

## PNW CESU 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2014

9am - Noon

University of Washington, Bloedel 292

Attendees: Cheri Yost (National CESU), William Vagt (DOD), Mark Strom (NOAA), Dale Blahna (USFS), Christopher Watkins and Noller Herbert (NRCS), Glenn Rhett (USACE), Paul Heimowitz (USFWS), Carrie Phillips (USGS), Melinda Ritacco (USBR), Gordon Bradley (UW), Tom DeLuca (UW), Teresa Bresee (UW), Chris Lauver (UW/NPS), Anne Johansen (CWU), Kazuhiro Sonoda (Heritage University), Jherime Kellermann (OIT), Lisa Gaines (OSU), Mark Sytsma, Rachelle Richmond, and Tim Rinner (PSU), Barry Drazkowski (SMUMN), Matthew Carlson (UAA), Bruce Larson (UBC), Lisa Shipley (WSU).

### Host Updates

- Dr Gordon Bradley, Current PNW CESU Co-Leader, will be retiring December 2014.
- Dr Tom DeLuca, UW Director of the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, will be taking on the role of PNW CESU Co-Leader effective January 2015.
- PNW CESU Program Activity & FY14 was reviewed (Gordon Bradley, Chris Lauver, Teresa Bresee)
  - FY14 was the highest funded year yet with over \$11 million in total funding, with 58 new projects, and 63 modifications adding funding to existing projects.
  - Nine of our 11 federal agencies funded projects; 14 of our 18 university/state partners received funding.
- Watch for: FY01-FY14 Data reports by University and Agency will be sent to each partner for their reference.

### National CESU Updates (Cheri Yost)

#### Host support

- National CESU Council will be meeting on 11/14 to discuss the details of host support funding and will send out information soon.
- Host support funding will be approximately \$15,000 per CESU.
- The amount a federal agency pays is calculated by how many 'membership shares' they have, which is based on how many CESUs they belong to; each share is about \$1,600.
- Agencies which have recently joined a CESU will receive a waiver for part of their share cost.
- The length of time that the host support funding will remain at \$15,000 is still being discussed.
- Funding will probably be processed via a Technical Assistance Task Agreement project, and will likely have a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter due date for the agencies to submit their funds.
- The Host support funding item will likely be added to each CESU via the Renewal document (i.e., the Master Agreement) or via an Amendment.

#### Indirect Cost Rate (IDC)

- National CESU working group is meeting regularly and discussing the appropriate method for reviewing the IDC.
- If the rate changes, Amendments will be done for each CESU, or if the change is made in time it will be incorporated into the Master Agreement.

- This sort of amendment will need every partner's signature.

#### Total Direct Cost vs Modified Cost

- National CESU office will be setting a nation-wide policy.
- PNW CESU is the only CESU that has a unit-wide rule regarding this.

#### OMB

- The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has developed new Uniform Guidance for grants and agreements (to take circulars and move them into one uniform guidance document).
- New requirements go in to effect on December 26, 2014.
- These will override existing rules, and will streamline grants and agreements policies.
- DOI has requested from OMB an exemption on behalf of all CESU agencies to keep the current IDC 17.5% rate (or other existing rate if an agency has an IDC other than 17.5%).
- OMB language will likely be included in new Master Agreements.

#### Renewal Revisions

- Criteria for Renewal are being revised, the new Criteria will be sent out soon.
- CESU Council, which reviews and votes on renewing CESUs, are now applying a scale (excellent, full performance, satisfactory, unsatisfactory) to the renewing Unit, and may mention items to be improved upon.

#### Other Items

- National CESU Database is currently being populated by intern.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs has expressed interest in joining the Colorado Plateau CESU; they need to join the CESU National Council first. Tom has been discussing this with them.
- Adding new Member to CESU: both federal and university/state partners must review and vote on the addition of potential nonfederal members.
- Feedback: the National CESU would like to know of any issues or concerns regarding the use of the CESU, please contact Cheri Yost at Yost at [cheri\\_yost@nps.gov](mailto:cheri_yost@nps.gov)

#### PNW CESU Strategic Plan

- The current Strategic Plan's Goals and Objectives were reviewed in detail.
- Tech Reps will be deciding if the Plan should be ratified as is, or edited to add or change goals.
- PNW CESU Website may be updated next summer to improve the look and feel.
- Newsletters: PNW CESU e-Newsletter will be sent out in December. Teresa will be sending out focused summaries for potential inclusion in partners' newsletters.

#### PNW CESU Renewal

- Depending on the National CESU Council's working group progress, the IDC rate will either remain the same (17.5%) or adjusted somewhat for our new Master Agreement.
- USFS language will be changed slightly in the Renewal document; no objections were made to this. (see slide 30 of meeting power point for the USFS edits)
- Nonfederal Tech Reps will be soon asked to respond to an email, indicating if their organization wishes to remain a member of the PNW CESU.
- Tech Reps will be identifying their organization's signing authority for the Master Agreement (Renewal Document).

### Partner Updates

- NOAA is currently working on establishing a system and authority to process projects through the CESU network.
- Noller Herbert (NRCS): Recourse for project products that are not delivered? Touch base with Cheri Yost; also, NRCS has had some staff changes.
- Paul Heimowitz (USFS): USFS has a new Technical Rep, Simon Kihia, who will be introduced to the PNW CESU staff soon.
- Kazu (Heritage University) will be sending information to be forwarded to PNW CESU partners regarding their students' interests for a possible summer internship; could they team up on a project? Heritage has added an additional faculty member, and will be adding another soon; they've worked with federal agencies, but not through the CESU yet. Also, Yakima Nation is not currently a CESU partner – perhaps this should be looked into?
- New Technical Reps:
  - Oregon Institute of Technology – Jherime Kellermann
  - University of Alaska, Anchorage – Matthew Carlson
  - Washington State University – James Pratt
  - US Bureau of Reclamation – Lesa Stark

### Next Meetings

- Next PNW CESU Annual meeting - Spring or Fall of 2015