5/27/2013: International Committee

Attending: Bill McDowell, Kristin Vanderbilt, Chris Madden, Jim Tang, Sieglinde Snapp, Kate Lajtha, Dave Hartnett, Patrick Bourgeron

Old Business: Jim Gosz RCN and soil OM: Kate will contact Jim Gosz again when she is done teaching to try to get support from his project to convene a SOM meeting

Should ILTER Committee apply for an RCN grant from NSF to support ILTER activities, including the paying of dues for the next few years? This suggestion was made by Saran Twombly. Several IC members felt that RCN isn’t appropriate, because RCN funds support new networks, not existing ones. They also tend to be thematic or have a unifying theme, like the Gosz Mountain RCN. A successful RCN should have a theme, but could use the ILTER Network of sites. **Action item**: Kristin and Patrick will have a conference call with an RCN program officer to find out what is possible.

Sieg asked: How was the Millennium Assessment Funded? No one knew, but it involved lots of meetings and conferences. Kristin will find out.

Could existing societies be sources of workshop funds? Sieg noted that Soil Science Soc. of America has money for workshops.

Dues of $10K will be paid this year via a supplement to SEV from NSF. In the past, support for dues paying came from Henry Gholz and Frances Li. Patrick is not sure how they secured those funds.

Science Council Meeting, March 2013: Bill reported about a working group addressing “What has the ILTER done?”, and “How do we make US participation in ILTER more evident?”

* Each LTER site needs a contact person to facilitate better targeted communication
* KBS = Sieg; NWT = Patrick
* **Action item**: Kristin and Bill will send an official email to PIs, reminding them of who is on Int’l Committee and asking who they would like to designate as the communication rep for their site

Evelyn Gaiser has suggested an article or special issue in BioScience highlighting ILTER accomplishments. Dave Hartnett supports this idea, and suggests doing something similar to the Knapp special issue on Long Term experiments in BioScience (see <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/bio.2012.62.issue-4>). An introductory paper could be written describing how US LTER has spawned regional networks, and then focus on the accomplishments within regions. So a SE-Asia paper would review the research highlights for that region on a particular theme (hydrology, for instance). Kate noted that these papers need to be broadly citeable, and that is what an editor will look for. Why could this be an important issue? Because it will emphasize that we can’t do ecology in the US in a vacuum, and we need to understand regional and global scale interactions. Also, a lot of ecological questions cannot be adequately addressed on a small scale.

Kate offered to call Editor of Bioscience to discuss. Dave suggested that we outline the content for the papers before doing this. **Action item:** Kristin will convene a subcommittee to discuss. Subcommittee: Kate, Kristin, Dave, Chris, and Patrick. Evelyn Gaiser will be invited, also.

Suggestions for papers are: 1) mountain network. 2) Hungary and SOM. 3)

How will we get input from those not on conference call?