

National NEMO Network

Volume 4, Issue 2

Summer 2002 Newsletter

Update

NEMO U2 a Huge Success!

NEMO U2, the second national conference of the National NEMO Network, was held on January 28-30 under the unseasonably sunny skies of Charleston, SC. The conference was sponsored by the Network Hub and the South Carolina NEMO Project (SC Sea Grant and Clemson CES), and hosted by the NOAA Coastal Services Center. The 65 attendees represented 19 Network projects from 21 states and territories, and a wide variety of organizations and agencies. Conference goers gave updates on their projects, which are evolving into an impressive array of educational efforts diverse in their educational approaches, geographic targets and topical areas.

The U2 crowd heard the latest from the Connecticut Hub, including an update from the Geospatial Extension Program

Rapt audience at NEMO U2 in Charleston, SC.



funded by NOAA and NASA. They also soaked up technical presentations from NEMO Network partners at the Center for Watershed Protection and the Coastal Services Center. Network members ratified a Charter setting forth philosophical and organizational principles to unite the affiliated projects. Members asked for more technical and topical training, and we responded by providing two training options for 2002 (see *Open Space Boot Camp*, this page, and *ISAT* in the *Resources* section).

NOAA announced a new grant program for the enhancement and development of coastal NEMO projects that will be administered by the CT Sea Grant Program. These funds were recently awarded, and resulted in the creation of a new Network project and the enhancement of five existing projects (see our *Around the Network* section).

More important, the participants of NEMO U2 got to know each other over the course of the 3 days, boosting the Network to a new level of collaboration. Look for the announcement of NEMO U3 in the next issue! ❄️ - John Rozum

Open Space Boot Camp

Traditionally, August is a time for sneaking away from home to seek open spaces, green pastures and restful vistas. However, a small but hardy subset of the NEMO Network is kicking off the August vacation season with a trip to Connecticut to be trained in educating local officials about open space planning and protection—thus helping to ensure that the spaces, pastures and vistas will still be there when we all need them.



The first NEMO Network **Open Space Boot Camp** is scheduled for August 5-6 at

UConn's marine campus in Groton, overlooking scenic Fisher's Island Sound. The Boot Camp is being supported by the EPA Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Division of Development, Community and Development (DCED), aka the "Smart Growth" Office. The training focuses on several of the core programs of the "conservation" side of the Connecticut NEMO natural resource-based planning educational package, which are also key to the local implementation of smart growth: *Open Space Planning, Conducting a Community Resource Inventory and Natural Resource-Based Planning for Watersheds*.

... continued on pg 4

In This Issue



Project Spotlight

Minnesota NEMO Projects



Around the Network

NOAA Grant Competition Results



Resources

ISAT, A New Geospatial Analysis Tool



Web News

NEMO Web Updates and Other Websites of Interest



Project Spotlight

Two Minnesota NEMO Programs Grapple with Suburban Growth

When thinking of Minnesota, one's thoughts naturally drift towards sparkling blue lakes, verdant forests, gleaming fields of snow and professional wrestling. But more and more, NEMO is entering into the minds of native Minnesotans, thanks to the efforts of two Minnesota NEMO programs. With one based in the rapidly growing Twin Cities and the other in the Lake Superior region, the programs are focused on stemming the NPS tide caused by urbanization by promoting good land use practices. And they don't need to wrestle their audience to get their message heard.

Heading the Twin Cities' Northland NEMO effort is Jay Michels, director of the Minnesota Erosion Control Association. Jay is a veteran of the state Pollution Control Agency and has many years of experience dealing with the natural resource issues coming from land use development. "I was attracted to NEMO primarily because its message is so balanced," observed Michels. "The concept is not anti- or pro-development, but is really all about making good choices when planning for the use of the land."

The Northland NEMO program is made up of more than a dozen project partners who help deliver the message in various regions of Minnesota and western Wisconsin (see yellow box). Through this "network" of statewide partnerships, the program can quickly address the needs and land use issues specific to individual communities. The partners also support Northland's efforts either financially or through in-kind donations of time and resources. "The idea of the partnerships is to bring together other regional, state and private natural

resource agencies and organizations to deliver a coherent and consistent message to the decision-makers and citizens of Minnesota," Michels points out.

"We have had overwhelming interest in this program from our target audience. It is all we can do to just keep up with the demand!"

- Jay Michels

Funding for this two-year-old project has come from two sources to-date: the Metropolitan Council, a regional planning agency to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, and the McKnight Foundation, a philanthropic foundation of the 3M Corporation. In April, Northland NEMO was awarded a Clean Water Act section 319 grant that will take the program from the pilot stage to an expanded focus area 150-miles around the Twin Cities. Funds from the 319 grant will also support a project coordinator and the development of a series of educational modules on topics from low impact development and reducing impervious surfaces to landscape design with native plants.

