Minutes of the March 8th, 2006 Teleconference of the Contacts of the Federal and Academic Partners of the SFC-CESU

Present (by phone)

Peter K. Swart (UM)  
Penny Ashwanden (FAU)  
Carol Daniels (NPS)  
Richard Dodge (NOVA)  
Jim Fourqurean (FIU)  
Steve Good (UVI)  
Naesser Idris (UVI)  
Jerry Lorenz (Audubon)  
Frank Mazzotti (UF)  
Jeremy Montague (Barry)  
Cindy Schulz (USFWS)  
Keith Taniguchi (USFWS)  
Robin White (USGS)  
John Yancy (NPS)

1- The meeting began at 13:00 March 8th, 2006. All attending members introduced themselves and Dr. Swart proceeded to give an overview of the SFC CESU for the benefit of new members and attendees.

Dr Swart informed the attendees that the CESU had been renewed and that FIU had been added as an academic partner, but that FAMU had failed to sign the renewal documents in the required time and therefore was not a signatory to the renewed cooperative agreement.

2- Dr Swart informed the callers that he had received four requests to join the CESU from two academic and two NGO institutions. For this reason he suggested that rules be adopted to govern the admission of new members. These rules had been circulated to participants in the conference call and they were adopted with two modifications.

Modification 1: It was proposed that all new members need to be nominated by at least one federal partner.

Modification 2: Clarification was requested of the last paragraph. The paragraph will be modified to reflect the fact that after an applicant is reviewed by the management committee, a recommendation for membership is forwarded by the management to the CESU partner institutions. Provided the management committee recommends membership of the organization in the CESU, a modification of the MOU will need to be signed and agreed upon by officials of the partner institutions and the federal agencies.
3- Dr. Swart informed the meeting that ACOE was in advanced stages of joining the SFC CESU. He then introduced the four requests for admission to the SFC CESU. He suggested that the first, the application of FAMU to rejoin the SFC CESU be dealt with on a fast track. This was agreed to by acclamation.

The merits of the other three applicants, Centro Agronomico Tropical, de Investigacion y Ensenanza (CATIE), Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), and The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) were discussed in brief. Instead of voting on the applications, their applications were referred to the upcoming meeting of the management committee. Prior to that meeting, Dr Swart will prepare a summary table of benefits which would result from the membership of these applicants. In addition those federal agencies who have interest in the admission of these three organization were asked to supply letters of support. Dr. Swart will send communication to the three organizations informing them of the course of action.

4- The location of the semi-annual meeting which has been held at RSMAS and FAU was discussed. Dr. Fourqurean volunteered to look into the possibility of holding the meeting at FIU. The beginning of November was suggested as potential time for the meeting.

5- Dr. Swart informed members of changes to the web site.

6- Dr. Swart requested that the federal partners provide UM with lists of awards so that these can be listed on the CESU web site. It was also noted that lists of publications should be made available to UM so that these can be listed on the CESU web site.

7- No other issues arising the meeting was concluded at 2:15 pm.