AGENDA
I. Introductions
II. Chair Rotation For Federal Manager’s Committee
III. Federal Agency Activity for Southeast Region CESU’s
IV. Update National CESU Network-Tom Fish
V. Wrap Up
VI. Adjourn

Meeting Participants:
1. Doris Washington, USDA/NRCS
2. Gayle Hazelwood, NPS
3. Louise Hose, NPS
4. Juan Burgos, NPS
5. Carol Daniels, NPS
6. Ray Albright, NPS
7. Jack Mobley, DOD (USACE)
8. Linda Nelson, USACE, ERDC
9. Ben Smithhart, USACE, ERDC
10. Amanda Campbell, USACE, ERDC
11. Deanda Sontag, USACE, ERDC
12. Janet Scallions, USACE, ERDC
13. Glenn Rhett, USACE, ERDC
14. Peter Lasier, USGS
15. Wayne Zipperr, USDA Forest Service
16. Roger Zimmerman, NOAA Fisheries
17. Tom Fish, USDOI/CESU Network
18. Neil Moisey, University of Montana
19. Ashley Jordan, NPS/CESU-Graduate Student

Meeting Notes:
I. **Introductions** were made and the following federal agencies were represented: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); National Park Service (NPS), Department of Defense both Civil and Military (USACE and ERDC); U.S. Geological Service (USGS); USDA Forest Service, NOAA and the National CESU Network Office, Washington, DC;

II. **The chair rotation for the federal manager’s committee** was discussed. Clarification was provided by Tom Fish that each CESU implemented the federal manager’s committee independently. Some CESU’s had an official chair named others may only appoint someone when there is a need to have one such as the renewal of the joint venture agreement. CESU’s would continue to operate independently on the chair rotation for the federal manager’s committee.
III. **Project Reports were provided by each federal agency represented** on the activity for the Southeast Region CESU’s. There was a range of activity from many small agreements ranging from $10,000 to $25,000 to fewer agreements for larger amounts of funds. Each agency represented discussed the process for awarding agreements to the CESU’s. They also discussed types of agreements that were awarded, research, educational, and/or technical assistance. Most agencies represented belonged to all 17 CESU’s with the exception of DOD, USACE that belonged to 14.

The Federal Manager’s also discussed administrative processes for competition of awarding CESU Agreements, and authorities under which they could administer CESU Agreements based on research, education, and technical assistance.

IV. **Tom Fish Update National CESU Network:** Commended the good participation for this meeting. He mentioned that EPA and the Coast Guard both have expressed their interest in becoming federal members of the CESU Network.

How projects were solicited and competed was discussed further. Tom noted that there were still issues for establishing a national database for tracking agency information on CESU agreements. He is taking a look nationally to see where the dollars are being targeted, which projects they are in support of, and how many students are benefitting from the projects.

Standard Procedure for adding new members to CESU is also being evaluated to find a better method of voting on new members. Currently it is a unanimous decision needed to add a new member. Therefore if one member declines an organization for membership then they are not allowed to join. The evaluation is looking at process to include a super majority (2/3) vote that would allow a new member to join a CESU. This will support the concept of no limit on who can receive federal dollars.

Ashley Jordan was introduced. Ashley is a PhD CESU Fellow working with the National CESU Network in Washington, DC for the 2011 Fall Semester. She will be working on education and outreach projects for the National Network including fact sheets, brochures, and conference exhibits.

The Biannual National CESU Meeting will be held in June 2012 at Howard University. A save the date memo will be sent out as soon as the location at Howard University has been secured.

Tom will be holding a focus group session this afternoon to gain feedback from conference participants on what is going well and what is not in order to update the National CESU Strategic Plan developed in 1999.
Two renewals are to be completed in 2012, Gulf Coast and Great Lakes Northern Forest. The Great Basin CESU will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with Great Basin Consortium meeting early November in Reno, NV.

The National CESU Network wants to provide awareness of the CESU program to Minority Institutions, Tribal Institution, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities so they may consider joining one or more of the CESU’s.

A study of the cost for host universities to operate a CESU was presented. There is an effort being discussed on how to pay for the staff that provides administrative services, website design, etc for each CESU. More information will be coming on this from the National Network.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.