Northland NEMO Partners

[Minnesota Erosion Control Association](#)
[Metropolitan Council Environmental Services](#)
[Metropolitan Council Community Development Watershed Partners](#)
[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)
[Board of Water & Soil Resources](#)
[University of Minnesota Extension](#)
[University of Minnesota Water Resources Center](#)
[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)
[Minnesota Offices of Environmental Assistance](#)
[Minnesota Sea Grant Program](#)
[Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#)
[Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts](#)
[Rice Creek Watershed District](#)
[Lower Minnesota River Watershed District](#)
[Scott County Community Development](#)
[Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
[Minnehaha Creek Watershed District](#)
[St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team](#)
[Friends of the Mississippi River](#)

Minnesota is unique in that there are two efforts in the state carrying the NEMO banner. A sister project, headquartered in the Minnesota Sea Grant office in Duluth, focuses on the bi-state Lake Superior watershed, specializing on the unique issues of lakeside development. The Lake Superior Basin NEMO program is partially supported by NOAA's Coastal Community Development Program. "We work closely with our colleagues in Duluth," says Michels, "to both support and strengthen our individual programs." Both programs just finished a one-day retreat to lay out a strategy to coordinate their efforts. The Lake Superior Basin Group has been working diligently on programs for communities in the Duluth area, Grand Marais, MN and Bayfield and Ashland, WI. They are also taking a new tack with the NEMO message by working closely with the timber industry to determine the effects of timber harvest.

When looking towards the future, Michels' outlook is bright. "We have had overwhelming interest in this program from our target audience. It is all we can do to just keep up with the demand!" But the Minnesota projects are gearing up to meet this demand, and are tracking the success of their work along the way. Already the programs are starting to see changes to local plans and ordinances and requests for more follow up information. Momentum is building, and with the help of their partner organizations and the close collaboration between the programs, NEMO will help Minnesota retain its natural beauty without a fight.

For more information about the Northland NEMO project, contact Jay Michels (jmichels@skypoint.com). For information on the Lake Superior Basin NEMO program contact Cindy Hagley (chagley@d.umn.edu). ❄️ - John Rozum



Around the Network

NOAA Grant Competition Strengthens NEMO Programs Nationwide

In FY02, four branches of NOAA—the Coastal Programs Division, National Sea Grant College Program, National Estuarine Research Reserve System and Coastal Services Center—are pooling resources to create a competitive grants program in support of the National NEMO Network.

The goal of the new initiative is to enhance NOAA's efforts to assist local coastal land use decision makers to better protect coastal resources while accommodating economic growth. To that end, the specific objectives of this program are twofold:

1. To stimulate additional collaboration between four key NOAA programs focused on coastal resource management, and leverage additional resources from those programs to develop and enhance NEMO Network projects.
2. To strengthen the coastal capabilities of the NEMO Network by providing critical start-up and/or enhancement funding for selected high quality coastal NEMO projects.

The Request for Proposals was released January 28, 2002, with a submission deadline of March 15, 2002. Given that this was a completely new program, and that



the time line was tight, there was an excellent response: 15 proposals were received from 15 states. Approximately \$521,000 in funding was requested for the \$188,000 available. The goal of stimulating collaboration between the four NOAA programs was advanced considerably, even during this early phase of the initiative (blue box). Funded programs are outlined briefly below. Abstracts can also be viewed on the National NEMO

Website at:

nemo.uconn.edu/national/new.htm

Texas - To establish a Texas Coastal Watershed Center to serve as an avenue of information dissemination and technical assistance for local governments and citizen groups along the Texas Gulf Coast.

New Hampshire - To develop an extensive set of evaluation tools that will allow the Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (a member of the National NEMO Network) to track and document outcomes, impacts and successes of education programs for local land use decisions makers.

South Carolina - To develop highly accurate impervious surface coefficients for a wide variety of land uses in the three-county region surrounding Charleston, SC, to fuel SC NEMO educational programs.

Ohio - To forge new ties between several water quality programs currently operating within the Lake Erie Basin, and will also enhance the use of GIS in the Ohio NEMO program by developing local high accuracy data sets for land use and impervious surfaces.

New York - To expand NY NEMO's geographic coverage eastward, to include five Suffolk county high priority watersheds draining to Long Island Sound.

