

**Mid-Atlantic Region Ecological Observatory: A NEON Planning Initiative
MAREO**

Meeting Announcement

NEON Domain 2 District Planning

**February 27 – March 1, 2006
Conservation and Research Center
The Smithsonian Institution, NZP
Front Royal, Virginia**

Organized by the MAREO Executive Committee:

Eric Nagy (<i>co-Leader</i>)	University of Virginia	enagy@virginia.edu
Francisco Dallmeier (<i>co-Leader</i>)	Smithsonian Institution	fdallmeier@simab.si.edu
Robert Gardner (<i>co-Leader</i>)	University of Maryland	gardner@al.umces.edu
Mike Bass	Mary Washington University	
R. Chris Jones	George Mason University	
Mark Luckenbach	Virginia Institute of Marine Science	
Brent Yarnal	Pennsylvania State University	
Mike Reiter	Delaware State University	
Mary Beth Adams	US Forest Service	
Anthony Overton	East Carolina University	
Andrea Weeks	George Mason University	
Patrick Megonigal	Smithsonian Institution	

Where, When, Who:

MAREO will hold an open meeting February 27 – March 1, 2006 in Front Royal Virginia at the Smithsonian NZP Conservation and Research Center (the same site as previous MAREO meetings). The meeting will open with dinner Monday January 27, and will adjourn after lunch Wednesday March 1. ***All NEON Domain 2 parties are invited to attend, regardless of "Region" affiliation.***

Why:

The purpose of the meeting is to start developing a NEON "Prospectus" for the NEON Mid Atlantic Domain (#2). At the COREO meeting in Michigan last November it was announced that NEON Inc. and NSF would request single "proposals" (= "Prospectuses") for NEON implementations (= "Districts") in each Domain. MAREO will work to develop a Domain 2 prospectus over the spring of 2006. To start this process we need to identify and organize one *or more* potential Districts within Domain 2. These will be composed of facilities that are seriously interested in, and qualified to, host a NEON "Site." Viable District scenarios will be included in a single MAREO Prospectus to NEON and NSF later in 2006. All facilities within Domain 2 that have NEON aspirations are invited to the meeting. Facility representatives must supply information beforehand to work with at the meeting. The meeting will be a hardworking workshop in which site representatives will self organize into potential Districts. A much more

detailed description of the process and preparation required will follow. But be prepared to do significant preparation *in advance* of the meeting. Only facilities who have submitted complete site information before the meeting will be included in the process. And, yes, facilities who can not send representatives to the meeting can participate in the process.

Please review the report by MAREO representatives, and the minutes from the November COREO meeting that are posted on the MAREO.org web site (left bar, under *MAREO Executive Committee Activity*) for current NEON parameters and nomenclature. You should also explore NEONInc.org and COREONEON.org for background.

Logistics:

Registration, agenda, costs, and logistics will follow shortly and will be posted at MAREO.org. COREO will cover 50% of on-site participant costs (room and board), but not travel.