

Sea Grant Regional Meeting Report 2023

Content

INTRODUCTION	3
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	3
DAY OVERVIEWS	4
FIELD TRIPS	8
LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP ITEMS	8
SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS	9
NEXT STEPS	10
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	10
APPENDIX	11
APPENDIX A: AGENDA	11
APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS	13

Introduction

Since the last time the Gulf of America Sea Grant programs convened at a regional meeting five years ago, the Gulf states had experienced over 15 hurricanes, seven federal fisheries disasters, and a global pandemic. Each Gulf Sea Grant program responded to these events in unique and impactful ways using information that can and should be shared with stakeholders in each area. This meeting was proposed as a workshop to highlight some of these approaches and share resources on all of Sea Grant's (SG) focus areas: Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, Resilient Communities and Economies, and Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development.

To best reflect the existing and emerging needs of the various networks, this project started with the establishment of a planning committee with representation from all state programs and program areas. By including a range of perspectives in the planning process, the workshop leveraged the expertise of each state's research and stakeholder groups.

The meeting took place on February 7-9, 2023 at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park in Long Beach, MS. There were 79 faculty and staff from Texas Sea Grant (TSG), Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG), Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (MASGC), Florida Sea Grant (FSG), and the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) who traveled to participate in the three-day professional development opportunity. This document summarizes this event.

Goals and Objectives

An overarching goal of this meeting was to provide Sea Grant members with professional development and networking opportunities. Attendees shared novel methods of responding to disruptions, learned about ongoing liaison and network visioning efforts, and the meeting served as an opportunity to meet and build capacity across research, education, extension, legal, and communications.

The targeted goals of the workshop were to:

1. Communicate about the various perspectives related to regional topics and challenges associated with NSGO focus areas;
2. Network with one another to build community and collaborative relationships among the Gulf Sea Grant organizations;
3. Identify and assess funding opportunities that can address regional issues and identify potential partnerships within and external to the Gulf Sea Grant network
4. Create a more resilient, robust Gulf with the ability to regionally collaborate.

Day Overviews

Day 1

The first day of the meeting began with a welcome from the regional National Sea Grant Program Officer Kelly Samek followed by a Gulf Sea Grant Historical Collaboration Perspective provided by Sea Grant Directors Pam Plotkin and LaDon Swann. Next, each state program provided updates on what programs were working on. This set the stage for later breakouts and networking.

Additional afternoon sessions consisted of functional breakouts:

- Administration
- Communications
- Education
- Extension
- Legal
- Directors

Day 2

Over the next day, attendees continued to work in topical breakouts. Breakout groups worked on potential projects, gave presentations, and held collaboration building sessions each day of the meeting. The topics spanned a wide range of issues, including fisheries and resilience. The following are the summaries generated by each group.

Fisheries

Each state program gave updates on their priorities, chronic and emerging challenges, and approaches to addressing them. Issues discussed included:

- Commercial shrimping challenges,
- Oyster aquaculture collaboration across the Gulf,
- Fishermen safety training programs,
- Bycatch reduction devices and research,
- Seafood processing facilities,
- Charter fishing regulations and recreational fisheries programs,
- Hurricane and storm impacts to fisheries, and
- Fisheries stakeholder engagement.

Resilience

The resilience breakout group started with lightning round updates and discussed topical areas. The group made a list of points of contact for getting more involvement with regional efforts and opportunities. Emerging topics included:

- Infrastructure investment in water,
- Contaminant concerns,
- Community needs related to relocation and migration from the coast,
- Stormwater policies and their needs to change,
- Increased engagements with the weather service,
- Locally relevant National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data sets,
- Building code enforcement, and
- Preparing inland communities for coastal migration.

The group created smaller breakout groups focused on flooding and the Community Rating System, living shorelines and green infrastructure, Workforce/Economy/Relocation and Migration, and Water Quality.

Marine Debris

This team primarily focused on emerging issues and growing educational capacity. To that end, this group discussed:

- Shared resources including a Google Drive repository,
- The need for more collaboration,
- An overview of the planned marine debris session at Sea Grant Week,
- The Gulf of America Alliance (GOAA) marine debris cross team meeting, and
- How to submit ideas for future planning and collaboration.

