

**RM-CESU Executive Committee Meeting
Colorado State University, Fort Collins
April 19, 2006**

Committee Members Present:

Perry Brown, University of Montana, Committee Chair
Lisa Gerloff, University of Montana, RM-CESU Executive Coordinator
Terry Sharik, Utah State University
Adrian Leighton, Salish Kootenai College
Dave Roberts, Montana State University
Rollin Abernethy, University of Wyoming
Mike Manfredo, Colorado State University
Bob Brunswig, University of Northern Colorado
Mark Williams, University of Colorado, Boulder
Scott Davis, Bureau of Land Management
Jeff Lucero, Bureau of Reclamation
Christine Whitacre, National Park Service
Zack Bowen, U.S. Geological Survey
Brian Kent, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station

Others present:

Michael Quinn, University of Calgary
Leatha Frost, Bureau of Reclamation, Contracting Officer

Meeting Notes

Updates and Announcements:

FY05 Summary Report

Each Committee member received a copy of the Summary Report. If the committee member had more than 5 projects, their report also included information specific to their agency or institution (bottom p. 5) on project category (research, technical assistance, and education) and project discipline (natural, cultural, social, and interdisciplinary). Funds obligated through the RM-CESU agreement in FY05 include \$9,898, 054 for 174 projects of continuation of projects. Please see the report for details on projects and other CESU activities at

<http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/CESU/NEWCESU/Projects/default.htm> under "Download Documents"

What's new with the RM-CESU?- Executive Coordinator Report

- Current project activity of FY06: 45 projects for \$2.6 million
- RM-CESU Newsletter has been a very successful and appreciated product by both agency and university personnel (especially useful to graduate students). The newsletter is distributed the first of each month. Lisa Gerloff encourages partners to use the newsletter as another tool to distribute information (i.e. meetings, workshops, courses, announcements) from their institution or agency.

Updates from NPS on CESU activities

Christine Whitacre gave a PowerPoint presentation on NPS RM-CESU activity for both FY05 and current FY06. Her PowerPoint may be viewed at <http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/CESU/NEWCESU/Assets/Partner%20Activities/FY06%20Activities/April%20Exec%20Mtn/06%20April%20RMCESU%20Managers%20Meeting.pdf>

Highlights include:

- FY05: \$5.48 million for 132 projects (all partners got a project). 142 grad/undergrad students participated in projects.
- Current FY06: more than \$2 million in project funds have been obligated by April 06- substantially earlier than in previous years.

Christine also handed out a “Less Traditional” RM-CESU Expertise Directory, an unofficial, incomplete and somewhat random guide to university/college expertise within the RM-CESU, on less traditional CESU projects (i.e. high elevation archeology, occupational health monitoring, planning/conflict resolution). Christine asked the university partners to review the directory and if they identify any programs that would fall under this category that are missing to please send her updates. Lisa Gerloff will send out an electronic copy of this directory with the meeting notes. The directory will also be posted on the “Expertise” page of the web site.

Updates by other Partners

Bureau of Reclamation- Jeff Lucero brought up concerns about what the policies, procedures and guidelines in the 3/29/06 Department of Interior Departmental Manual as it refers to contracts, grants and cooperative agreements. Jeff will send an electronic copy of the manual to Lisa Gerloff to distribute to all the partners. Once the partners have had a chance to read through the manual, we will decide if the university partners need to take any action through Congressional contacts.

Utah State University- USU is going through several changes. The University has recently hired a new president and provost. And the College of Natural Resources has a new dean.

