***Present:*** Ursula Jones David Rowell

 Monique Royal Sabrina Johnson

 Marie Hoffpauer Todd Hall

 Cheryl Latif Tony Merrimen

 Catherine Kenney

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm Eastern Time, led by Dave Rowell. The following agenda items were discussed:

***Diversity Council Business:***

Dave Rowell will continue as Chair for the duration of Ursula’s tenure. Nominations are requested for Vice Chair. Nomination write-ups (interest and supervisor’s approval) should be submitted to Hope. Other Council vacancies are being identified.

**Ambassadors**– reported by Dave: An Ambassador Conference call was held this month, primarily to discuss replacement Ambassadors for Ursula and Joshua, and possible other additions. One possible nominee was mentioned on the call by Hope, subsequently emailed, but that person has not responded. Following the call Teresa Murphy was identified as possible replacement on generations (Council accepted the nomination). The only other business on the call was concerning activities: Delyne K. is going to do a presentation (webinar) on bullying but requested in wait until spring. The generational essay contest is going forward and will be announced in the first newsletter.

**Training Team** – Todd H. joined the call to report: The number of courses still being reviewed is 24. Each of them have been looked at, however, all of them need a cross-check. As most courses are about an hour in duration, it represents at least another 24 man hours among the team to complete. This should not take much longer however.

**Newsletter –** Reported by Dave and Tony Merriman: A name was selected – *Diversity Matters*, and the winners of the naming contest will be announced in the first issue, due out by the end of the month. Tony is putting all issues of the newsletter together, and Maria Krug has offered to help edit articles. Tony said all was ready to go; a draft prepared, but he was still waiting on articles from Hope and Laura. Ursula (Newsletter naming contest) and Dave (Essay contest) will draft Hope’s articles to speed things along. In the future, it is best to get things to Tony as early as possible. One item of discussion Tony brought forth was whether to keep the banner a single consistent color or change it with the seasons – change the color seasonally was decided upon. It was also decided to stick with quarterly issues as opposed to bi-annual; as long as we had enough content to do so.

**Recruiting and Retention –** Dave initiated discussion: Dave indicated he and Hope had spoken about the possibility of establishing a team or committee to look into barriers and solutions for recruiting and retention of the underrepresented groups in the NWS (specifically women, but other minority groups as well). Hope had indicated this is of great interest to her office and to Laura. Discussion about forming such a team was had, and the council decided it was worth pursuing. Hope had said previously she wanted specific goals established for such a team. Those and also the leadership for the team will be decided at a later date. At present council members were asked to help identify possible team members within and outside the council, and forward names to Dave to start a list of candidates.

**Council Goals –** Dave initiated discussion:Dave noted that he and Hope had also discussed the interest and need of having strategic goals set up for the upcoming council year. Council members were asked to consider what the group might want to accomplish and consider milestones in doing so for the next council call.

***Roundtable/activities:***

**HQ and Regional Reports –**

Dave (Chair) - reported that he and Hope had been working with the team to prep Laura for an upcoming WMO conference on gender and health and weather/climate in Geneva - in which Laura has a couple of key participatory roles. Hope will be traveling with Laura to the conference next month.

Sabrina (OEODM) – briefed the council on a shadow program she was leading whereby persons with disabilities from universities and elsewhere were identified to shadow NOAA/NWS employees in their jobs. Sabrina also reported that OEODM was working on strategic planning; and OEODM staff members recently attended a workshop to renew their EEO Counselor certifications.

Cheryl (ERH) – mentioned that Eastern Region was looking for sources of MBTI training (suggestions were offered: OEODM, NWSTC, etc…)

Marie (CRH) - Central Region is gearing up for MLK celebrations. They also are looking forward to the KC and LaCrosse Diversity workshops in April.

Todd (WRH) – in speaking for Western Region. Todd said he was working on a mentoring project for Cal State students. His office also has formed a committee to ferret out the latest met science research to share with students, facility and staff. An MSI workshop is scheduled for Nov 14.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014 at 2:30 pm ET.