

# DRAFT

## Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) Issue Area Project and Resource Needs "Snap Shot"

*This Snap Shot is designed to collect brief information on the prospective projects and resource needs of the GSAA Issue Area Technical Teams to progress the GSAA Action Plan and Implementation Plan.*

### **Issue Area: Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters**

**Project Title: Support for establishment of a regional water quality monitoring workgroup to identify opportunities for standardization.**

**Action to be Addressed:** *CCOW3A: Establish a regional level monitoring workgroup to address compatibility among states.*

**Resources Needed:** Funding to support work group travel, meetings and general operational needs. Initial meeting at 2013 GSAA Annual Meeting if funding could be provided for travel.

**Expected Timescale:** Ongoing for up to 3 years.

### **Description**

Background: The CCOW IATT recognizes the importance of having comparable water quality data collection and reporting methodologies across the region. Forming a regional level monitoring workgroup to address water quality parameters and indices would support this goal. Based on the experience of the existing Watershed Improvement Working Group, it is recommended to have an initial face to face meeting with a newly formed work group prior to beginning work on this project. It is recommended to have this face to face meeting as part of the GSAA 2013 Annual Meeting.

Objectives: To form a regional level monitoring work group to accomplish CCOW Objective 3, embedded Action Items and Implementation Steps. Overarching goal would be to increase data comparability across the region by improving standardization of water quality data collection and reporting and increasing monitoring where needed.

Approach/Methods: Formation of the work group based on expertise and knowledge in all four states as it relates to this objective. Members would ideally be individuals involved in current efforts to coordinate water quality monitoring parameters and indices.

Initial face to face meeting would ideally be at the GSAA 2013 Annual Meeting. Additional funding would be needed to support meeting future travel and face to face work sessions. Scope of work will initially be developed by the CCOW IATT and

# DRAFT

adjusted as needed at the first in person meeting. Project scope will address needs identified in CCOW3 Action Items and Implementation Steps and identify potential regional collaborations and solutions.

## Potential Partners:

All NERRs in all four states

NOAA/CCEHBR

FL - Water Resources Monitoring Council

Look at National Coastal Assessment – potential new changes to indices.

FL DEP

NC DENR

GA (UGA, GCRC) (water quality monitoring indicators study)

SC DHEC