

Minutes of the LTER Science Council Business Meeting
May 8, 2008; 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm; Baltimore, MD

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Chair Phil Robertson.

Members attending: Merryl Alber (GCE)*, John Blair (KNZ)*, Barbara Bond (AND)*, Patrick Bourgeron (NWT & INT)*, Nick Brokaw (LUQ)*, Terry Chapin (BNZ)*, Scott Collins (SEV)*, Hugh Ducklow (PAL)*, David Foster (HFR)*, Ted Gragson (CWT)*, Corinna Gries (CAP, IM, and EB), Peter Groffman (HBR)*, Morgan Grove (BES & SOC), Evelyn Gaiser (FCE)*, Anne Giblin (PIE)*, Nancy Grimm (CAP)*, Amber Hardison (VCR & GRAD), John Hobbie (ARC)*, Gene Kelly (SGS)*, Alan Knapp (KNZ & PUB), John Kominoski (CWT), Karen McGlathery (VCR)*, Mark Ohman (CCE)*, Deb Peters (JRN)*, Steward Pickett (BES)*, Bill Provencher (NTL)*, Dan Reed (SBC)*, Russ Schmitt (MCR)*, Wade Sheldon (GCE & NISAC), Scott Swinton (KBS)*, Dave Tilman (CDR)*, Bob Waide (LNO).

Voting Members not present: MCM

Also Present: Karen Baker (CCE), David Carr (SBC), Dan Childers (NSF), Henry Gholz (NSF), Hugh Gladwin (FCE), Don Henshaw (AND & EB), Sarah Hobbie (CDR & EB), Monica Hubbard (AND), Gary Kofinas (ARC), Hunter Lenihan (MCR), John Maerz (CWT), John Vande Castle (LNO), Sally Holbrook (MCR & EB), Teresa Hollingsworth (BNZ), Steve Pennings (GCE & EB), Gus Shaver (ARC), Stephen Swallow (VCR), Curtis Monger (JRN), Abigail York (CAP).

2. Minutes for the May 19, 2007, meeting were approved by consent.

3. Election of Chair for 2009-2010

Dan Reed, chair of the EB ad hoc Nominating Committee, led the election for the 2009-2011 SC and EB chair (present chair stepped out for this part of meeting). Reed explained the process by which candidates were solicited and then described the voting process, which was by paper ballot. Phil Robertson was the only candidate on the ballot.

Action: Nominations were declared closed and Phil Robertson was elected unanimously for a second 2-year term as Chair of the Science Council and Executive Board, to begin June 2009.

4. Report from NSF

Henry Gholz and Dan Childers provided NSF updates. Gholz noted the outcome of the 2009 renewal panel, with 6 sites re-funded, including one probationary. All sites should have received by now informal notice of the status of 2008 supplement requests, which were in general funded at or close to the levels requested (close to \$3M total). He also noted a future need to document past results in requests to OISE and SBE supplement requests. Supplement opportunities in 2009 will probably be very limited as a result of what is likely to be a flat NSF budget and 2009 site renewals. Gholz also noted that Dan Childers will be rotating out of NSF later in May, and he (and the SC) thanked him for his outstanding service. Todd Crowl (LUQ) will be an incoming rotator in June. Gholz noted the importance of identifying highly qualified rotators for future positions as well as currently open permanent positions at the Foundation. Gholz also commented briefly on discussions between NSF and the Forest Service to partner on up to 9 new urban LTER sites (the USFS proposed ULTRA network).

* Voting member

EB = Executive Board; PUB = Publications Committee; SOC = Social Science Committee; IM = Information Management Committee; INT= International Committee; GRAD = Graduate Student Committee

5. Bylaw Changes

Robertson led the discussion and adoption of proposed changes to Network Bylaws, unchanged since major revisions were adopted in May 2006. Changes presently under consideration are proposed by the EB and were initially circulated to SC members in early April (attached to these minutes). Robertson described each change and its underlying rationale. During discussion one amendment to the proposed changes was adopted by unanimous consent (the addition of “or his or her designate” in Article IV, Section 2).