In addition, one of the group members started a Sea Grant Marine Debris Community of Practice to continue collaboration and centralize existing resources.

Aquaculture

The aquaculture group had a round table discussion. They focused on areas of collaboration. They also created a list of needs across the Gulf, which included:

- Creation of a business model to make it profitable,
- Educating the public,
- Capital loans and business plans,
- NOAA funding,
- Training for hatcheries managers,
- Hiring of a regional specialist to focus on aquaculture,
- Access to more oyster seed,
- Research on the profitability of oyster hatcheries, both university funded and private

- Research on the numbers needed for hatcheries vs nurseries,
- Legal research to better understand seed transfer restrictions,
- Innovative ways to partner with traditional fisheries, and
- New funding for off bottom aquaculture.

eSeaGrant and Reporting

The eSeaGrant and Reporting group shared about how each program used reporting data. They discussed how not to increase the reporting burden, while better capturing Sea Grant impacts and accomplishments across the network. They also talked about the pros and cons of eSeaGrant and reporting in general.

Day 3

The final day included a panel on workforce development, a discussion of collaboration building based on conversations earlier in the meeting, and concluded with a session on intentional doing designed to have attendees thinking about next steps.

Collaboration Building and Intentional Doing Guided Conversations

Domestic Seafood Resilience

This group identified a need for regional recovery and pre-established plans before disasters occur by creating a Preparedness Team. They are also looking for funds to host community workshops. The workshops would ensure that farmers and fishers have effective record keeping protocols. There could be a uniform process of data collection in the form of an economic inventory. Another idea was to figure out how to rebuild relationships between fisheries and aquaculture, because they both have similar issues after disasters.

Currently, Sea Grant is partnering with local and state governments on these issues. FEMA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) could also make beneficial partners.

Aquaculture and Fisheries

A need in this area is to promote greater harmony across the seafood industry. Increased communication could be a solution. Sea Grant programs could develop programming to enhance communication, assess current perceptions, and address concerns. They could create new CoPs. There should be efforts to address misinformation in online forums like creating “Mythbust Mondays.”

This communications effort could also include creating a one pager explaining the differences between aquaculture and wild-caught and other related topics.

Some Sea Grant programs are partnering with state agencies, commercial fishers associations, and aquaculture associations. New partners could include organizations such as the Coastal Conservation Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Congressional aquaculture caucus, or seafood marketing organizations. Food suppliers and direct-to-consumer companies could be potential private industry partners.

Resiliency and Recovery

They discussed the economics of disasters and insurance issues as well as workforce development. They suggested trainings on insurance, disaster preparedness, and disaster aid. Resources could include factsheets and short videos.

Sea Grant programs offer general assistance and help with recovery efforts on the ground (providing ice, generators, etc.) as well as safety training. There should be more regular checks on materials. Preparedness meetings with Sea Grant, state and local, and fisheries groups and industry-based training could be beneficial. Current partners include state agencies, NOAA, and local communities. Potential partners include FEMA, USDA, Coast Guard, and community colleges.

Environmental Literacy

While environmental literacy is a focus area for all programs, the programs have different approaches to addressing it. Some programs—LSG and MASGC—have dedicated education teams, while others—FSG and TSG—fold their education efforts into their extension work. Regardless of approach, there was interest in creating a forum to create greater regional collaborations. This is further challenged by the fact that none of the Gulf states share state educational standards.

To address this lack of alignment, discussion focused on building an environmental literacy platform that would bring all these programs together under a unified approach. There was discussion about re-imaging a tool like the Ocean Literacy Principles, to focus exclusively on the Gulf, highlighting both its challenges and opportunities. In partnership with the GOAA, Sea Grant education partners are working to make this a reality.

Marine Debris and Microplastics

This group's discussion revolved around marine debris and microplastics. The Gulf Sea Grant Science Team partnered with the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) to work on Gulf marine debris information gaps. Work could be expanded to include fresh water and below-surface waters, also expanding to include non-peer reviewed data.

