

SAMAB
Executive Committee Meeting - Conference Call
February 11, 2015

By Phone: Judy Francis-NCDENR, Tina Guinn-TVA, Tom Gilbert, Susan Schexnayder-UTK, Adam DeWitte-CFAIA, Alice Cohen-Cherokee NF, Rick Durbrow-EPA, Jeff Troutman-GSMNP, Jamie Herold-ORNL, Neil Giffen-ORNL, Suzanne Fisher-TVA, Scott Gain-USGS

Meeting Lead: Alice Cohen. Welcome Suzanne Fisher, new representative for TVA.

Approval of Minutes

All in favor of approval of minutes. None opposed.

Strategic Goals 2015-2020, Action Items:

1. Promote communication on key issues important to SAMAB members that are focused on sustainable decision making in the Southern Appalachians by leveraging efforts with others.
 - a. SAMAB members to send their various data sets to Ian for incorporation into the SAMAB Vitality Index- Judy
 - i. Data matrix received from Ian with NEMAC for S. Appalachian Assessment region. The VI work group will look for additional data sets.
 - ii. Conference call with Ian set for Feb 20.
 - iii. Discussion on target audiences- referenced outreach at the local level while making useful for agency use. Current example of National Forests in NC utilizing the WNC V.I. in their plan revision process. Discussion on the basic purposes of the SVI. This will be a 2-way tool, communities and agencies.
 - iv. Need to ascertain what the agencies need. Possible topics for agencies- recreation management, landslide data, etc. ORNL- open space, tax base, etc.
 - b. V. I. Work Group update - Rick, Judy
 - i. Leadership is changing in ALCC. Jean Brennan is now science coordinator for two-years. Cal DuBrock is temporary LCC Coordinator.
 1. **Action Item:** Alice will check in with regional Forest Service representatives for guidance.
 - ii. There's international emphasis on engaging communities through MAB. Reference new USDA document on Federal programs (Tom has).
 - iii. SAMAB can address engaging federal supporters, broadening the definition of sustainability and engaging the community.
 - c. Funding update- Susan
 - i. There's a contract being amended to fund Phase 2 and part of Phase 3 with NEMAC. Phase 2: \$5K, Phase 3: \$5K. Is there going to be potential funding for the rest of this project?

- ii. Phase 1 was getting data into the viewer to people can use the data. Phase 2 was doing analysis across datasets. Phase 3 is specific workshops.
 - iii. CFAIA is in the process of hiring a grant writer and will begin to talk to her about SAMAB projects in the subsequent months.
 - iv. Proposal to have a one-page document that focuses on SAMAB funding requests and details on projects. Recommendation to wait until geo-spatial tool is in place.
 - 1. **Action Item:** Judy can look into putting together a document for these purposes as time allows. WNCVI can provide examples to address all audiences.
 - d. Next steps in communication strategy – Alice
 - i. Gary was not able to attend the meeting, but sent a one-page document on various SAMAB projects, which can be used as a marketing tool and help reengage other partners.
 - 1. **Action Item:** Please begin using the flyer as a tool to educate these contacts on SAMAB. Alice will email Gary directly with any changes and updates.
 - ii. Re-engagement contacts list-
 - 1. Jason Love, Coweeta, was involved in WNCVI and now listening project. Good contact.
 - 2. Scott – may find a replacement from TN office to take his place. He may be able to offer financial support through CESU. Is CFAIA a member?
 - 3. **Action Item:** Adam will ask Carlton to address the group on his involvement with the CESU and will also report to Scott about other project involvement.
 - 4. Rick will engage other EPA staff in VI, may engage Region 3
 - 5. **Action Item:** Exec Committee please review and send Alice updates.
2. Promote information sharing and education about key issues with local governmental officials and individuals interested in promoting sustainability and land conservation.
 - a. DLIA All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory annual conference is March 19-21. This is an opportunity to share SAMAB’s strategy and SVI project.
 - i. All voted yes to send Alice to present on SAMAB’s current status and the SVI.
 - 1. **Action Item:** Alice will create a presentation with input from Judy and Rick.
 - 2. **Action Item:** The CFAIA will pay the registration fee (\$100). Tom offered his nearby home for lodging.
 - b. Pisgah Field School
 - i. Hired a part-time position in the Education Section who will work on PFS programs and logistics.

- ii. New partnership with the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute.
 - iii. Hosting a conference for NCAEEC at the Cradle on March 6.
3. Promote coordination among biosphere reserve units- Alice
- a. Follow-up discussion with Reserves on their plans and representation from their units scheduled for Feb 18.
 - i. Working with Sue McBean at Grandfather Mountain on coordination between reserves.
 - ii. Identified Barry Clinton to represent Coweeta.
 - iii. Coordinating with Sue to re-engage Mt Mitchell.
 - b. US MAB Committee formed; SAMAB involvement- Tom
 - i. US MAB Committee formed on 2/2/15. Conference call on the 18th on the next steps and forward progress.
 - ii. Deadline for comments on the international MAB strategy is March 9.
 - iii. Proposal to change the name from Biosphere Reserves to “Biosphere Regions” to address US issue with buffer zones.
 - iv. March 29-April 3 will have a conference on the MAB program.
 - v. Stan Boychuk, Canada MAB Chair, will present to GSMNP and community leaders on May 6, including success with community involvement. Boychuk will meet with the Cherokee Nation on May 7.
 - vi. Following discussion, Alice proposed the 3rd quarter SAMAB meeting to coincide with Boychuk’s presentation on May 6.
 - vii. We will stay in communication with the planning of the meeting on the 7th to include a SAMAB representative.
 - viii. Tom recommended SAMAB be represented on the National MAB committee.

SAMAB business:

- 1. Financial report- will be sent out when available.
- 2. More support for SAMAB through various agencies – send ideas to Alice
- 3. Additions to the Strategic Plan- send to Alice
- 4. Updates on Executive Committee contact list to Adam.
- 5. CFAIA purchased the SAMAB.org domain for the next five years for \$185.
- 6. Established monthly update calls-
 - a. 2nd Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30.

Other business

**Next meeting: Monthly update- Wednesday, March 11 via conference call.
Quarterly meeting- May 6, Gatlinburg.**

Meeting adjourned.