Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
October 25, 2011
St. Petersburg, Florida

This year’s annual business meeting was held in conjunction with the Southeast Regional CESU meeting – a joint meeting of the Piedmont-South Atlantic Coast CESU, Gulf Coast CESU, Southern Appalachians Mountain CESU, and South Florida-Caribbean CESU. This meeting was co-hosted by South Florida University.

Attendance:
Albright, Ray, National Park Service ray_albright@nps.gov
Auerbach, Mike, College of Charleston, auerbachmj@cofc.edu
Culin, Joe, Clemson University, jculin@clemson.edu
Daroub, Samira, University of Florida, sdaroub@ufl.edu
Doering, Travis, University of South Florida, tdoering@usf.edu
Doughty, David, Christopher Newport University, doughty@cnu.edu
Dvoracek, Doug, University of Georgia, dvoracek@uga.edu
Edelson, Naomi, National Wildlife Foundation edelsonn@nwf.org
Erlen, Christine, Duke University, cme13@duke.edu
Fowler, Sam, Auburn University, fowlesr@auburn.edu
Gustafson, Danny, The Citadel, danny.gustafson@citadel.edu
Jenkins, Chris, The Orianne Society, cjenkins@orrianesociety.org
Kupfer, John, University of South Carolina, kupfer@sc.edu
Lasier, Pete, US Geological Survey, plasier@usgs.gov
Lorenz, Jerry, Audubon, jlorenz@audubon.org
McCleary, Ann, University of West Georgia, amccleary@westga.edu
Roer, Bob, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, roer@uncw.edu
Sweeney, James, University of Georgia, jsweeney@warnell.uga.edu
Sweeney, Sheila, Retired NRCS & USFS, sheillasweeney@charter.net
Vogelsong, Hans, East Carolina University, vogelsongh@ecu.edu
Zipper, Wayne, USDA Forest Service, wzipper@fs.fed.us
**Welcome**

Jim Sweeney and welcomed participants to the annual business meeting and to St Petersburg and the University of South Florida, and reviewed the agenda (Attachment 1).

**Managers Committee Report**

Pete Lasier provided a brief summary of the federal managers committee meeting held prior to the business meeting. Minutes of that meeting are appended as Attachment 2.

**New Member Applications**

This year we had only one institution submit an application for membership – the College of Charleston. Jim Sweeney introduced their representative Dr. Michael Auerbach, Dean of the School of Math & Science. Dr. Auerbach gave an informative presentation on the College of Charleston and how it would be able to participate in the PSAC CESU.

Note: Following established procedures, voting will be conducted by email following the meeting.

We also had initial interest in membership from Columbus State University, but they ultimately chose to apply for membership in the Gulf Coast CESU.

**Year in Review**

Jim Sweeney provided an overview of the PSAC CESU activities. The overview presentation (in Microsoft PowerPoint format) is available on the CESU’s web site (http://psaccesu.uga.edu). Over the life of the PSAC CESU, we have received 253 awards from our federal agency members, providing more than $5.8 million in support of 187 projects. See the PSAC CESU web site for listings of past and current projects.

**Next Year’s Meeting**

Danny Gustafson, The Citadel, has graciously offered to host our next meeting in the fall of 2012 in Charleston, South Carolina.
Attachment 1 – Agenda

**PIEDMONT SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST CESU**
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

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**Annual Business Meeting**
**October 25, 2011**

**St. Petersburg, Florida**

4:00 Welcome / Introductions ......................... Jim Sweeney
Managers Committee Report ......................... Doris Washington
New Member Presentations .......................... Jim Sweeney
  • College of Charleston ......................... Mike Auerbach
  • Columbus State University
Year in review ......................................... Jim Sweeney
Next Year’s Annual Business Meeting ............. Jim Sweeney

6:00 Adjourn

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**Past meetings**

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<th>Host</th>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>St. Petersburg, FL</td>
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PSAC, Gulf, SoFl-Caribbean & So. Appalachian CESUs
FEDERAL MANAGER’S MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2011
SOUTHEAST REGION CESU MEETING
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

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. Deandna Sontag, USACE, ERDC
12. Janet Scallions, USACE, ERDC
13. Glenn Rhett, USACE, ERDC
14. Peter Lasier, USGS
15. Wayne Zipper, 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, ect for each CESU. More information will be coming on this from the National Network.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.