

OCRM/CPD Update Session

Wednesday Feb 25 1:15pm to 2:15pm

Budget Updates

- * FY 09 Stimulus Package (See stimulus package handout.)

NOAA Regional Coordinators

- * See NOAA Regional Collaboration Team Leads and Coordinators handout.
- * It is our understanding that the role of the coordinators is to provide assistance to the regional collaboration team leads and serve as a central POC for the teams for anyone who has questions, suggestions, etc. about what the teams are doing.
- * Managers should be aware that some of the coordinators have not yet started and most regions have an additional person helping to ease the transition to the new coordinators.

OCRM & CPD Priorities for 09 and 10

- * OCRM and CPD has been working on priority planning for FY09 and FY10, tying our efforts to the Coastal Strategy, and emerging office priorities. (See OCRM/CPD priorities handout.)

GAO Report and NOAA's Response

- * See Summary of GAO Recommendations and NOAA Responses handout.

CZMA Performance Measurement System Guidance Update for FY2009-10:

- * A new draft of the CZMA Performance Measures Guidance was recently provided for state comments, which are requested by March 16th. (See CZMA Performance Measures Guidance handout.)

Managers Interview Results

- * Coastal Programs Division recently conducted informal interviews with a number of state CZM managers to help ground-truth our priorities for FY09. (See Managers' Interview Summary handout.)

New CPD staff

- * Rina Aviram, is a CELCP Specialist and is also working with Michigan and is a member of the Habitat and Communication teams.
- * Steve Frano is located at the PSC in Honolulu and is working with Hawaii and American Samoa.

- * Christa Rabenold is CPD's Coastal Hazards Specialist. She is also working with Mississippi, and is a member of the Communications and Climate Change and Hazards Teams.
- * Rebecca Feldman, (just started this week) will be working with Minnesota and Puerto Rico, and will likely join our Climate Change and Hazards Team.

CPD Issue Team Points of Contacts (POCs) and Activities

- * See CPD Issue Area handout.
- * In response to comments from managers, this handout is intended to provide you with POCs for various topical issues within CPD as well as identifying some of the more significant work that they will be taking on in FY09.
- * As we have discussed with CSO we believe that there are opportunities to better coordinate and complement the work of our issue teams and related CSO working groups. Allowing the issue team lead the ability to provide updates and sit in on appropriate discussions of the CSO work group conference calls might achieve this desired coordination.

Section 309 Guidance Update for FY2011-15:

- * As you have heard today we are revising the guidance. (See 309 Guidance Presentation from this morning for details).

Performance Report Guidance Update for FY2009-10:

- * The Performance Report Guidance was updated and revised to improve the performance reporting process and communication of the successes and priorities of the CZM Program. The draft guidance was provided for state comments and submitted for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act in October 2008. The final should be cleared very soon. (See Performance Report Guidance Update handout.)

Section 306A, Low-Cost Construction Project Guidance Update

- * CPD will be refining Guidance for section 306A, Low-Cost Construction Projects in FY09.

Hot Issues: Oregon Lawsuit Regarding Coastal Nonpoint Program

- * On December 19, 2008, the Northwest Environmental Advocates (NWEA) provided NOAA and EPA with a notice of intent to sue if the Agencies could not prove that they consulted under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when conditionally approving and fully funding Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNP).
- * On January 6, 2009, the NWEA also filed suit against NOAA/EPA for:
 - Lacking authority to conditionally approve OR CNP; and therefore
 - Failing to impose penalties called for in CZARA; and also,

-- EPA's failure to respond to a July 2008 FOIA request.

- * NWEA plans to amend this suit to incorporate the early mentioned ESA claim by March 16.
- * As a result of this lawsuit the Court could force NOAA/EPA to formally "disapprove" Oregon's program and administer penalties. This equates to a potential loss of 30% of 306 funding and 30% of EPA's 319 funding.
- * The lawsuit would also set precedent for the 12 other conditionally approved states.
- * Finally, the Court could require NOAA/EPA to undergo formal ESA consultation for Oregon's CNP, which would also set precedent for all 34 other CNPs.
- * The next steps in the process include: 1) Department of Justice and EPA/NOAA preparing response to all complaints in the lawsuit; and 2) DOJ is setting up meeting with plaintiff in March to discuss.