

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
April 20, 2011; 11am - 1 p.m. EDT; Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 11am by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending: Nick Brokaw, Scott Collins, Hugh Ducklow, David Foster, Ted Gragson, Corinna Gries, Steve Hamilton, Dave McGuire, Bob Waide, Mark Williams; Unavailable: John Moore, Emily Stanley. Also attending: Nancy Huntly (NSF) through item 4.
2. Minutes for 23 March 2011 approved by consent.
3. Updates:
 - a. Transformative science narratives. About half the sites have narratives submitted, with promises for most others by the SC meeting. Reminders will be sent May 1.
 - b. LNO survey. The biannual LNO performance survey was distributed by the UNM Survey office (Amelia Murphy) earlier today. Survey results will be available for the May EB meeting.
 - c. Synthesis data initiative. The Synthesis Data Committee has met and is in the process of formalizing specifications for the request for information/proposals. Next steps are 1) to hire the consultant and submit requests for information and proposals and 2) to solicit pilot sites. The committee has developed criteria to help with selection of pilot sites and will make a recommendation to the EB following a call for volunteer sites.
 - d. Panel reviews review. Hugh Ducklow, Steve Hamilton, Bob Waide, and Phil Robertson volunteered to read through the 2010 panel summaries for common patterns and insights. The group will report at the lead PI meeting at Sapelo.
 - e. Spatial Data committee. The ad hoc Spatial Data Committee has been formed with Andrew Fountain as chair. Members are now being solicited as described in the last meeting minutes.
 - f. Future Scenarios proposal. David Foster reported that the Future Scenarios proposal was submitted to the Macrosystems Ecology program, focused on LTER forested landscapes as planned. There will be a breakout group for the SC meeting to plan for further extending the effort to other regions and sites and to engage additional partners.
 - g. The 30y review report was verbally delivered to the BIO/AC spring meeting. The written report is expected in May, perhaps in time for discussion at the SC meeting.
 - h. BioScience update. David Foster reports that drafts of all BioScience articles are now available and have been circulating among authors. Once this step is complete he expects to contact editor Tim Beardsley to begin the external review process.
4. NSF Report – Nancy Huntly
 - a. NSF Budget. NSF now has an FY11 budget but it will be several weeks before budgets are finalized at the program level.
 - b. The search for a new Division Director is now underway with an internal search committee formed and active. An external search committee for the Assistant Director for BIO has been formed and is presumably active, though opaque to program officers.

- c. The 30y review report verbally presented to BIO/AC was in general highly laudatory of LTER accomplishments and highlighted the importance of LTER in NSF's research portfolio. Co-chairs Alison Power and Tony Michaels reported that the committee expects to make specific recommendations in 2 areas: (1) Research and Research Management – a) data availability, b) scientific vision and direction, c) program management at NSF, d) leadership for network science initiatives; and (2) Education and Outreach – a) building workforce diversity, b) expansion of successful programs, and c) engaging stakeholders especially policy makers. NSF is hoping to have the written report in time to formulate the coming call for renewal/continuation proposals. EB discussion centered on social science research, policy outreach, and network science leadership.
5. All Scientist Meeting Planning
We will need to formulate a program and planning committee for the 2012 ASM, to be held September 11-13 in Estes Park. The committee will need to meet over the summer and be prepared to invite plenary speakers by September 1. Waide reviewed the makeup of the 2009 ASM Program Committee, co-chaired by Gus Shaver and Bob Waide. EB members are asked to send suggestions for chairs / co-chairs to Robertson in the next 2 weeks. The prior committee had 17 members representing major activity interests within the Network.
6. Lead PI Meeting
Nick Brokaw reviewed the draft program for the lead PI meeting at Sapelo and solicited comments. The plan is to randomly divide LPIs into 5 panels to lead discussion in specific areas: 1) proposals and site reviews, 2) research planning and personnel, 3) budgets, 4) communication, and 5) leadership. Panelists will be asked to share a few minutes of their own observations and experiences for specific topics within each area, leading into a broader discussion. Time constraints should make for a fast-moving meeting. Nancy Huntly will be present to share her observations; Henry Gholz was invited but unable to attend due to prior travel commitment but will be able to call in for specific portions. The program with assignments will be sent to lead PIs prior to the meeting.
7. IM Training
Corinna Gries presented a draft proposal (not yet distributed) to promote IM capacity within the Network by creating an IM training course for LTER investigators. The course is envisioned to be held at the Network office for a 1 week period next winter and cover IM fundamentals as well as advanced topics specific to LTER data. The potential for extending this to a web-based course available to a greater number and variety of participants was discussed. Further discussion was tabled until a written proposal could be reviewed.
8. Macrosystems Data Management
Bob Waide reported that 4 Macrosystem Ecology groups associated with LTER sites have signed the NSF-required agreement to have their data managed by sites for eventual curation in the Network Information System (see March 23 minutes). Another group will have data managed by NEON, and LNO IM staff will visit Boulder in coming weeks to discuss common IM strategies and coordination.
9. Committee Reports and Evaluation
Annual committee reports are now arriving and will require review at the May EB meeting. Robertson expects to assign each EB member a report to present to the group, together with recommendations for changes as suggested by the committees in their reports. We now have 10 standing and 4 ad hoc committees and will want to ensure that each is appropriately addressing SIP objectives and/or adjusting objectives accordingly.
10. Science Council Meeting – Sapelo
Robertson provided a draft business meeting agenda for the May SC meeting and discussion ensued. Major topics will be the 30y review outcome and SIP progress and reception at NSF. The NSF report will occur at the business meeting. Also discussed was location of the next SC meetings. A history of past site hosts was

reviewed, with the sites farthest from recent hosting including MCR, JRN (1993), CWT (1994), KNZ (1996), HFR (1996), and AND (1997). In the past order has been determined on basis of chronology, geography (in particular east and west), and site needs such as proposal writing. MCR has asked to pass for the next two years owing to proposal and mid-term review schedules. JRN will be asked to host in 2012 (SEV potential co-host) and MCR in 2014.

11. Upcoming meetings

- a. April 20 (Wed), 2011, 11am – 1pm (VTC)
- b. May 17 (Tues), 8am – 5 pm, Sapelo
May 18-19 (Wed, Thur), SC Meeting, Sapelo
May 20 (Fri), 8am – noon, Lead PI meeting, Sapelo
- c. June – Aug (VTC) - tbd

12. Active ad hoc committees

- a. Science council program committee – John Blair, chair
- b. Lead PI meeting program committee – Nick Brokaw and David Foster, co-chairs
- c. Synthesis data committee – Peter Groffman, chair
- d. Spatial data committee – Andrew Fountain, chair

13. Meeting adjourned 1:00 p.m.