University of Northern Colorado- UNC has two new institutes through the School of Social Sciences Research Office: The Heritage Resource Management and Education Institute and the Community Development and Outreach Institute. For details on the institutes visit www.unco.edu/socialsciencesinstitutes

Presentation and Discussion Items

Membership Proposal from the University of Calgary

The written proposal requesting partnership by the University of Calgary (UofC) was distributed to all partners prior to the meeting. Dr. Michael Quinn from the Faculty of Environment Design and the Miistakis Institute at the UofC gave a PowerPoint Presentation (available to view at <http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/CESU/NEWCESU/Assets/Partner%20Activities/FY06%20Activities/April%20Exec%20Mtn/CESU%20Proposal.ppt>) highlighting what

UofC has to offer the RM-CESU partnership and then fielded question by the partners. Dr. Quinn was asked to step out of the room for the committee to discuss the proposal. Benefits of adding UofC as a partner included:

- transboundary issues
- Front Range issues
- energy similarities
- global issues
- opportunity to engage with other Canadian universities and Canadian Agencies

The committee voted to accept the University of Calgary as a partner. Dr. Quinn was brought back into the room and congratulated on a successful proposal. Lisa Gerloff will work with the National Network office to complete the amendment adding UofC as a RM-CESU partner.

Should the RM-CESU entertain a membership proposal from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) – handouts on OAH provided

Christine Whitacre reported that the Organization of American Historians (OAH) has shown interest in joining the RM-CESU. OAH was founded in 1907 and is the largest professional society dedicated to teaching and studying American history. OAH has more than 9,300 members (university and college professors, students, precollegiate teachers, archivists, museum curators, and public historians, and a variety of scholars employed in the government and private sector). Among the handouts that were given out were the constitution and by-laws of OAH, as well as its mission and profile statements.

Currently, OAH has a stand-alone cooperative agreement with NPS, through which NPS can access any OAH member. OAH helps broker projects by identifying needed history expertise within OAH, basically by providing NPS with a list of OAH historians who are experts on a particular history topic. Once NPS has selected an OAH historian, the agency then works with OAH on the scope of work; OAH also is involved in project review. Instead of using the current stand-alone cooperative agreement, OAH is now interested in working through the CESU to access NPS and other agencies.

The committee discussed OAH's interest in joining the RM-CESU.

David Roberts (MSU) made the motion: Professional organizations, societies and associations are not eligible for partnership in the RM-CESU at this time.

Rollin Abernethy (UWY) seconded the motion.

Eleven of the twelve members present voted to pass the motion. Christine Whitacre (NPS) abstained.

Reasons expressed by the committee over not entertaining proposals by professional organizations, societies and associations include:

- The RM-CESU is a university/federal agency partnership. Other organizations or members of the private sector may be brought into a project on an as-needed-basis through sub-contracts -- but not as a CESU partner.
- The OAH organization would receive the 17.5% overhead, even if the historians are connected to a university. As such, there was concern that this would raise issues about university rules regarding faculty conflict of interest and regulations regarding sponsored research.
- Other professional organizations and societies -- such as other history organizations, professional archeology societies, and some of the many environmental organizations -- may challenge the collaboration with one particular group.

2006 Work Plan

The following list is the approved Work Plan for FY06:

- Hold two Executive Committee meetings
- Hold a joint managers meeting with the Great Plains CESU
- Complete amendment of RM-CESU Agreement adding the University of Calgary as a partner institution
- Coordinate the 4th "Wilderness Stewardship in the Rockies" workshop. Topic: Minimum Tool- Planning to begin in FY06 and workshop to take place on FY07
- Complete the University of Northern Colorado expertise directory for the web site
- Complete the University of Calgary expertise directory for the web site
- Update all other partners expertise directory
- Work with the BLM to get its agency needs list completed and posted on the web site
- Work with the NRCS to get its agency needs list completed and posted on the web site
- Continue discussions with the folks on the Tehabi Program and other on internship options through the RM-CESU
- RM-CESU Monthly Newsletter
- FY06 Annual Report and Project List

Follow-up to catalogue of university distance education courses

At the RM-CESU Executive Committee meeting on October 26, 2005, the committee agreed to assemble a workgroup that would "analyze and conduct a needs assessment of all web courses from Rocky Mountain CESU universities. The workgroup was to determine what courses were available, what courses are needed, and what courses we might encourage to be developed by various universities.

