

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
November 1, 2007; Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 12:30 by Chair Phil Robertson; members present: Peter Groffman, Morgan Grove, Don Henshaw, Sarah Hobbie, Sally Holbrook, Chuck Hopkinson, Sherri Johnson, Dan Reed, Bob Waide; absent: Berry Lyons, Steve Pennings.
2. Minutes for October 4, 2007, meeting approved by consent.
3. Decadal Plan update
Robertson reported on October 18 presentation of the decadal plan to the NSF advisory committees for BIO (AC/BIO) and Environmental Research and Education (AC/ERE). The BIO presentation was largely perfunctory (10 minutes, limited discussion) but since it was BIO that commissioned the 20-year review and this plan is officially a response to that review, it was logical to present it to the committee in expectation that they would accept and pass along to the ERE for further attention. The ERE presentation was longer and generated a number of questions, as well as follow-on discussion later in the meeting. The ERE is considering an initiatives report for 2008, and having the decadal plan at hand should help to ensure its consideration in that development. Robertson will be scheduling follow-on meetings in November-December at NSF.
4. Supplement Priorities for 2008
Henry Gholz has asked for network input on supplemental funding priorities for 2008, and in particular for network-level recommendations. The EB identified 3 priority areas presuming that sLTER and REU are otherwise protected (as Henry has indicated):
 - a. Site supplements for general operations/equipment needs that are late-arriving and can't be easily covered otherwise; these have typically been on the order of \$25k.
 - b. Network workshops for decadal plan follow-up, in particular research planning.
 - c. Ecotrends support; Deb Peters has indicated a need for bridging support for 2008 (ca. \$100k), to follow on last year's allocation of \$250k. The EB supports this in concept but before providing a blanket endorsement would like to see more specific plans.Robertson will convey this to Henry and at the same time will request from Deb a written description of proposed plans and budget for consideration at the December EB meeting.
5. Videoconferencing services for multi-site training
Morgan Grove described efforts among social scientists at several sites to teach a for-credit course on social science methods for long-term research, to be based at University of Georgia. The group is requesting endorsement of the course and Network Office videoconferencing support. General enthusiasm for the concept and Bob Waide agreed to help provide the needed support (mainly access to video bridge technology).
6. Urban long-term research sites
Morgan described the ULTRA (Urban Long-term Research Areas) initiative now being planned by USFS. The aim is to establish an Urban Long Term Research Areas network with sites modeled on experimental forests to focus on long term changes and linkages between ecological and social systems. The initiative will likely be seeking a partnership with LTER, details yet unspecified, and 8-9 sites to be established next year. More details at <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/urban/ultra/>.
7. Other
 - a. Next meetings:
 - i. December 13, 2007; 2:30-5:00 ET
8. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.