

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
November 17, 2009; 4-6pm EST; Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 4:10 pm by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending: Nick Brokaw, Ted Gragson, Corinna Gries, Sarah Hobbie, Sally Holbrook, Dave McGuire, Steve Pennings, Bob Waide, Mark Williams; Unavailable: Hugh Ducklow, David Foster.
2. Minutes for 6 November 2009 approved by consent.
3. Network Synthesis Prospecti (SP)
Robertson provided an update on plans for the various synthesis groups to meet following last week's call for same. The Cryosphere group has requested a small pre-meeting in December, to be followed by a February writing team meeting; the Coastal group has requested a larger workshop to better engage social scientists, to be followed by a writing team meeting; the Inland group has indicated its intent for one writing-team meeting; and the Education group expects to have a prospectus ready for the December 7 EB meeting. The procedure for approving requests was discussed, followed by a motion by Steve Pennings to authorize the EB Chair and Executive Director to approve requests for up to \$20,000 per prospectus group in response to last week's call. This is the amount identified by the Synthesis Subcommittee in October, with the expectation that each group could need 2 meetings to prepare a competitive proposal. The motion was seconded by Dave McGuire and passed unanimously. Robertson will circulate requests as they come in in order to keep the EB informed.
4. Operational Plan Update
Bob Waide provided a section of the operational plan in early draft form in order to identify early issues with the presentation format. A similar draft was provided to NSF. Discussion followed, including the suggestion that each activity description provide a budget context. Since little lead time was provided for review prior to the meeting, EB members were asked to provide additional comments to Waide by email.
5. Working Group Proposals
Post-ASM working group proposals are expected to be submitted by December 1, with a decision by December 15. This means the EB will need to read and review proposals prior to the December 7 EB meeting, at which proposals will be discussed and ranked. Discussion resulted in a plan to assign each proposal to at least 3 EB members, who will present and rate proposals by criteria described in the call for proposals.
6. NISAC
Waide reported on yesterday's NISAC meeting and plans to respond to requests for CI/NIS Operational Plan review. NISAC will collect input from its members and from the IMC, and provide a report to the CI/NIS Subcommittee prior to the revision to be submitted to the external review committee. The external review committee will meet in January, and is comprised of Terry Benzel (University of Southern California/Information Sciences Institute), Randy Butler (University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign), Chris Jones (University of California Santa Barbara - PISCO), Michael Piasecki (Drexel University), Bob Sandusky (University of Illinois at Chicago), and Bruce Wilson (Oak Ridge National Laboratory - National Phenological Network/DataOne). Additionally NISAC needs timeline information on the LNO annual review, and Robertson will discuss with co-chairs Wade Sheldon and Will Pockman. At their Spring meeting, NISAC will be asked to revisit their mission and makeup as discussed at the September 13 EB meeting (see minutes), and also the procedure for approving NIS modules.
7. SC/EB Chair-elect Nominating Committee
The election for the next SC/EB chair is scheduled for May 13 (to take office in 2011). A prior call for nominations for the committee was not successful, so Robertson proposed to ask former chair John Magnuson to help populate a nominating committee of 5 or so members co-identified. There was general agreement that

this was a fine plan. EB members were invited to self-nominate. Bylaws require that a slate of nominees be circulated by April 13 by a committee appointed before March 13:

The Chair of the Science Council shall be elected by the Science Council from within the scientific community of the LTER Network. The Executive Board shall appoint an ad hoc Nominating Committee that will at least 60 days prior to the election solicit nominations for Chair from the LTER scientific community. At least 30 days prior to the election the Executive Director of the Network Office will distribute resumes of each nominee to the Science Council. Election of a Chair will be by majority vote of the Science Council.

8. BioScience Article(s)
Robertson reported that BioScience is interested in publishing an update of the 2003 LTER issue led by John Hobbie, which contained 6 articles. Tim Beardsley was initially thinking of a single article but will entertain a prospectus for up to 5 articles, to be submitted in 2010. Discussion resulted in the suggestion that we appoint an editorial committee to pull a prospectus together in December. Candidates for the committee will be solicited from the EB by email following this meeting, for approval by email or at the Dec 7 meeting.
9. Upcoming meetings
 - a. December 7, 1-3 pm EST
 - b. Jan-Feb TBD
 - c. March 3-5, 2010 (Washington DC)
 - d. April TBD
 - e. May 12-13, 2010 (SC Meeting at PIE)
10. Meeting adjourned 5:35pm