Much of this work can be achieved through leveraging partnerships. Work with state and federal agencies can be used to tell stories and increase environmental literacy or also turn into a Gulf Sea Grant website. There could also be coastal clean-up efforts which include water clean-up efforts. Future communication efforts could focus on seafood safety and risk communications to think about connections to safety for seafood/seafood consumption. There needs to be a way to communicate seafood consumption risks to humans to the seafood industry and the public.

Field Trips

The event also offered pre-meeting field trip offerings organized by Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant. Four options were available and included:

- Deer Island Oyster Park Visit
- Boat Tour of Biloxi Bay
- Resilience in Practice at the USM Marine Education Center
- Mississippi's Blue Tech Economy

Long-Term Follow-Up Items

As a result of this cross-team cross-program collaboration, participants came together to identify long-term follow-up items that were discussed among the groups. These included:

- Creating a Regional Aquaculture position,
- Increasing communications role in marketing research that Sea Grant funds,
- The challenges of aquaculture and fisheries operating separately, as related to
 - Increasing collaboration and joint funding opportunities and working more closely than in the past,
 - Ensuring there is not a competition structure between aquaculture and traditional wild caught products, and
 - Making the seafood industry resilient to various shocks like future unknown events.

- Infrastructure alignment across coastal sectors,
- Living shorelines and Green Infrastructure,
 - Navigating the differences between funding opportunities and the permitting process which can lead to delays in construction,
 - Applying to more than living shorelines,
 - The need for greater flexibility, and
 - Ways to tie this to other opportunities and connecting the funding opportunities with the on-ground projects.
- Education
 - Making topics understandable for students and the classrooms, and
 - Increasing environmental literacy through the conversations about the topics.
- Disaster needs for fishing industry
 - Funding issues related to fishing disaster declarations versus the Stafford Act, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds, and
 - Adding Cares Act funding from COVID.
- Spillway openings in the Northern Gulf,
 - Increasing coordinated spending plan instead of the current state by state method.
- Communicators and the role of oral history,
 - Documenting long term stories and repeated events.

Summary of Evaluations

Meeting participants were given a survey to sum up their impressions of the meeting. Some sample comments include:

- Meeting together in person was a good reminder about the various ways that the different Gulf programs address challenges.
- It was nice to have moments to talk at coffee breaks, with an unstructured format.
- I thought the field trips were well organized and highlighted unique aspects of sea grant outreach as well as emerging challenges.
- Being able to collaborate across programs and functional areas (e.g. communications, extension, education...)
- As a new extension agent (< 1 year), I benefited most from networking with other extension agents and specialists across the gulf to learn about their programming and state specific challenges.

Many attendees highlighted the value of networking and coming together in person. A detailed summary of the evaluations can be found in Appendix BJX.

Next Steps

Based on the results from feedback received during and after the meeting, such meetings are beneficial and desired among most Sea Grant professionals working in the Gulf. These meetings are beneficial for their networking, professional development, long-term planning, and collaboration building.

Issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure regular regional meetings include: funding to support regular meetings, looking to other Sea Grant regions to learn some of their best practices with the funding and planning of regional meetings and assembling another planning committee for the next conference. The key to successful implementation of regular regional meetings is to continue to receive the support of such meetings from State Sea Grant program leadership, the NOAA Sea Grant National Office and others.

Acknowledgements

The 2023 Gulf Sea Grant regional meeting planning committee members included:

- Niki Pace, Louisiana Sea Grant
- Dani Dilullo, Louisiana Sea Grant
- Steve Sempier, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- Tina Miller-Way, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- Loretta Leist, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- Savanna Barry, Florida Sea Grant
- Monica Wilson, Florida Sea Grant
- Ryan Smith, Florida Sea Grant
- Donielle Nardi, Florida Sea Grant
- Melissa Castleberry, Louisiana Sea Grant
- Debalina Sengupta, Texas Sea Grant

This meeting was made possible through funding and support from the National Sea Grant Office.

