

**VIMS-Industry Partnership Meeting**  
**February 18, 2011**  
**Notes**

Present: Bill Bean, John Brubaker, Doug Dwoyer, Ben Francisco, Dave Garver, Jim Golden, Al Haley, Troy Hartley, Steve Kaattari, Jen Kostyniuk, Jane Lopez, Dennis Manos, Dave Marcell, Michael McBath, Jason McDevitt, Mike Melo, Mark Patterson, Susan Patterson, Neil Rondorff, Leonard Sledge, Gregory Stringfield, Mark Todero, Mike Unger, Harry Wang, John Wells

Notes from our meetings and some presentations are posted at:

<http://www.wm.edu/offices/economicdevelopment/regionalprojects/chesapeakebay/vimsinduspartner/index.php>. The presentations from this meeting by Harry Wang (Storm Surge and Inundation Modeling), Ben Francisco (EM Solutions), Troy Hartley (Virginia Sea Grant Program), and Bill Bean (James City County Business and Technology Incubator) have all been posted at that link.

1. **Introductions**

- a. There were 25 attendees for this meeting.
- b. The group welcomed three first-time attendees: Al Haley (Retired – Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab), Mike Melo (ITA-International), and Dave Garver (Synovision).

2. **VIMS Update - John Wells**

- a. John reported that higher education was treated favorably in both the House and Senate versions of the biennial state budget. There were no additional cuts proposed for higher education.
  - i. VIMS has four faculty positions in the House version of the budget. The focus of this funding is on what VIMS can do to enhance economic opportunity.
  - ii. John also reported that the budget proposal includes operational funds for new buildings.
- b. John informed the group that the Secretary of Natural Resources is scheduled to visit VIMS on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. John stated that VIMS' main research building on the Eastern Shore was destroyed by fire on November 18, 2010, and a new seawater lab is under construction on the same site.

3. **James City County Business and Technology Incubator – Bill Bean**  
**([www.wm.edu/incubator](http://www.wm.edu/incubator))**

- a. Bill gave an overview of the James City County Business and Technology Incubator and the management agreement William & Mary's Technology and Business Center has to operate the incubator.
- b. Bill discussed the importance of economic gardening:
  - i. Nurtures the business process from ideas to actions
  - ii. Supports the development of startups, fledglings, and small companies
  - iii. Helps accelerate overall small business development

- iv. Supports local economic development to grow their own
- c. Bill identified early successes of the incubator such as the company Phenom being awarded a \$100K STTR from NASA.

4. **Storm Surge and Inundation Modeling for Nor'easter Event in the Chesapeake Bay and Super Regional Test Bed in the Gulf of Mexico – Harry Wang**

- a. Harry provided an update on the results of his model that was used during the November 2009 Nor'easter storm.
  - i. VIMS storm surge and inundation model has greater resolution than the SLOSH model. The VIMS model also makes predictions with 10% error versus 20% error using the SLOSH model.
- b. Harry discussed the Super Regional Test Bed that includes the Atlantic Ocean from Canada to South America and the Gulf of Mexico.
- c. Harry provided a funding update for the Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System (CIPS).
  - i. Three year funding from NOAA ended in December 2010. The CIPS team is looking for new funding sources to further enhance CIPS.

5. **Overview of EM Solutions – Ben Francisco ([www.emsolutionsinc.com](http://www.emsolutionsinc.com))**

- a. Ben Francisco provided an overview of EM Solutions.
  - i. EM Solutions has modeling and simulation expertise in operations research, simulation development, statistics, network engineering, information assurance, mathematics, meteorology, oceanography, engineering, physics, and biology.
  - ii. EM Solutions has developed capabilities to move biometric information across federal agencies. The company has also developed a high end decision support system for alternative energy and environmental related work.
- b. Ben stated that EM Solutions is open to discuss opportunities to leverage its computing system to look at patterns/clusters of data from large data sets.

6. **Virginia Sea Grant Program Request for Proposals – Troy Hartley ([www2.vims.edu/seagrant](http://www2.vims.edu/seagrant))**

- a. Troy Hartley discussed the open RFPs for the Virginia Sea Grant Program
  - i. Virginia/Maryland/Deleware Regional RFP – focus is on offshore energy development; land use decisions and water quality impacts; and socioeconomic processes and impacts
  - ii. Virginia Coastal Marine Science RFP – focus is on healthy coastal ecosystem; and safe and sustainable seafood
  - iii. Virginia Coastal Community Adaptation RFP – focus is on coastal community clients and partners
  - iv. Mid-Atlantic Sea Level Rise and Inundation – focus is on community vulnerability; and market/audience segmentation
- b. Troy also provided the group with information on the National Sea Grant SBIR program

## 7. Other

- a. ITA-International company overview given by Mike Melo ([www.ita-intl.com](http://www.ita-intl.com))
- b. Synovision company overview given by Dave Garver ([www.synovision.com](http://www.synovision.com))
- c. Neil Rondorff informed the group that the Oceans 2012 conference will be held in Virginia Beach in October 2012. Neil is on the conference Steering Committee. There are opportunities for posters, presentations, etc. Oceans 2012 is a large oceans related forum -  
[http://www.ieee.org/conferences\\_events/conferences/conferencedetails/index.html?ConfID=16373](http://www.ieee.org/conferences_events/conferences/conferencedetails/index.html?ConfID=16373).

**Next meeting – Friday, May 20, 2011; 10-noon; Room A/B, Watermen’s Hall, VIMS**