

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
December 13, 2007; 2:30-4:30 pm EST Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 2:30 by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending: Peter Groffman, Morgan Grove, Don Henshaw, Sarah Hobbie, Chuck Hopkinson, Sherri Johnson, Dan Reed, Bob Waide, Berry Lyons, Steve Pennings; Unavailable: Sally Holbrook; also present: James Brunt, Deb Peters (through item 4a)
2. Minutes for November 1, 2007, meeting approved by consent.
3. Information items
Robertson provided information on Bob Waide's research sabbatical (Dec 16-March 10); James Brunt's filling in for Bob during this period; the supplement request expected from NSF later this week; and the finalized minisymposium program for Feb 28 as organized by Steward Pickett, David Foster, and Terry Chapin.
4. Supplement Priorities for 2008
Discussion of Network-level supplement priorities for 2008. The rfp is likely to include the opportunity for network-level requests based on earlier discussions within the EB and further discussion with Henry Gholz; three potentials are apparent: EcoTrends, ASM 2009, and Decadal Planning Workshops.
 - a. As a follow-on to the November meeting Deb Peters provided further background on EcoTrends needs, and answered questions about the draft supplement proposal provided to the EB prior to the meeting. EcoTrends plans to request ca. \$116k: \$55k for salary and fringe for the postdoctoral coordinator, \$1.5k for travel, \$36k for a software specialist, and \$24k idc. This would provide a year of bridging support, with future science support from grants now being developed and future database support provided by LNO (supplement to existing proposal and the LNO 2009 renewal).
 - b. Expected ASM 2009 needs are \$440k total; spread over two years would require that \$220k be requested in this year's supplement with the same amount requested next year.
 - c. Support was also voiced for Decadal Planning workshops as another priority; this has already been transmitted to NSF and Robertson will follow-up with a plan.
5. LNO Issues
 - a. LNO Renewal Proposal. Robertson led a discussion about the EB's role in the renewal proposal process, and in particular the expectation that the proposal have EB endorsement. The EB has already had a hand in defining the scope of the proposal (approval of proposed activities, now revised based on fall EB discussions), and will need to formally approve the proposal prior to its March 30 submission. Probably this will take the form of a letter to be appended to the proposal. On the next EB meeting will be reviewing a draft of the proposed budget, which has already been discussed with NSF – with a large increase attributed mainly to Decadal Plan activities not seen to be out of line. At the February or March meetings the EB will formally endorse the final proposal.
 - b. Survey for 2008 LNO review and process. The 2008 LNO review survey is currently in revision based on comments from Chuck Hopkinson and Peter Groffman, charged last year with shepherding the process. After Bob completes the revision it will be polished by a professional survey firm as decided earlier, and be ready for distribution to select sites late January as a test, and then to all sites in February/March. Discussion ensued about the need for a 2008 survey – earlier we had decided to go to an every-other-year model; however Bylaws require an annual survey so we will be doing so this year. This will need to be

addressed via a Bylaws revision for subsequent years.

6. Decadal Plan (DP)
 - a. Robertson reported on late-November NSF visit, which included talks with Tom Baerwald, Alan Tessier, Phil Taylor, Roberta Marinelli, Penny Firth, David Lightfoot, Jarvis Moyers (acting AD for GEO), Sarah Ruth (GEO), as well as Dan Childers and Henry Gholz. Very positive outcomes, including suggestions for furthering SBE participation in DP activities.
 - b. Implementation plans
 - i. Ramp-up funding estimate. NSF has just requested ball-park figures for transitional Decadal Plan funding for Cyberinfrastructure and Social Science. Robertson charged two groups with putting together the estimate: a social science group comprised of Ted Gragson (coordinator), Morgan Grove, Scott Swinton, and Scott Collins, and a CI group comprised of Corinna Gries (coordinator), James Brunt, Barbara Benson, Don Henshaw, and Nicole Kaplan. These are due to NSF on Dec 21. Robertson will circulate drafts for EB feedback before submission.
 - ii. CI implementation plan. Based on discussion at an earlier EB meeting, Robertson has charged NISAC to develop a CI implementation plan. The requested due date is March 15.
 - iii. Education plan. The process to develop an implementation plan for education was discussed, including an initial fact-finding mission to NSF. Robertson plans to organize an NSF education visit for Jan-Feb in which a few LTER education reps can explore funding opportunities with EHR staff.
7. Other
 - a. Next meetings:
 - i. Spring VTC meetings to be arranged
 - ii. February 27-19 Washington DC
 - iii. May 6-9 Baltimore
 - b. Items for future agendas: Baltimore meeting Science agenda
8. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.