

*In attendance:*

[Tim Dorch \(TD\)](#)

[Jean Durosko \(JD\)](#)

[Bernie Gottholm \(BG\)](#)

[Mark Mohs \(MM\)](#)

[Vicki Schwantes \(VS\)](#)

[John Wickham \(JW\)](#)

NCCOS SILVER SPRING METRO CENTER EMS  
TEAM FY 2009 1ST-QUATERLY MEETING,  
DECEMBER 17, 2008, 10:-:11:00 A.M.  
SSMC4-8348

Agenda

- √ NOS Get's Green-er Contest
- √ NCCOS External EMS Audit
- √ Miscellaneous Items

√= covered; ⊗=not covered

Agenda item 1, The NOS Get's Greener Contest

The NOS AA recently conducted a Line Office-wide competition to award new ideas and projects that promote environmental "green" practices at work. The NOS Gets Green-er" contest awarded ideas in two categories 1) Best Green Tips to Implement at NOS and 2) Green Steward award (individual staff and group members), NCCOS submitted an entry for the group Green Stewart award (facility plastic bag recycling) and at least two NCCOS individuals submitted ideas for the best green tips to implement category. One of those was CSCOR's Vicki Schwantes (VS) who submitted eight suggestions. The review committee selected one of VS's suggestions as a winning entry. Her winning green tip was *"replace NOS knick knacks with things we can use. I often see mini plaques on stands and other NOS paraphernalia on people's desks. Rather than hand out useless items why not give reusable coffee mugs or water bottles with the NOAA/NOS emblem on them. This will reduce waste in so many ways."* Because of her ideas and winning tip VS was invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter EMS local facility meeting to discuss her wining tip and her other seven ideas. VS' other topics included composting, using copy paper in printers more than once, reusing plastic bags, reusing plastic containers, worm composting, promoting use of tap water by buying some recyclable water filters and recyclable report/document binders. VS showed a recyclable binder from the Coastal Services Center. The binder was made of brown cardboard without a plastic cover. It had a NOAA logo on the front and seemed to be able to do the job as well as the more durable plastic coated versions. BG mentioned the "Green Event Guide" as a source for additional ideas on utilizing recyclable office supplies.

Agenda item 2, the 2008 NCCOS External Audits

BG discussed the independent external NCCOS EMS audits conducted in November both on-site and by telephone covering all NCCOS facilities. The NCCOS facilities audited on-site were the Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research (CCFHR) in Beaufort, North Carolina; the Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research (CCEHBR) in Charleston, South Carolina and Oxford, Maryland; and the Center for Human Health Risk, Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina. The CCFHR Laboratory in Seldovia, Alaska and the NCCOS HQ were audited by telephone interviews. The final report from the contractor on the audit findings has not yet been released. External NCCOS facility audits are required every three years. Internal

NCCOS facility audits are scheduled yearly with NCCOS's last internal audit conducted in June of this year.

Agenda item 3, Miscellaneous Agenda Items

Additional topics covered:

- Planned removal of all personal desktop Dell printers (utilizing only the office printers) as the personal printers wear out and their toner cartridges are used up. This effort had been planned earlier but BG and MM wanted to make sure the IT staff was aware of it and not continuing to buy new personal desktop toner cartridges.
- MM mentioned that there are systems available that can shut down computer systems safely at night to save energy. VS mentioned new "smart (power) strips" that stop idle current flow. These power strips will turn off after they go idle and the user-defined time delay elapses. JD offered to see what NOS IT thought of the "smart strips" for employee use.
- It was mentioned that some employees have recently been complaining of air quality in SSMC4 although the facility has met air quality standards in the recent past.