Appendix

Appendix A: Agenda

Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Regional Meeting

University of Southern Mississippi, Long Beach Campus – Hardy Hall
730 Beach Blvd E, Long Beach, MS 39560

Tuesday, February 7, 2023		
Morning	Optional: Field Trips	
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Welcome – Kelly Samek	HH Ballroom
1:45 – 2:15 pm	Gulf SG Historical Collaboration Perspective – Pam Plotkin	HH Ballroom
2:15 – 2:45 pm	State Program Updates	HH Ballroom
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Network Breakouts	
	• Administration – Loretta Leist	HH Lounge
	• Communications – Sara Carney	University Club
	• Education – Dani Dilullo and Tina Miller-Way	HH Rm 316
	• Extension – Maia McGuire and Rex Caffey	HH Ballroom
	• Legal – Thomas Ruppert	HH Lounge
	• Directors – Julie Lively	HH Rm 214
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Report Out	HH Ballroom
5:30 pm	Reception Dinner at Long Beach Pavilion (located outdoors on the beach at Beach Blvd E & S Cleveland Ave)	
Wednesday, February 8, 2023		
8:00 – 8:30 am	Coffee & Networking	
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome & Day Overview	HH Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Discussion · Emily Maung-Douglass · Savanna Barry · Sara Carney · Tina Miller-Way · Steve Sempier	HH Ballroom
10:00 – 10:30 am	Networking Break	

10:30 – 12:00 pm	Breakouts	
	• Fisheries – Laura Picariello	HH Ballroom
	• Resilience – Tracie Sempier	University Club
	• Marine Debris – Maia McGuire and Eric Sparks	Lloyd Hall Rm 304
	• Aquaculture – Laura Tiu	HH Rm 316
	• eSeaGrant & Reporting – Loretta Leist, Rodrigo Venegas and Katie Lea	HH Rm 214
12:00 – 1:15 pm	Lunch (provided)	HH Ballroom
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Report Outs from Morning Sessions	HH Ballroom
1:45 – 2:30 pm	Liaisons Update & Discussion · Liz McQuain – Community Science · Karen Bareford – Water Resources · LaDon Swann – Aquaculture	HH Ballroom
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Networking Break	
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Collaboration Building	HH Ballroom
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Tools Café	University Club
	Dinner (on your own)	
Thursday, February 9, 2023		
8:00 – 8:45 am	Coffee & Networking	
8:45 – 9:00 am	Welcome & Day Overview	HH Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Workforce Development · Joy Hazell · Evelyn Watts · Debalina Sengupta	HH Ballroom
10:00 – 10:15 am	Networking Break	
10:15 – 11:00 am	Collaboration Building	HH Ballroom
11:00 – 11:30 am	Intentional Doing Session	HH Ballroom
11:30 am	Adjourn	
Afternoon	Optional: Add-On Meetings	

Appendix B: Summary of Evaluations

- Meeting participants were given a survey to sum up their impressions of the meeting.
- Shows the questions and percentage of respondents who selected poor, fair, average, good, excellent for various parts of the meeting.
- N is the number of participants who answered each question.
- Also uses quotes from responses to open-ended questions like “What were the best things about the meeting?”

1. What was the primary reason you decided to attend this meeting?

- N = 39
- Network with Sea Grant colleagues **62%**
- Learn more about other state program activities and projects **38%**
- Receive national-level information **0%**
- Location **0%**
- Mandatory attendance **0%**
- Other **0%**

2. Please share your opinion on the quality of each agenda item.

	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent	N
Field Trips	0%	0%	8%	31%	62%	13
National SG Office Update	5%	8%	16%	46%	24%	37
State Program Updates	0%	5%	13%	54%	28%	39
Network Breakouts	0%	0%	10%	38%	51%	39
Welcome Reception at Long Beach Pavilion	3%	6%	8%	22%	61%	36
DEI Discussion	0%	3%	17%	36%	44%	36
Topical Breakout Sessions	0%	0%	10%	49%	41%	39
Liaisons Update & Discussion	0%	3%	14%	46%	38%	37
Collaboration Building	0%	3%	11%	37%	50%	38
Tools Café	4%	4%	24%	44%	24%	25
Workforce Development	4%	7%	21%	36%	32%	28
Collaboration Building	0%	6%	10%	48%	35%	31
Add-on Meetings	0%	0%	11%	56%	33%	18

3. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	N
I benefited from attending this meeting.	0%	0%	38%	62%	39
I will use information from this meeting to advance my Sea Grant work.	0%	3%	54%	44%	39
This meeting provided opportunities for collaboration building.	0%	0%	44%	56%	39
I wish to attend a future Gulf Sea Grant regional meeting such as this one.	0%	3%	31%	67%	39
This meeting provided opportunities for networking.	0%	0%	28%	72%	39
This meeting provided opportunities to coordinate proposal development.	0%	19%	41%	41%	37

4. What were the best things about the meeting?

- Being able to connect with so many different staff, efforts in one place.
- The opportunity for Sea Grant professionals from across the Gulf and across functional areas to come together for the first time in more than 8 years! It was good that the focus was on Sea Grant and Sea Grant was the exclusive audience since there was already much to cover and it facilitated more interaction and engagement across the four SG programs.
- Being able to connect with Sea Grant colleagues working on programs/projects with similar interests.
- Meeting new colleagues and seeing others I hadn't in a long time.
- Meeting/seeing colleagues from other SG programs and learning about their challenges and successes.
- Meeting colleagues in the region and learning what other programs are doing.
- Visiting SG folks from other states.
- Seeing everyone in person
- I thought the field trips were well organized and highlighted unique aspects of sea grant outreach as well as emerging challenges.
- Breakout and meeting people in the same field
- The venue, sufficient breaks, reception excellent
- Meeting colleagues from around the Gulf, both new people and those I already met
- Networking
- Camaraderie
- First, just meeting together again in person. It was good to hear/be reminded about the myriad ways that the different Gulf programs address challenges. Additionally, it was nice to have moments to talk at coffee breaks, with an unstructured format.
- Feeling like I was working as a team - sense of belonging that all coastal Sea Grant's were going through the same things.
- Area focused breakout sessions
- Location
- Inspirational stories of work done in region, food, meeting location
- Becoming familiar with the newer sea grant faculty across different programs.
- Hearing from and spending time with others in similar positions. Motivating atmosphere.
- Planning Tools
- Seeing how other programs operate
- Networking and brainstorming with other Sea Grant colleagues
- The breakout sessions were informative and collaborative.
- Return 'em Right presentation for communications/social media
- As a new extension agent (< 1 year), I benefited most from networking with other extension agents and specialists across the gulf to learn about their programming and state specific challenges
- Getting to connect with new sea grant folks and find commonalities in the work we're doing across the gulf
- Being able to collaborate across programs and functional areas (e.g. communications, extension, education...)
- Meeting people in person only seen on Zoom and side conversations about what we are all doing.

5. What could we have done to improve the meeting?

- I think for a "post"-pandemic reconnection meeting, this was great, but future meetings could be more highly structured to develop regional proposals for open or upcoming funding opportunities.
- Since every regional meeting (the three we have had) has been in Mississippi to date it may be nice to rotate to other locations too.
- More involvement/ engagement of attendees outside of the breakout groups. Keynote speakers from outside of Sea Grant where we can learn new tactics/ methods of working, team building, communicating from different industries.
- Clearer instructions on the topical breakout session.
- More coffee or water during breaks. Thanks.
- Location was very difficult to travel to. Great inn, beautiful place but not easy to coordinate travel.
- Maybe there could be a session to highlight unique research emerging or just completed from the different Gulf sea grant agencies.
- The meeting was great—no improvements are needed, in my opinion.
- Eliminate liaison talks
- Smaller breakout groups might be helpful. The fisheries and aquaculture groups were quite large, so it was challenging to have meaningful conversations that could lead to project collaboration or proposal development.
- Due to a medical problem, I have horrible anxiety. I struggled at breaks and did not attend the night time event. I would have like to have had eating places that were closer, but I get finances played a part in why the team chose Long Beach.
- Clarify breakout sessions - who should go where and what are their purposes. also, some facilitation at each breakout would have been helpful
- We were supposed to go on the fieldtrip and waited in the lobby and the shuttle left without anyone coming in to say it was here. Lots of miscommunication on that side. Also sometimes talking about how state programs are organized is so helpful unless they have suggestions as county agents vs specialists vs where all the faculty are located can be dramatically different and just learning about that makes you go huh but doesn't change anything? I would've liked to have a project or initiative that came out of the meet that we could've all devoted our brain power towards but folks are busy
- Florida Sea Grant has Work Action Groups that come up with specific initiatives. I wonder if these regional meetings would benefit from a similar approach rather than just providing opportunities for 'networking'.
- Estuarine Planning Tools
- Have constituents talk about their interactions with Sea Grant
- More opportunities for small group discussions (4-10 people) on brainstorming project ideas, unique solutions to roadblocks, etc
- Having presenters introduce who they were. The majority of attendees were newer to sea grant and presenters had a habit of saying "you already know these people" or "you already know how this works"

