

MINUTES

LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Spring Coordinating Committee Meeting

H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, Oregon

April 24-25, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Gosz called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Caroline Bledsoe, Scott Collins, Heidi Dierssen, David Foster, Christine French, Bruce Hayden, John Hobbie, Laura Huenneke, Michael Klug, Alan Knapp, Johannes (Jean) Knops, Tim Kratz, William Lauenroth, Berry Lyons, Bruce Milne, Rudolf Nottrott, Emma Rossi, Tim Seastedt, Ray Smith, Patty Sprott, John Vande Castle, Bob Waide, Louise Williams, Robert Wharton and John Yarie

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS/STAFF

Jim Gosz introduced the following people:

Art McKee, Oregon State University, H.J. Anderson Forest Director

Paul Risser, Chairman of the National Advisory Board

John Helly, San Diego Supercomputer Center

Mike Collopy, Department of the Interior

Chris French, NSF Representative for International Programs

Patty Sprott, Network Office Publication Specialist

Louise Williams, Network Office Administrative Assistant

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Election of two and possibly three new Executive Committee members will be by secret ballot. The candidates are John Briggs, Indy Burke, Dave Coleman, Tim Kratz, Susan Stafford and Kristiina Vogt. In the event that Bob Waide is selected to be the Executive Director, the candidate who comes in third will be take Bob's place on the Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

There was discussion of how candidates Bob Waide and Phyllis Windle were selected. After the candidates have made their presentations, committee members will vote by secret ballot.

NSF REPORT

Scott Collins reported that NSF considers intersite research and non-LTER/ILTER issues to be important. While cross-site competition in research is not easy to accomplish, and international cross-site research is even more difficult, the concept of networks is crucial in conducting long-term research. LTER needs to

set priorities for regions to develop cross-site research. The Network Office needs to focus on becoming a true network. The Coordinating Committee and the Executive Committee should play active roles in personnel issues at high levels. The Network Office should foster cross-site synthesis. There are great implications for a broader LTER network, and the Executive Committee networking.

Scott Collins referred to the Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence (KDI) initiative and explained how the LTER sites can contribute to this initiative. Some of the features of the KDI initiative are the Learning and Intelligent Systems (LIS) initiative, the Knowledge Networking (KN) initiative, and New Challenges in Computation (NCC). A copy of the NSF draft prospectus for KDI is attached as Appendix A.

Scott emphasized the need for a cooperative agreement process between NSF and the Network Office whereby the NSF sets priorities and the Network Office can request changes. He also mentioned that there would be no supplement competition this year, due to a glitch in the budgeting process. NSF will continue to push data management issues. LTER is a producer of data, and the synthesis center in San Diego is a data consumer.

NETWORK INFORMATION SYSTEM

Susan Stafford spoke about the need to facilitate site and intersite access. Site autonomy and site specificity are very important, and there needs to be better integration between PIs and data managers. There is a conflict between the hypothesis of what the LTER system needs to address its scientific issues versus designing a system that can be utilized by a broad user base.

SAN DIEGO SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER (SDSC)-LTER STATUS

John Helly spoke about data management for ecological analysis and synthesis and the need to develop a coherent data management system, i.e., a digital library (card catalog) that focuses on how to find things versus a data repository that focuses on publications. The SDSC will work through the Network Office, the Coordinating Committee and the Executive Committee to foster cross-site research. Next year there will be a person at SDSC who will be dedicated to LTER Network needs.

SDSC MODELING REPORT

Mike Klug reported on simulation of the dynamics of ecological processes of regional scales associated with long-term ecological research sites. A copy of the slide presentation that accompanied Mike's talk is attached as Appendix B. The Coordinating Committee recommended that a subset of the sites be involved rather than the entire network.

PRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANDIDATE ROBERT WAIDE

Dr. Robert Waide was introduced by Jim Gosz. Dr. Waide spoke about his qualifications for the position of Executive Director, including being PI of the Luquillo LTER site and a member of the Coordinating Committee since 1988. His presentation included his vision for the future of the Network Office and the need to develop intersite and cross-site research. In order to accomplish this goal there needs to be more emphasis on all-scientist meetings that focus on cross-site based research. The issue of cross-site data compatibility needs to be addressed. Dr. Waide's handout is attached as Appendix C.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Questions asked included how Bob Waide and Jim Gosz would share responsibilities. Bob responded that the Executive Director would be responsible for the Network Office and would share ILTER activities with Jim. There was also discussion of how Bob would apportion his time between research and the LTER Network Office.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PRESENTATION

Mike Collopy, of USGS, represented DOI and discussed recent requests by some of the national parks to become LTER sites. While that cannot be done, collaboration between LTER and non-LTER sites is possible.

Secretary Babbitt wants to take advantage of existing data on DOI lands and interact with the LTER Network. DOI is interested in having BLM land considered as potential sites for LTER-like activities. There are opportunities for the DOI to interface with the Network Office, and DOI is interested in establishing interactive programs.

Other issues discussed were that the LTER network should be innovative in using DOI resources. However, there are problems with relative priority in working with the BLM since research sometimes has a low priority with the BLM. Each state has a separate BLM office, and some offices are easier to work with than others. Other agencies within DOI offer other opportunities, and Secretary Babbitt has an express interest in having National Parks interact with LTER-

The DOI is presently working on its FY 99 budget, and Secretary Babbitt wants to build science into management. That represents opportunities for LTER-

MODELING PROJECT

Warren Cohen discussed how the modeling project is working with NASA to collect data from 14 LTER sites in an attempt to separate global land types. This activity is a good example of how cross-site projects should be managed. Proposals are pending for additional development of this project. Interested people should contact Warren Cohen.

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Paul Risser, Chair of the National Advisory Board (NAB) announced that the NAB would offer assistance to the Network Office. Some recommendations from LTER to the NAB were to review the 1993 Risser Report to evaluate progress and reprioritize previous recommendations (e.g., 50 LTER sites); review merging of LMER with LTER, adding new sites (e.g., urban) versus strengthening existing sites; adding sites not funded by NSF; reviewing the value of augmented sites; and evaluating the role of other disciplines in LTER research.

There was discussion of the ten-year review and the need for better planning in order to avoid difficulties that arose in the ten-year review. The NAB is seen as a dispassionate reviewer of the NSF. The Executive Committee needs to tell the NAB what they want it to do. To that end, the Executive Committee will draw up a charge and mission for the NAB.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1997--8:00PM SESSION

CROSS-SITE AND COMPARATIVE RESEARCH

There was discussion of cross-site issues, including the need to compile a list of major system characteristics of the sites to provide a basis for new intersite comparison analyses. The Network Office will begin compiling information. It was the consensus of the committee that the LTER Network is committed to cross-site research and that the Network Office is charged with accomplishing this goal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1997, 8: 00 AM

PRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANDIDATE DR. PHYLLIS WINDLE

Dr. Windle was introduced by Jim Gosz. She spent the last 20 years in Washington, DC, working with the Office of Technical Assessment. Dr. Windle spoke about the direction of LTER and that she wants to define synthesis more broadly and integrate human social sciences, including the arts, into the mission of LTER. It is important for the Network Office to contribute to the solution of environmental problems. She views research as a service, and she spoke of the need to translate science so that policy makers could understand it. She suggested that there needs to be a greater consensus of where the Network Office is headed, and that the Executive Committee should consider having a retreat during which it could set goals and timelines. She also spoke of the need for cross-site research and the importance of answering questions accurately and promptly.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

There was discussion of the need for the Coordinating Committee to work more effectively with the Network Office. Dr. Windle suggested that Executive Committee members be assigned to sites to follow up and be sure things are done. There was also discussion of the configuration of Network Office personnel and how the LTER Network could assume a higher profile in Washington, DC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Executive Committee candidates John Briggs, Dave Coleman and Tim Kratz gave brief talks on their views of needs for the Executive Committee. Susan Stafford, Indy Burke and Kristiina Vogt were not present; however, Mark Harmon, Bill Lauenroth and Dave Foster made presentations on their qualifications. Jim Gosz asked for nominations from the floor; none were tendered. John Briggs, Tim Kratz and Indy Burke were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

LONG-TERM RESEARCH SPECIAL SESSION AT ESA

There was discussion of the special session that will be held with ESA in Albuquerque in August. Anticipated attendance is 100-400. The proceedings will be recorded and put on the LTER web page. LTER scientists and students are encouraged to participate.