Maine - To expand Maine NEMO to statewide status, through the development of a professional train-the-trainer program for staff from partner agencies. 🌐

- John Rozum

Key Facts on the NOAA-NEMO Grants Program

- Collaborating NOAA Programs:
 - Coastal Programs Division
 - National Sea Grant College Program
 - National Estuarine Research Reserve
 - NOAA Coastal Services Center
- Grants administered by the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program
- \$521,000 requested for the \$188,000 available
- Proposals submitted from 15 states
- 11 "enhancement" (\$25,000 or less) and 4 "major" (\$25,000-\$75,000) proposals

Funded Projects

Major Project: Texas
Enhancements: New Hampshire, Ohio,
New York, South Carolina, Maine

Web News



NEMO Website Revisions

Never able to leave well enough alone, our website is undergoing yet another facelift. We redesigned, once again, our site for easier navigation, made some organizational changes, added new information and updated our Publications section. Many of these updates are on our website now—look for the new redesign some time early fall.

nemo.uconn.edu

NEMO's Reducing Runoff Site Announced

The Reducing Runoff section of the NEMO website was officially announced in June. The section is targeted to CT but has plenty of useful information for all. The site contains photographs, information sheets, case studies, links to manufacturers and more.

nemo.uconn.edu/reducing_runoff

NEMO Featured in NWQEP

Can't get enough information about NEMO? NC State University's NCSU Water Quality Group Newsletter, NWQEP NOTES, is featuring NEMO in its latest issue! The article focuses on the impacts of the CT NEMO program. The May 2002 publication can be accessed on the NWQEP website.

www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/wqg/issues/Notes_105.pdf

CLEAR Website

"The intent of the Center is to bring together expertise, data, education and technical tools to assist Connecticut communities in their land use planning." - Dan Civco, Director of CLEAR

To learn more about the University of Connecticut's New Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR) and how it applies to NEMO, visit the CLEAR website. clear.uconn.edu

ISAT Now Available

ISAT is now available online from the Coastal Services Center's website. For more information on ISAT, read our ISAT article on pg. 4, Resources section). www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/is/

-Kara Bonsack



Resources

ISAT, a New Geospatial Analysis Tool

The Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT), an extension to ArcView 3.x demonstrated at NEMO U2 in January, is now ready for primetime. The tool, developed jointly by NOAA's Coastal Services Center and the University of Connecticut, calculates the percent area of impervious surfaces in a watershed.

To operate ISAT requires watershed data, gridded land cover data and a set of land cover specific impervious surface coefficients. The program also can perform assessments of how future land use changes will affect watershed imperviousness, thus allowing the testing of various development scenarios. The accuracy of ISAT outputs is directly related to the quality of the impervious surface coefficients.

An October 24 - 25 workshop (hold the dates!) is being planned to train NEMO project staff in the use of ISAT and in the development of impervious surface coefficients. For more information, contact Sandy Prisløe, *Geospatial Extension Specialist*, UConn Cooperative Extension System or visit the GTP website at clear.uconn.edu/geospatial. To download ISAT, go to website www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/is/.

- Sandy Prisløe

Open Space Boot Camp continued from pg 1 . . .

The Boot Camp is a direct outgrowth of the NEMO U2 conference held in January. At the conference and in our follow-up web survey, strong interest was expressed in Network training on additional educational "modules" that could be added to the NEMO arsenal of presentations. There was particular interest in open space planning and preservation, which is a hot topic in much of the country.

The Boot Camp is an exciting milestone for the National NEMO Network in several ways. First, it constitutes the inaugural training session in what we feel sure will be an ongoing series (we are already planning our second training class, see above). Also, it is the first time that a federal agency has invested in the Network as a unique conduit that can turn federal dollars into local action in a way that cannot be easily duplicated. In August, with our new Smart Growth partners, we hope to prove the effectiveness of this model. Stay tuned for the thrilling Boot Camp post mortem in our next issue! - Chester Arnold

NEMO Named the Group of the Month

The NEMO program was named the Group of the Month for July 2002 by a Canadian water quality organization. The Water Information Network (H2infO) is a project founded in late 1999 by RiverSides Stewardship Alliance, the Toronto Environmental Alliance and the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy.

The project aims to improve municipal water quality, quantity and flow by fostering and supporting community-based programs and increasing civic participation in national, provincial and local efforts to control municipal non-point sources of water pollution. H2infO promotes the achievement of sustainable municipal, provincial and national policies and programs respecting urban water quality by empowering civic and community action through research, information dissemination and exchange, partnership building and representation.

Anyone ready for a Mapleleaf NEMO program? Visit the H2infO website and see the write-up on NEMO! www.h2info.org - John Rozum



We are retiring our trusty Network logo for a new and improved look. The new logo will be available via the web within the next few weeks. If you need a copy now, contact Kara at 860-345-4511 or email, kbonsack@canr.uconn.edu.

-Kara Bonsack

Events Calendar 2002

Open Space Boot Camp

August 5 & 6

Scoping Sessions

Colorado - September 17 - 19

Pennsylvania - October 1 & 2

ISAT Training

October 24 & 25

Interagency Work Group Meeting

December

NEMO U3

Coming May 2003

National NEMO Network

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The National NEMO Network Newsletter is published randomly by the National Network Hub and is used as an informational tool between network members.

The National NEMO Network is a group of affiliated projects that educate local land use decision makers about the relationship of land use to natural resource protection. The Network is coordinated by the University of Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Project, with funding from USDA, EPA and NOAA.

The National NEMO Network is a program of the UConn Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR).

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