

Minutes of the LTER Science Council Business Meeting  
May 14, 2009; 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm; La Jolla – San Diego

1. Meeting called to order at 7:40pm by Chair Phil Robertson.

Members attending:

Meryl Alber (GCE) \*, Mike Antolin (SGS)\*, John Blair (KNZ)\*, Barbara Bond (AND)\*, Patrick Bourgeron (NWT and INT)\*, Nick Brokaw (LUQ)\*, Steve Carpenter (NTL)\*, Dan Childers (CAP)\*, Charles Driscoll (HBR)\*, Hugh Ducklow (PAL)\*, David Foster (HFR)\*, Evelyn Gaiser (FCE)\*, Anne Giblin (PIE)\*, Ted Gragson (CWT and EB)\*, Corinna Gries (CAP, IM, and EB), Morgan Grove (BES and SOC), Amber Hardison (VCR & GRAD), Bruce Hayden (VCR and CC), John Hobbie (ARC)\*, Sarah Hobbie (CDR and EB)\*, Carol Landis (MCM and ED)\*, Karen McGlathery (VCR)\*, Diane McKnight (MCM and NWT), David McGuire (BNZ)\*, Mark Ohman (CCE)\*, Deb Peters (JRN)\*, Steward Pickett (BES)\*, Chelse Prather (LUQ and GRAD), Dan Reed (SBC)\*, Wade Sheldon (GCE and NISAC), Russ Schmitt (MCR)\*, Sieg Snapp (KBS)\*, Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV)\*, Bob Waide (LNO)

Voting Members not present: None

Also Present: Donie Bret-Harte (ARC), Chris Craft (GCE), Jenny Dugan (SBC), Henry Gholz (NSF), Jeff Hepinstall-Cymerman (CWT), Jeff Heffernan (FCE), Paul Hanson (NTL), Sally Holbrook (MCR, SBC, and EB), Chuck Hopkinson (PIE), Catherine Keske (SGS), Steve Pennings (GCE and EB), Alonso Ramirez (LUQ), John Vande Castle (LNO), Jess Zimmerman (LUQ),

2. Minutes for the May 8, 2008, meeting were approved by consent.
3. Report from NSF. Henry Gholz provided an NSF update, much of which was covered in the May 9 EB minutes. Topics included
  - a. Budget – a) cost-of-living expenses have now been resolved for the 5 sites renewed in 2008; b) 2009 supplement decisions have now been made and most were funded;
  - b. LNO proposal – the LNO renewal budget includes \$6.7M for Network-level Decadal Plan activities, including CI support. This is an unprecedented and one time opportunity; the award cannot be supplemented or renewed, and NSF has high expectations. Bob Sterner and Joann Roskoski were instrumental in championing this at NSF.
  - c. Personnel – a) Henry is planning a 1-year sabbatical leave beginning October 1; Todd Crowl will likely take on interim LTER responsibilities; b) there is currently an open permanent position in Ecosystem Studies, for which NSF welcomes nominees; c) both the BIO-AD search to replace Jim Collins and the DEB-DD search to replace Bob Sterner are underway, with nominations from the community still welcome for both; the SBE-AD search is also still on-going.
  - d. Site visits - Nine site visits are planned for the coming year; Gholz will do most but several will be headed by Crowl, and Dave Garrison (GEO) will also participate in several.
  - e. Data management - LTER Information management progress has not gone unnoticed at NSF; the common interface initiative is a substantial stride, and EcoTrends has been particularly visible. Site visits will be a good test of data accessibility issues.
  - f. ULTRA-Ex – There has been a strong response to the ULTRA-Ex competition; NSF needs names of potential panelists who are not in conflict; there will be no ad hocs, panelists will be brought in to read, review, and discuss proposals the last week of July.
  - g. 30-year review – the 30-year Network review will be convened by DEB on behalf of AC-BIO, which is different from prior reviews run by AC-BIO; the intent is to conduct the review as a

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\* Voting member

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

high-level, visionary report rather than as a critique; review is expected to start in June with a final report to the mid-October AC-BIO meeting.

