

Collaborative Model

Summary – Membership organization with simple leadership structure, ad-hoc workgroups on issues of mutual interest, and an annual southeast ocean and coastal conference to highlight and elevate priority issues.

Membership

- Open to all professionals from government, academia, non-profits, or the private sector who have an interest in collaborating on ocean and coastal issues at a regional scale in NC, SC, GA, or FL.
- Dues paying members have voting rights. Others interested in participating are affiliates who can participate in all activities, but do not vote.

Leadership

- One small executive committee/advisory committee/leadership team that includes
 - Current Chair, Chair-elect, and Immediate Past Chair (three year terms on executive committee, 1 year in each role)
 - Fiscal agent representative (permanent member)
- Chair-elect is elected by the membership annually and can be a representative from any dues-paying member organization
- Role – advise staff on the issues that should be presented before the full membership, make recommendations to membership on how to proceed with proposed issues

Meetings

- One formal business meeting of members and affiliates each year at which the membership votes on the priorities for the next conference and new ad-hoc workgroups, and receives updates from existing workgroups.
 - Organized by staff and executive committee and co-chaired by Current Chair and Chair-elect.
 - The business meeting itself should be formal and brief, but to promote networking it should be supplemented with receptions, lunches, dinners, and/or some kind of excursion.
- One annual southeast ocean and coastal conference on regional priorities that brings in expertise to share the state of knowledge, promote science to management linkages, and highlight critical needs.
 - Planning Committee includes staff and meeting sponsors and is organized by willing partners.
- Ad-hoc workgroups operate independently and meet according to their interests and availability.

Activities

- Throughout the year, members, affiliates, staff, and other interested parties contribute information on coastal and ocean issues of regional interest that would benefit from collaborative activity supported by the collaborative.
- All information and suggested issues will be shared in some way, such as
 - Shared via newsletters or webinars
 - Shared via direct engagement with individual members
 - Included on the agenda for the business meeting
- Issues included on the agenda for the business meeting can be considered for
 - Hand-off to an ad-hoc workgroup of willing partners
 - Inclusion as a priority issue for the conference
- Ad-hoc workgroups are volunteer, open to all interested partners, and can
 - Collect additional information as requested by the membership
 - Provide a forum for collaboration on projects
 - Explore shared data, research, or information needs on a specific issue
 - Explore shared management and policy needs on a specific issue

Workgroups exist and work independently, either organized by a willing partner, or for a limited number, by staff. They can pursue grants or work without them. Their function is flexible based on the interest of willing partners with available resources at the level of effort they choose.

Workgroups can be large (example – RPB), but the terms under which they are established are negotiated with interested partners. The collaborative adds value by providing an expanded base of potential partners and support for these initiatives in a common forum.

- Priority setting and sponsorship of an annual southeast ocean and coastal conference.

Funding

- Dues from member organizations – a minimum of \$1,000 cash donation or meeting sponsorship in the previous 12 months. In-kind contributions are welcome, but do not cover dues requirement for full membership.
- Grants pursued by staff and fiscal agent in coordination with willing partners
- Meeting registration fees

Budget Estimate

- Approximately \$70,000 for staff, travel, communications, meetings, and indirect costs.
 - \$50,000 for part-time contract staff, including all supplies and required technology infrastructure
 - \$8,500 for staff travel
 - \$1,795 (2016 prices) for basic communications services (does not include website content management service or server support)
 - \$5,000 for business meeting
 - \$4,707 indirect costs (SECOORA rates)