

# Council Monitoring and Assessment Workgroup 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan

## 1. Purpose

Following the RESTORE Council approved Council Monitoring and Adaptive Management Guidelines the Council Monitoring and Assessment Work Group (CMAWG) will continue to support the RESTORE Council in meeting its commitments to monitoring and adaptive management (MAM), and the use of Best Available Science. This group will continue to encourage compatibility of monitoring and data management procedures and serve as a forum for the Council to collectively address MAM topics relevant to multiple Council member agencies. The group will continue to support the individual Council member agencies, upon request, in meeting their MAM responsibilities. The CMAWG will continue to provide recommendations to the Council regarding MAM commitments, procedures, and guidelines.

This document represents the CMAWG's annual work plan for 2020-2021 and provides a description of the work group composition, priority and ongoing tasks, requested funding, and level of effort for the year.

## 2. Work Group Composition

The CMAWG consists of one primary and one alternate representative from each Council member (five states; six federal agencies). Council member agencies may also provide additional representatives to serve on topic-specific subgroups (restoration type monitoring standards, data management, etc.).

## 3. 2020-2021 Directives

### 3.1. Priority Tasks

The RESTORE Council will direct all activities of the CMAWG. The following activities are recommended for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021:

- a. Update Council Observational Data Plan & data management guidance to include the following:
  - i. Recommended monitoring guidance (metrics, parameters, protocols, QA/QC, data standards, etc.) for habitat, water quality, and mapping, and additional FPL 3 restoration techniques, as appropriate.
  - ii. Project/program award close-out monitoring and data management reporting guidance.
  - iii. Updated Observational Data Plan templates.
  - iv. Recommended guidance for data management and coordination activities.
- b. Observational Data Plan development workshop to facilitate updating the Observational Data Plan guidance (as described in 3.1a above).

- c. Using FPL 3a/b proposal information to identify beyond project-scale metrics/parameters and data gaps.
- d. Develop draft FY21-22 CMAWG Workplan.
- e. Begin discussions regarding programmatic data analysis, synthesis, and reporting methods (including templates).

### **3.2. Ongoing tasks**

- a. Assist Council member agencies, as requested, in meeting their MAM responsibilities.
- b. Continue to assess Council MAM priorities and make recommendations to the Steering Committee, as needed.
- c. Maintain the Gulf of Mexico Long-Term Monitoring Network Inventory database and webservices.
  - i. Maintain currency and accessibility of existing water quality, habitat mapping and monitoring inventory database and associated web interface(s).
  - ii. Continue to discuss areas for potential database enhancements.
- d. Continue external coordination on MAM topics, such as:
  - i. Engage with other restoration and science programs in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - ii. Develop processes and mechanisms to engage with programs and/or additional subject matter experts, as needed.
- e. Obtain feedback (and lessons learned) from Council member agencies on the use of MAM products.

## **4. Requested Funding**

### **4.1. Total Request**

Funding for CMAWG member participation and travel costs will be covered by individual Council member's Comprehensive Planning Support (CPS) funds, and covers approximately July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. All CPS awards extend through summer of 2022 (specific end dates vary). Annual workplans for CPS awards should include funding needed to cover these activities. An additional \$125,000 may be provided to DOC/NOAA via an amendment of their CPS award to maintain the Gulf of Mexico Long-Term Monitoring Network Inventory database and webservices (see 3.2.c).

### **4.2. Level of Effort**

Per Council Monitoring and Adaptive Management Guidelines, Council staff will provide the coordination and facilitation of CMAWG activities and work products. Details regarding CMAWG member level(s) of effort are provided below.

#### **4.2.1. All CMAWG Members**

- Participation in conference calls approximately every four weeks (1.5 hours), plus time for meeting preparation, to review draft work products, provide Council feedback, and resolve comments as needed to prepare workgroup products for the RESTORE Council.
- Travel to and participation in up to two in-person meetings (in total for the year) for more detailed discussions of guidance documents, and other topics.
- Provide input on Council MAM activities such as dataset availability, data aggregation approaches, and reporting options. Review all draft CMAWG MAM products.
- External MAM coordination support.

#### **4.2.2. Co-chairs (Federal and State)**

- Participation in calls with Council staff approximately every two weeks to assist Council staff in identifying Council MAM needs and next steps, plan meetings, and establish work group processes.
- Assist Council staff as needed in producing initial drafts of documents for review by the CMAWG.
- Coordinate with Council staff, and CMAWG co-chairs to finalize meeting and call agendas, schedule of deliverables, and timing of products to be created by the CMAWG.
- (State co-chair) Represent the five Gulf states and coordinate with them to voice respective State concerns, needs, and viewpoints (including providing early State input to the development of work group interim products).
- (Federal co-chair) Represent the six federal Council member agencies and coordinate with them to voice respective Federal concerns, needs, and viewpoints (including providing early Federal input to the development of work group interim products).