

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
January 28, 2008; 2:00-4:00 pm EST Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 2:00 by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending: Peter Groffman, Don Henshaw, Sarah Hobbie, Sally Holbrook, Chuck Hopkinson, Sherri Johnson, Dan Reed, Bob Waide, Berry Lyons, Steve Pennings; Unavailable: Morgan Grove; also present: James Brunt
2. Minutes for December 13, 2007, meeting approved by consent with one revision (attached to agenda).
3. Information items
 - a. Science Council Planning for Baltimore. Planning committee has been formed and is developing a plan for the science portion of the meeting: Morgan Grove (chair), John Blair, Nick Brokaw, Scott Collins, Phil Robertson.
 - b. Decadal planning. A social science workshop is under discussion with Tom Baerwald, to be held sometime this spring at NSF's initiative; Chuck Redmond is point person for LTER. An education roundtable discussion is being set up for mid-February, with Andy Anderson, John Moore, and Ali Whitmer representing LTER.
 - c. Site survey status. The trial version has been sent to the survey consultants.
 - d. Microbial genomics survey will be undertaken to update the microbial ecology effort now some 10y out of date.
4. Supplement Proposals 2008

NSF has asked for EB endorsement of potential network level submissions for the 2008 call for supplements (Part D of the rfp). Candidates before the EB are 1) All-Scientist Meeting 2009 (50% of the expected cost, or \$250k), 2) Decadal Plan Science Design Workshops (\$100-200k), 3) Ecotrends bridging (\$116k), and 4) moving data harvesters from AND to LNO (\$15k). Substantial discussion resulted in the consensus decision to endorse the ASM proposal at \$250k; a DP Workshops proposal at \$100k (which would fund 2.5 workshops and we would use existing workshop funds to support a total of 4 workshops); Ecotrends bridging (\$116k); and moving the data harvesters (\$15k). The ASM proposal and DP Workshops proposal will need to be submitted by the LNO. Robertson will transmit endorsements to Henry Gholz.
5. LNO Renewal Proposal

Bob Waide presented the revised version of LNO activities together with the draft budget justification section for the proposal now under full development (distributed with agenda). Robertson reminded the EB that we are expected to weigh in with an endorsement of the proposal (both Bylaws and NSF expectations), and this will be on the February EB meeting agenda. Substantial discussion centered on budget magnitude and categories, and the potential need to break the budget request into 2 basic parts – A) on-going activities with an inflationary increase of ca. 15% (similar to recent site increases) and B) new, decadal plan activities. Consensus is to move forward with this plan pending further discussion with Henry Gholz. Some revision of the activities and budget will be presented to the EB for endorsement at the February meeting in Washington.
6. Other
 - a. next meetings
 1. Feb 27-28, 2008 (Washington)
 2. Mar 25, Tue, 2-4 pm EST
 3. Apr 15, Tue, 2:30 - 4:30 pm EST
 4. May 6 (EB), 7-8 (SC) - Baltimore
 - b. items for future agendas
7. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.