January 17, 2013

US International Committee Conference Call:

Members present: Kristin, Chris, Tiffany, Kate, Jim, and Rinku

Kristin reviewed the Annual ILTER meeting that was held in Portugal. Several science initiative working groups met during the meeting, including Hideaki Shibata’s “Global N Project” and Patrick Bourgeron’s “Land Use/Global Change” groups. Jim Tang mentioned that members of the former will be meeting at Woods Hole to finish a manuscript in a few weeks.

The group discussed how to leverage the annual meeting and get more scientists there in order to launch more research initiatives. In particular, how can we get more US scientists to attend? Kate suggested that, when supplements become available, we ask PIs from several sites to write in an International Supplement to send scientists from their site to the annual meeting.

Tiffany reported on the US/Mexico Ecohydrology workshop. The group is interested to know if there is progress on the proposal or paper. Kristin will contact Bill to find out.

Rinku reported on EcoSummit 2012, where she, Patrick, and Bill presented. They will be submitting articles to a special issue of Journal of Ecological Processes in the near future.

The group discussed what new activities we should undertake this year. Projects that are already underway include

1. Two sessions at INTECOL 2012 in August – Phenology (Jim and Kristin), and Carbon Flux (Tiffany)
2. NSF Minisymposium: Celebrating 20th anniversary of ILTER

At ASM, Kate and Jim had talked about writing an RCN proposal to create an International Soil Carbon Research network. Kate floated this idea among other scientists and it was met enthusiastically. She wants to convene a group to collaborate on the proposal. Since Jim Gosz joined our meeting at ASM and described how his Complex Mountainous Terrain RCN has money for workshops to support proposal writing (at least this is what Kristin remembers), Kate will contact Jim with an idea for a soil organic carbon-oriented workshop. Jim, Kate, and Tiffany are going to move this forward. The idea was put forward to hold this workshop in conjunction with the annual ILTER meeting in Korea, to take advantage of the pool of people who attend that and to attract other ILTER scientists.

Kristin noted that it would be nice to have Canada be part of the ILTER again. Tiffany will send Kristin the email of one of the scientists she invited to ASM who works for the Natural Resources department up there, and Kristin will connect with him and gauge interest.

Tiffany is interested in getting contributions to the IPCC carbon database from ILTER researchers. She suggests that perhaps Scott could send out an encouraging email to the ILTER community on this matter, but isn’t ready to make this request yet.

Should we sponsor sessions at professional meetings to raise awareness of ILTER? The deadline for the Global Land Project meeting is Jan. 31, 2013. Rinku is submitting a symposium proposal related to socioecological concerns and hydrology, which is not specifically ILTER related. Patrick reports that the ILTER science committee is planning to submit a symposium proposal. Jim suggested that he and Kate submit a proposal focusing on Global Soil Carbon and ILTER research (or similar). They will focus on how land use change can mitigate climate change. They will try to link this symposium with a meeting related to developing the Soil Carbon RCN proposal.

Scott Collins has encouraged the committee to focus on Network to Network connections, particularly with networks that have funds. Jim Tang connected with CERN scientists at the ILTER meeting in Lisbon, and the Chinese would like to have several scientists from the US come visit China, and after that they would like to meet to discuss possible research projects. Money is needed to support such a trip. He may look in to the “NSF Catalyzing New International Collaborations” program.