

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
August 1, 2011; 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. EDT via conference call

Meeting called to order at 1pm by Chair Scott Collins; Members attending: Dan Childers, John Blair, Emory Boose, Nick Brokaw, Karen McGlathery, Emily Stanley, Steve Hamilton, Phil Robertson

Unavailable: Hugh Ducklow, David Foster, John Moore

Also attending from NSF: Nancy Huntly for Agenda Item #2.

1. Approval of the minutes from the 17 May 2011 and 2 July 2011 EB meetings – two minor edits and then approved
2. Report from NSF: No major news. Everything is really as positive as can be at this time. DD candidates started interviewing last week. 30-yr review final draft is out for final review and editing, and should arrive in the next few days. BIO Directorate has been asking for it for budgeting purposes. No news on the BIO AD, so at least they haven't lost all candidates, some positive rumors about a new AD soon. Process of award recommendations on-going, waiting on revised budgets, but most requests funded at the ask amount. Please remember that IACUC statements must be on hand before awards can be made. Missing permits will cause funding delays. OISE is interested in receiving proposals from LTER, but always discuss international activities with the appropriate POs in OISE before submitting. Myra McAuliffe is the LTER contact in OISE, and we should contact her with any questions or ideas. In general, LTER needs to do a better job in communicating with divisions other than DEB.
3. Organizing Committees and Chairs:
 - Minisymposium – Dan has been anointed as chair, send email.
 - Science Council – Need to get this group moving. They will work with Minisymposium committee. Co-Chairs are Karen McGlathery and Evelyn Gaiser. The format for the 2012 meeting will be similar to the 2011 meeting, with a half day lead PI meeting on the final day.
 - ASM – Committee members were selected and are to be notified via email by Collins
4. NAB Chair - Tony Janetos has agreed to serve as Chair of the NAB. He will develop a list of potential new members to invite onto the Board.
5. Synthesis Data Pilot Project Update – BNZ, SGS, CWT moving forward. Groffman's committee put together ideas; O'Brien, Henshaw, and Boose offered additional suggestions. UNM Purchasing has put developed a draft RFP that skips the RFI stage. Scott Collins and Peter Groffman reviewed draft. Peter has sent the draft to his subcommittee and the three sites to get final comments in prep for final revision. At that point we will move forward into an operational phase. Need to find out if NSF is still interested in this. A meeting has been scheduled at NSF for 30 August. Next phase requires energy, effort and money. Hope to have an RFP going out early Fall

2011. Executive Committee will give final go-ahead before issuing RFP by UNM for bids.

6. New LTER Network Website – Currently developing a scope of work and hiring a website designer. The current version is a schematic, not a design, for the landing page (<http://marsh2.lternet.edu/>). It shows the elements, not the final design. Content bins and buttons, welcoming info, etc. News and Events. Lots of work needs to be done to fill the bins with content. Comments: Decision makers vs policy professionals – need a bin for folks in management, government, NGOs, etc. This may end up as a catchall category perhaps. Suggested adding a button for LTER scientists. Send comments to Bob Waide.

7. Merging LNO Milestones with SIP: Prior process had LNO proposing milestones at the start of calendar year, and being evaluated at end of the year by the EB. However, the EB wanted more integration between LNO milestones and the SIP, where appropriate. This has been started by the addition of a column reflecting LNO responsibility and milestones for each SIP activity. This is likely to cause the EB to perhaps reduce and prioritize activities in the SIP to some extent, to highlight current priorities, while maintaining overall activities, as well as adding new ones in the future. We will rearrange the timing of the LNO evaluation by the EB to better coordinate with the LNO annual report to NSF, due in April each year, allowing for full discussion of LNO activities at the day-long May EB meeting. The Education Committee and the Children's Book group are also preparing material for the SIP.

8. Status of survey results. The person doing the survey is no longer working in ABQ, but in Roswell. Waide will meet with her soon to get the rest of the analyses completed. These include subset analyses by groups (IM, lead PI, grad, etc). Waide will have a short summary for next EB meeting or the one after that.

9. Key findings narratives - Sites are working to post them on their websites. Still need to get some narratives. 15 sites have full narratives (3 have some text but not all). 7 sites have not sent anything, 3 sites with partial submissions. Maybe go forward with list to NSF and let them deal with it as they want to. How will these be displayed on the new LTER website? Audience is Hill staffers and journalists. Cycle bullets at least on new LTER website.

10. Brief announcements:

ASM dates are 11-14 Sept 2012; need an SC dinner meeting
Minisymposium is 1 March 2012
SC meeting at Andrews week of 14 May