Work Group: Alton Campbell (UI); Keith Blatner (WSU), Candice Miller (CUB), Adrian Leighton (SCK), Robert Schmidt (USU), and Lisa Gerloff (UMT)

- The work group created and updated the list of web courses offered by institutions in the CESU. This list will be updated several times a year. The list is located at

<http://www.forestry.umt.edu/research/CESU/NEWCESU/Postings/default.htm>
under “Postings: Trainings and Courses”

- The work group decided not to conduct on a needs assessment of web courses, as the Natural Resource Distance Ed Consortium has been planning to conduct a needs assessment on a national and international level because web education is much larger than our CESU.
- Possible next step suggested by the work group may be to collect all work dealing with educational and professional development needs assessment within the Rocky Mountain CESU. If this information is not available, work should be done to collect this information. This would be the rationale for future education-related programs and initiatives.

Executive committee decided to wait for the results of the needs assessment by the Natural Resource Distance Education Consortium before taking any further steps in this area.

Re-visit the topic of internships

Re-cap:

November 9-10, 2004: Federal/University Internship Workshop, Utah State University, Logan, UT. Agency and university representatives will come together in Logan to discuss how to improve internships for students interested in natural and cultural resources management and science.

Outcome: Proposal to RM-CESU Executive Committee to expand the Tehabi Program to meet the needs of all partners.

March 30, 2005: RM-CESU Winter Executive Committee Meeting. Review, discuss, and endorse/drop internship proposal submitted by the Tehabi Program at the Utah State University. **Executive Committee voted to drop the internship proposal by the Tehabi Program**

Surprise Side Outcomes:

- CSU sends students to Tehabi Program
- Erin Doherty-Ratay, Internship Coordinator at University of Colorado at Boulder, gives training module, “Enhance your Internship Program” at NPS Rocky Mountains Cluster meeting.

Tehabi Program update by Terry Sharik:

The Tehabi Program is at capacity. If the Tehabi Program is going to grow, it will need to have satellite locations (other CESU partners?) Should the Executive Committee re-visit CESU support for the Program (will it become a CESU Program)?

The Executive Committee has not questioned that Tehabi is a model internship program. Questions in regard to CESU involvement include:

1. What is the role of the CESU in the Program?

2. If multiple university partners become involved, what happens with the tuition- who gets it? This is important point as universities will have to justify the involvement of their faculty.

Are there other “CESU” internship activities the committee would like to consider such as developing a clearing house for internship programs to post on the web site?

Action Items:

1. The committee will further discuss the Tehabi Program and other internship activities at the fall meeting. Ben Baldwin, the coordinator for the Tehabi Program, will be invited to attend.
2. Lisa Gerloff will continue discussions over the summer with the folks on the Tehabi Program and other internship options through the RM-CESU.
3. We may hold another internship workshop in conjunction with the Fall Exec. meeting.

Joint Projects- ideas from partners

Mark Williams suggested that the RM-CESU partners may want collaborate to go after an Integrative Education Research Traineeship (IGERT). Funding is provided by NSF and the program supports 15 graduate students for 5 years in science, math, engineering, or technology. Learn more about IGERT at www.igert.org. Mark has agreed to provide a brief summary of his idea for an IGERT. Lisa Gerloff will distribute his summary to the partners and we will see what interests it generates.

Comments on RM/GP CESU Joint Managers Meeting held on April 18th

This year’s joint meeting concentrated on three themes: wildlife disease, drought, and tourism. The morning consisted of overview presentations on the themes followed by breakout sessions in the afternoon. The Executive Committee agreed the structure of the meeting was a successful way to get ideas from our partners. By focusing on a few areas of interests and holding breakout sessions, participants were better able to communicate information and ideas and generate potential projects. The committee did agree that participation (although not bad) could have been greater by both the university and agency partners and work must be done in the future to better get the word out.

Information on project ideas generated from the breakout sessions will be included in forthcoming notes from the Managers Meeting. These notes will be distributed to the participants and will be posted on the RM-CESU web site.

The Next Executive Committee Meeting

The National Park Service offered to host the next Executive Committee meeting. At this point we are looking into holding the meeting at the AMK Ranch in Teton National Park in late September/early October. Lisa Gerloff will keep the committee members informed as the location and time are confirmed.