ILTER REPORT

Jim Gosz reported on the mission statements of ILTER. The need for a North American regional network was discussed. It was also recommended that LTER continue to develop interactions with Central and Western Europe. Chris French spoke about having students become involved in ILTER and having the Network Office assist with ILTER activities. She also will plan a tour of U.S. students in Southeast Asia next year.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROSS-SITE RESEARCH

A motion to establish a standing committee on cross-site research was made, seconded and passed. It was recommended that the new Executive Director serve as the Chair. There will be further discussion of this motion at the August Executive Committee meeting in Albuquerque.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Patty Spratt reported that she can produce press packets, brochures for individual sites or whatever materials the site directors want. She keeps the LTER web page current and organized. A new Network Office brochure is being produced. The next newsletter will be published toward the end of 1997.

There was discussion about working with Oxford Publishers and the need for LTER volumes to have a consistent appearance.

The Executive Committee recommended that Dave Coleman serve as interim chair of the Publication Committee. It also recommended that John Magnuson and Phil Robertson be appointed to the Publication Committee and that Patty Sprott be appointed an ex-officio member.

FALL 1997 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The fall Executive and Coordinating Committee meetings and Workshop on Climate Variability and Ecological Response will be held at the Upham Victorian Hotel and Garden Cottages in downtown Santa Barbara October 19-26, 1997. Rates are \$90 for Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; \$130 for Friday and Saturday. This rate is based on single or double occupancy and includes a deluxe continental breakfast, afternoon refreshments and an evening snack. Rates are subject to a 10% bed tax. The Upham will reserve a block of rooms for us until 22 September; after that date, rooms will be offered based on availability.

A tentative schedule is as follows:

Sunday, Oct 19 Archaeoclimatology Workshop participants arrive

Monday, Oct 20 Archaeoclimatology Workshop. Format is 1-2 hour lecture,

Thursday, Oct 23 followed by remainder of the day on the computer.

Wednesday, Oct 22 Executive Committee arrives (dinner)

Thursday, Oct 23 Executive Committee meets (AM + ?)

Archaeoclimatology Workshop meets to summarize results Coordinating Committee arrives

Friday, Oct 24 Coordinating Committee Meeting (AM)

Climate Variability and Ecological Response (PM)

Archaeoclimatology workshop preliminary overview of results and summary

Selected site presentations

Palmer LTER presentations

Saturday, Oct 25 Coordinating Committee meeting and continuation of above as necessary

Sunday, Oct 26 Field trips and flyout

Field trips: NCEAS, UCSB, Wine country, UC reserves

GRADUATE STUDENT REPORT

Emma Rossi reported that 50-plus graduate students, including some Asian students, have registered for the August ESA meeting in Albuquerque. Since LTER will be conducting cross-site research, it is important to train graduate students who are interested in doing this work.

TWO-YEAR DATA AVAILABILITY DIRECTIVE

There was discussion about the two-year data availability directive and the need to establish minimum standards of accessibility. The type of data and the need for a protocol to address licensing agreements

(i.e., use agreements) are some of the things that need to be considered in attempting to comply with the intent of the two-year data availability directive.

SANTA FE INSTITUTE COURSE IN COMPUTATIONAL ECOLOGY

The Santa Fe Institute is interested in developing a computational ecology course for graduate students and post-docs. More information will be presented at the next meeting.

VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Two video productions, designed for the PBS series Nova, are in the pre-production stage. Their working titles are *Throwing Away the Parts* and *Math in Science*. A copy of the proposal for *Throwing Away the Parts* is attached as Appendix D. There was also discussion of possible production of an educational series entitled *Math in the Middle of Nature*. A copy of that proposal is attached as Appendix E.

DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Jim Gosz led a discussion about the Executive Director candidates. There was discussion about whether the ballots should be binding or the Executive Committee should make the final decision. The Committee agreed that the ballots would be binding and that in the event negotiations with the first-choice candidate fell through, a new search would be initiated. Bob Waide received a strong majority vote to be offered the position of Executive Director. Negotiations between Bob Waide and the University of New Mexico will begin in mid-May.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.