Action: David Tilman moved that the changes be accepted in toto, Nancy Grimm supported, and the motion passed 25-0.

6. LNO Report

Bob Waide presented highlights from the Network Office (LNO) Annual Report for 2007-2008, distributed prior to the meeting. He also noted that the LNO renewal proposal was submitted this past spring, and will be site-reviewed this fall for potential funding in 2009. Robertson noted the EB’s role in the development of the proposal, including approval of major activities and budget priorities. Waide provided an overview of the results of the annual site survey and took questions.

7. EB Report

Robertson reported on general activities of the Executive Board, noting meeting frequencies and availability of minutes. He also noted that the EB is responding to recommendations from the NAB (report distributed earlier). He also thanked outgoing members Morgan Grove (BES), Don Henshaw (IM), Chuck Hopkinson (PIE), and Sherri Johnson (AND), who are rotating off of the EB after this meeting, and welcomed incoming members Ted Gragson (CWT), Corinna Gries (IM), Dave McGuire (BNZ), and Mark Williams (NWT).

8. 2009 Minisymposium

Noting that the SC sets the theme for mini-symposiums, Robertson opened the call for nominations. A number of potentials were offered and discussed, including Connectivity (following from the upcoming special issue of *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*), Climate Change and Sustainability, Education, Cyberinfrastructure (especially the integration of socio-ecological data), and LTER contributions to ecological theory, concepts, and ideas.

Action: By unanimous consent the SC delegated authority to the EB to determine the theme and the program committee for the mini-symposium.

9. 2009 and 2011 SC Meetings

The 2009 SC meeting will be hosted by CCE, with a date in May to be set by email polling once hotel and meeting room potentials are defined later this month. The theme for the meeting will follow from the connectivity special issue.

Action: By unanimous consent Peter Groffman was nominated and agreed to chair the committee to develop the 2009 SC program, and in consultation with the EB will draw the committee from contributors to the special issue.

The Science Council agreed that the 2011 SC meeting will be in Moorea, and that sites will cover one airfare from each site for the second representative to that meeting.

10. ULTRA Discussion

Morgan Grove provided an update on the Forest Service’s proposed ULTRA network. Under consideration is FY09 funding to initiate research at up to 9 urban sites, potentially in partnership with NSF. Newly noted was the Forest Service’s dropping the expectation that sites will be predetermined; earlier in the meeting

Henry Gholz had commented that site predetermination was a non-starter at NSF, which was a concern expressed earlier to NSF by the EB. Grove and Robertson took questions; a spirited discussion ensued, followed by final comments and general consensus that the Network welcomes this outstanding opportunity to expand LTER science, particularly in light of its embrace of decadal plan science themes.

11. Issues Arising

Robertson opened the floor for additional comments and discussion. Two issues came forward: 1) a suggestion that one SC meeting per year may be insufficient to maintain forward momentum with Network science initiatives. There was consensus that the EB should consider the potential for adding meetings during those years without an ASM. 2) a suggestion that we work to consolidate and improve connections to NEON as it takes form over the coming year and in particular to determine if the ISSE framework, scenario development, or connectivity science might be the best way to do that.

12. Recognition and thanks

Robertson led the SC in thanking the following members for their recent outstanding service to the Network:

- 1) Outgoing EB members Morgan Grove, Don Henshaw, Chuck Hopkinson, and Sherri Johnson, who were also presented with a token of Network appreciation by Bob Waide for their 3 years of Executive Board service;
- 2) the 2008 Minisymposium Organizing Committee David Foster, Steward Pickett, and Terry Chapin;
- 3) the 2008 SC Science Meeting Organizing Committee chair Morgan Grove and members John Blair, Nick Brokaw, and Scott Collins; and
- 4) the 2008 SC Meeting Local Organizers Steward Pickett, Peter Groffman, Morgan Grove & the many other BES staff and investigators who contributed to the meeting's success.

13. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.