6. How often do you think we should gather for a regional meeting

Other (please specify)

N = 38

Once a Year	11%
Once every 18 Months	11%
Once every 2 years	68%
Other (please specify)	11%

Other:

- Every other year – in a non-SG Week Year
- 4 years
- For region to decide
- Either once per year, or once every 2 years.

7. What specific topics or activities would you recommend for future regional meetings?

- Professional development sessions including topics such as those in the academy since it is highly likely that the academy will not meet the national or regional needs in the near future due to level of turnover.
- Keynote Speakers each day outside of Sea Grant affiliations. More interactive team building activities.
- How to best leverage the efforts of each Sea Grant program and reduce duplicative work.
- Encourage participation of Seafood Specialists
- Let us not just share. Connect more effectively to collaborate on similar programs for the Gulf coast states
- Workforce development in more detail, opportunities for collaboration between states
- Meet with advisory committee, and visit site specific demonstration projects.
- A repository of tools, presentations, pictures across gulf programs. Maybe more meets among similar position types, extension agents, research professors, etc.
- Inshore Planning Tools
- Better outreach techniques.
- 508 overview (to let people other than comms people know what it is and what they can do to make their documents conformant).
- These were good topics. The networking time to just talk over projects and ask questions, etc. is incredibly

8. The most recent regional meetings have been for Sea Grant-affiliated staff only. Would you prefer that the meeting be open to non-Sea Grant affiliated participants?

N = 36

Yes	Maybe	No
14%	42%	44%

If yes, what amount of the meeting would you like non-Sea Grant affiliated attendee participation?

N = 20

- All of meeting open to Sea Grant staff and non-Sea Grant participants **10%**
- About half of the meeting open for all/half of the meeting for Sea Grant staff only **15%**
- Non-Sea Grant affiliated attendees participate in specific sessions **75%**

9. What best describes your job responsibilities? N = 38

- Administration **18%**
- Communications **11%**
- Education **16%**
- Extension **50%**
- Legal **5%**
- Research Coordination **0%**
- Other **0%**

10. Did you identify any collaborative activities during the workshop that were not captured during the meeting notes? If so, briefly describe.

- I have not read the meeting notes yet.
- Collaborations should be encouraged by every Director so that our stakeholders benefit from the expertise from other Sea Grant programs both in the Gulf and across the network.
- Gulf fisheries and aquaculture economists are getting fewer and nowhere to be found.
- Stony coral tissue loss disease. Sargassum management.
- Yes, and we are working on a grant application currently.
- Just talking one on one with colleagues is very valuable.

11. Other thoughts, comments, or suggestions about this meeting or future meetings?

- Thanks to the planning committee and especially Niki for leading the effort and Dani for keeping the effort moving forward too.
- Good networking.
- Niki did a great job. The food choice was excellent.
- Good meeting that should be continued.
- It is great to have a space that is mostly SG-only (a few specific sessions, tools café, etc. would be ok) so we can talk honestly about problems, etc. We have lots of meetings and we overlap with lots of others. Those don't provide the same exchange. A lot of outside groups, even NOAA, want to use this to reach all of SG at once, but we need that time on our own.