- h. Network scientists need to improve acknowledgement efforts in publications - suggested citation wording needs to include "LTER" in order to allow citation searches.
  - i. The AC-ERE green book is out for review, with the final version expected to be released at the fall AC-ERE meeting in October.
  - j. The NSF budget had a 7% increase in FY09 that was passed down to the program level, allowing the increases for renewed sites and supplements. NSF is now one year into doubling track and likely to continue. ARRA money was a 33% increase, of which a third was earmarked for equipment and education. DEB received around a 50% increase as a result of this, as did GEO, which has to be spent this year on proposals that are already in the system.
  - k. Network scientists (especially PIs) should consider doing additional drop-in visits to program officers in other divisions when at the Foundation on other business; especially valuable to drop in on POs involved in supplement activities.
4. LNO Report

Bob Waide distributed and presented highlights from the Network Office (LNO) Annual Report for 2008-2009 (see May 12 Executive Board minutes for details).

5. EB Report

Robertson reported on general activities of the Executive Board, noting meeting frequencies and availability of minutes for those wishing further details. He also thanked outgoing members Peter Groffman (HBR), Dan Reed (SBC), and Berry Lyons (MCM), who are rotating off of the EB after this meeting, and welcomed incoming members David Foster (HBR), Hugh Ducklow (PAL), and Nick Brokaw (LUQ). Also rotating off of the National Advisory Board are Peter Arzberger, Roger Bales, and Alan Blatecky.

The EB will shepherd output of the SC Science Program through NSF in the coming months. Each of the workgroup prospecti will be vetted by the EB, revised as needed, and discussed with NSF to determine interest in pursuing as cross-directorate proposals larger than those normally entertained by existing programs.

6. 2010 Minisymposium

Network Bylaws call for the SC to set the theme for the minisymposia, and Robertson opened the floor for nominations after noting the success of the 2009 meeting. A number of potentials were offered and discussed, including the desirability of highlighting agency and NGO linkages to the network, site roles in policy and decision making, and ecosystem services in a changing world. Following discussion, Jess Zimmerman, Morgan Grove, and Dave McGuire agreed to co-chair the 2010 Minisymposium Program Committee and to develop a theme based on ecosystem services in a changing world, with inclusion of agency and NGO partnerships.

**Action:** Sarah Hobbie made a motion seconded by Dan Reed to appoint Jess Zimmerman, Morgan Grove, and Dave McGuire to co-chair the 2010 Minisymposium Program Committee and develop a theme based on ecosystem services in a changing world. The motion passed unanimously.

7. 2010 SC Meeting

The 2010 SC meeting will be hosted by PIE, with a date in May to be set by email polling once hotel and meeting room potentials are defined. Following discussion, consensus is that the theme for the meeting should follow from the outcome of research prospecti developed from this SC meeting and discussed with NSF.

**Action:** Sarah Hobbie made a motion seconded by Dan Reed to delegate the appointment of a program committee and theme to the Executive Board, to be based on the outcome of research prospecti discussions with NSF. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Site Volumes Discussion

Diane McKnight provided an update on the LTER Children Books series. Diane pointed out that the fund that is used to advance artwork for the children's books is getting low and requested Network or NSF action to add funds. In addition, she urged sites that are planning books to contact her. John Hobbie initiated a discussion of the importance of site volumes for both the Network and individual sites. Henry Gholz articulated their value from the Foundation's perspective. Discussion followed.

9. Issues Arising

Robertson opened the floor for additional comments and discussion.

Deb Peters suggested that LTER put more emphasis on professional graphics to increase the effectiveness of marketing to students, public, and potential stakeholders.

10. Recognition and thanks

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

- 1) Outgoing NAB members Peter Arzberger, who has served on the NAB since 2003 and as chair for the past 3 years, and Roger Bales, who has also served since 2003;
- 2) Oxford University Press editor Peter Prescott, to whom we will also send a resolution of appreciation;
- 3) Outgoing EB members Dan Reed, Peter Groffman, and Berry Lyons, who were also presented with a token of Network appreciation by Bob Waide for their 3 years of Executive Board service;
- 4) the 2009 Minisymposium Organizing Committee Peter Groffman and Deb Peters;
- 5) the 2009 SC Science Meeting Organizing Committee chair Peter Groffman and members Merryl Alber, David Foster, Nancy Grimm, and Deb Peters; and
- 6) the 2009 SC Meeting Local Organizers Mark Ohman and the many other CCE staff and investigators who contributed to the meeting's success.

11. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.