that the NPS has found to be successful.

- **New Member Presentations**

-- *Biodiversity Research Institute*: Evan Adams (Wildlife Biologist) provided an overview of the capabilities of BRI, with a focus on two ongoing CESU studies that are supported by the NPS (Decline of Nesting Loons at Yellowstone National Park; Songbirds as Indicators of Mercury in Park Ecosystems). BRI has research programs around the world and addresses multiple topics, including among others, marine birds, migratory birds, raptors, tropical systems, waterfowl, wildlife health, loons, mercury, etc.

<http://www.briloon.org/>

-- *BOEM*: Mary Boatman focused her comments on BOEMs Environmental Studies Program and Renewable Energy Program, emphasizing that BOEM (formerly MMS) has a long history of collaborating with other federal agencies and non-federal cooperators. Regarding offshore renewable energy leases (e.g., wind energy areas), BOEM supports site assessments (e.g., marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, fish, tourism, recreation, archeology, etc.) and studies of impacts of activities. BOEM is currently supporting some CESU projects.

- **Project Presentations**

-- As a new addition to the North Atlantic Coast CESU annual meeting, brief presentations are included to inform partners of new cooperative programs and highlight the breadth of CESU project opportunities.

-- North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative: Andrew Milliken (USFWS, LLC coordinator) provided an overview of the North Atlantic LCC, its purpose, organizational structure, and an introduction of several of the ongoing projects. Opportunities for collaboration between the LCC and CESU include Hurricane Sandy resiliency projects, technical oversight of projects, CESU partners engage in informing LCC of science needs, and CESU serve as an administrative mechanism for obligating funds to LCC non-federal partners.

-- Reconstructing Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes and Identifying Ancient Native American Archaeological Sites in Submerged Environments: John King (URI), David Robinson (URI) and Doug Harris (NITHPO) discussed a BOEM project that nicely demonstrates the intersection among submerged mapping technology, geology, archaeology, and student education and training.

-- Appalachian Trail Decision Support Center: Peter August (URI), graciously standing in for PI Y.Q. Wang (URI), discussed a multi-agency and university collaborative effort to establish a database to support monitoring, assessment of ecological condition, and forecasting trends along the AT mega-transect. This is not a CESU project, but demonstrates that kind of endeavors that the CESU, with its multiple federal and non-federal partners could engage in.

-- Hematodinium in the Context of Other Dinoflagellate Populations in the Maryland Coastal Bays: Joe Pitula (UMES) discussed an ongoing project with UMES students that is not supported by the NPS, but through Dr. Pitula's association with the CESU he contacted Assateague Island National Seashore to discuss mutual collaboration between his project and the Seashore's water quality monitoring efforts. NPS boats and staff facilitate UMES field data collection and the information generated is useful to park management.

-- North Atlantic Coast CESU Reporting Database: Roland Duhaime (URI Environmental Data Center) and Judith Swift presented a new database that will be used to track the accomplishments of North Atlantic Coast CESU projects, including information on project objectives, students supported, professional publications, technical reports, professional presentations, other products, etc. The database will be sent to selected members of the NAC-CESU for beta testing and then to the entire regional membership. Perhaps this Database could be adopted by other CESU programs within the Network.

In August-Sept 2013, project investigators will be asked to complete the online information gathering for their projects. This database will be essential as the North Atlantic Coast CESU prepares the application for renewal of the CESU for another 5-yr period (2014-2019).

- **Renewal of North Atlantic Coast CESU cooperative agreement**

Judith Swift reported that the process of renewing the North Atlantic Coast CESU cooperative agreement for another 5-yr period will soon begin. As with previous renewals, in January 2014 the Host University (URI) will need to submit a "self-assessment" demonstrating accomplishments of the North Atlantic Coast CESU. The abovementioned CESU Reporting Database will be essential to completing the self assessment. The participating federal partners will also need to provide an independent assessment of the CESU activities and accomplishments.

- **Adjourn**

-- The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

- **Group Dinner**

### **June 13, 2013**

- **Field Trip**

The USFWS, under the direction of Charles Vandemoer (Refuge Manager, RI National Wildlife Refuge Complex) and Suzanne Paton (Senior Biologist, USFWS Southern New England-NY Bight Coastal Program) hosted a morning field trip to the Narrow River estuary – a coastal watershed with USFWS holdings, local land trust and town protected areas, and residential development. We boarded small boats and had several stops to discuss land use protection, shoreline erosion, boat wakes, and living shorelines, Saltmarsh Sparrow research, and marsh restoration efforts associated with marsh responses to sea-level rise.

Accompanying our group on the field trip were experts from the Narrow River Land Trust, The Natural Conservancy, Save the Bay, and Refuge biologists.

Minutes prepared by,  
Charles Roman  
June 26, 2013

**North Atlantic Coast CESU**  
2013 Annual Meeting Agenda  
**June 12 & 13, 2013**

Hosted by the Coastal Institute, University of Rhode Island

**Wednesday, June 12**

Noon Informal lunch

1:00 General business meeting

- Updates on new member procedures, administrative processes, other
- Federal agency new initiatives (brief presentations)
  - National Park Service
  - US Geological Survey
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Funding of CESU activities and administrative costs
- Engaging students in CESU projects
- Other topics

2:00 Welcome new members (brief presentations)

- Biodiversity Research Institute
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- New members in process

2:45 Break

3:00 Project presentations – Brief presentations to inform all partners of new cooperative programs and highlight the breadth of CESU projects (additional projects under consideration):

- North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative: opportunities for collaboration with the CESU
  - Andrew Milliken, North Atlantic LCC Coordinator (USFWS)
- Reconstructing Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes and Identifying Ancient Native American Archaeological Sites in Submerged Environments
  - John King, David Robinson (URI), Doug Harris (Narragansett Indian Tribe)
- Appalachian Trail Decision Support Center: federal agency and university collaboration
  - Peter August (URI)
- *Hematodinium* in the Context of Other Dinoflagellate Populations in the Maryland Coastal Bays
  - Joseph Pitula (UMES)
- NAC-CESU Reporting Database
  - Judith Swift, Roland Duhaime (URI)

4:30 Wrap-up and Adjourn

6:00 Group Dinner – Champlin's

**Thursday, June 13**

9:00 – 12:00 Field Trip (optional)

USFWS Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex will host the field trip (Charles Vandemoer and Suzanne Paton)

Questions? Call [401-874-6513](tel:401-874-6513) or email Deb Coty at [debicoty@mail.uri.edu](mailto:debicoty@mail.uri.edu).

Location: University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute Building in Narragansett RI 02882. Hazard Rooms (immediately to your left as you enter the building). The GPS address to use is: 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.