

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting  
August 18, 2010; 2-4 p.m. EDT; Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 2 pm by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending: Nick Brokaw, Scott Collins, Hugh Ducklow, Ted Gragson, Corinna Gries, Steve Hamilton, Dave McGuire, John Moore (present through item 6), Emily Stanley, Bob Waide, Mark Williams; Unavailable: David Foster. Also attending through item 5: Communications consultant Kathy Lambert.
2. Minutes for 22 July 2010 approved by consent.
3. Updates:
  - a. Legacy data prospectus  
The next round of the Legacy Data Prospectus (now called the Synthesis Data Prospectus) was delivered to NSF at the end of July, and we await a chance to meet with NSF officers to discuss next steps. Robertson is arranging a meeting time with Todd Crowl and Liz Blood.
  - b. Future Scenarios Planning  
Discussions between NSF, Foster, and Robertson have suggested that the best path forward is to prepare a submission for a future macroecology submission in anticipation of a larger opportunity. Number floated to NSF was \$20m/3 years.
  - c. BioScience prospectus  
Submission still pending a couple of loose ends.
  - d. Transformational science highlights  
All sites have now responded to the request for transformational science bullets. The bullets differ widely in specificity and style and the bullets subcommittee will meet this week to advise sites on final style and then do same for the half-page descriptions.
4. 30y Review meeting in ABQ  
Two 30y review committee members met with available site PIs at ESA last week to lay out plans and expectations for the review. Co-chair Sunny Power and member Judy Bronstein described their strategy for producing a report by early next year. It includes visits to most sites by 1 or 2 individual committee members, preceded by a 3-4 page response to specific questions by each site. The visits are for the committee members to learn more about LTER and successes at the site level; they are not reviews. Additionally the committee expressed a desire to meet with the EB at their Albuquerque meeting in late October.
5. SIP Feedback and Status  
Revisions since July have been received and incorporated into a next draft, which still needs minor attention from individual section authors prior to SC distribution. In particular, the implementation tables need to consistently provide names, locations (LNO vs. sites), time frame (month/year), status (needs planning, planned but not funded, funded, underway), and the situational analysis sections need to consistently list strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats. Sections were discussed individually. Section leaders will need to get final revisions in over the weekend so they can be incorporated and distributed to SC in early September.
6. ESA 2011 Symposium Potential  
Barring objections or additional suggestions, Robertson and Foster will be submitting the BioScience prospectus packet as a proposed LTER symposium for the 2011 Ecological Society meeting in Austin next August.

7. SGS Request

SGS has requested that the EB write a letter in support of their appeal of the decision to terminate site funding in 2 years, preferably to arrive before their scheduled meeting with NSF next week. Robertson led discussion, which unanimously endorsed doing so, and as discussed will write a letter to AD Joann Roskoski from a Network perspective: the high value of SGS to a complete network and the need to consider revising the review procedure to include a final pre-termination site review. The letter is to be vetted by email prior to sending.

8. Upcoming meetings

- a. Fall dates tbd (poll pending)
- b. Minisymposium/NSF date tbd after Sept 1
- c. May 12 (EB) and 13-14 (SC), 2011; Savannah (GCE)

9. Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm