

LTER Executive Committee Meeting Notes 4/24/96 - John Vande Castle

FLED dataset issues:

Kay Gross discussed the status of the FLED report - it is out and available on-line via the ESA home page. Within this is the establishment of a national data archive for voluntary contributions of datasets. Issues such as intellectual property rights would be involved, and LTER could play a role in this. Rescue of important data sets and LTREB data would be a good start in this work. What role LTER should play in this will be a point of discussion at the full CC meeting.

LTER/Oxford publication issues:

Bruce Hayden covered some issues with the Oxford publication contract. An amendment suggests Oxford would like rights to "non-raw" data that is included in publications. Bruce prepared a handout to explain the details of this. An important addition is the inclusion of "verbatim" use of text, figures and data for copyright issues. This would permit future publications of modified data. A concern is Oxford's want to license data used in the publications. These issues were discussed and one of the key points was the inclusion of verbatim use of data. Existing publication rights seemed to be the logical place to start on the publications. In the full CC meeting, Bruce will have the committee review the issues. The EC's recommendation will be to use more conventional rights to start publications in hardcopy format for the initial two years, and pursue issues related to digital publications as a separate contract.

Biodiversity workshop:

Bob Waide presented issues on the biodiversity workshop:

First is the efforts from the 1995 workshop which resulted in synthesis papers contributed by sites - a 5 page summary of talks. Bob is compiling the papers which will be assembled as an electronic publication. The publication will include a summary species lists. This could be an important part of the Network Office review in June. The publication of this information is included in the UNM/UW/SDSC 6 year proposal including video production. The biodiversity work has also expanded with a funded NCESA proposal for two workshops to further develop the synthesis work. Tentative dates for the workshop are September 10th - 17th. This will be covered during the noon working lunch hour in the full CC meeting:

Fall LTER/CC meeting:

The October 4,5,6 (EC is the 4th, field trip is the 6th) Harvard Forest meeting will have a theme of regional issues - putting LTER into a regional context, incorporating people into the ecological work and integrating large spatial scale and long temporal perspective. Hubbard Brook will be co-hosting the meeting. Kay suggested that there be some diversity to the regionalization approaches, so that the sites with different perspectives on regionalization will be interested in contributing. Inclusion of posters and other information will help as well.

Further Themes:

The pending Network Office proposal has stated it will continue the inclusion of themes in future meetings. The CC should propose themes, perhaps keying on the strengths of the site. For example, tree demography, legacies etc. for the AND CC meeting. Site history, climate variability and ecological responses, comparative studies of ecosystem processes, simulation modeling, interaction between ecological systems and society. Kay suggested advance information of the themes will allow for sites to prepare for the discussions and meetings. Jim suggested the 1997 fall meeting CC theme be identified during the KNZ CC meeting. Individuals need to be identified to lead each

theme.

Integrating the Nation's Environmental Monitoring and Research Programs:

Results of this meeting are in a report distributed by Jim Gosz who attended the meeting. Much of the framework was within the realm of the "LTER Model". The integration would involve programs such as the EPA, Park Service, NOAA programs etc. This information will be announced to the CC and a list of attendees set to attend the next meeting this summer (late June)

Discussion of the LTER Network Office Proposal:

Issues to

One important issue was to do a survey of minority and gender distribution within LTER at various levels of student, scientist, principal investigators and lead pi. This will be discussed during the CC meeting, but in general the proposal and review will be an informational item..

Network Office informal report publication policy:

Discussion covered points on what publications the Network Office should publish and distribute. With the increase in electronic publication, Network-level publication effort should be discussed. The EC came up with some guidelines for publication. The EC suggested that publications developed for informal publication be the responsibility of the author - in producing digital and hard copy formats for the Network Office who will then make the publications available. The Network Office will develop a WWW template that can be used by the authors for putting the document online.

LTER Site data accessibility:

The availability of LTER site data is an issue, and an important part of the site reviews. As part of the site data management, the data management group should draft up a generic description of an LTER data management position. John Hobbie pointed out that LTER does have a policy that datasets need to be placed on, but the CC cannot itself enforce the policy. This will be discussed during the EC with Scott Collin's discussion of data management and site reviews.

Global Fiducial Program:

Future declassification of CIA data is planned that could be useful for LTER. The CIA is able to release these data by declassification efforts and is looking for programs that will use the data. A potential exists for the Network Office to facilitate the interaction.

Notes from the presentation of Don Dreeves during the CC meeting: The Global Fiducial Program. The purpose of the program is to provide natural and human caused changes on a global scale. The data are long-term records that will be declassified at some point. Current data will probably be released on a time scale in the realm of 10-30 years. Currently declassified data include Corona satellite data, ER-2 and Blackhawk datasets from around 1960-1972. The data will be in an active, classified archive, to be declassified at a later date. Site selection are focused on calibration sites that have on-going investigations and other imagery, and can help in interpreting the NTM datasets. The sites will permit change detection and process study sites. The total sites are around 500 sites which will average 12 images per year. The data information system will be at USGS in Reston VA, in digital form as online or nearline data. Data access is currently via secret level access with users at secret level or above clearance. Unclassified knowledge is that the data available is "panchromatic", but people with secret clearance can know what is available.

EC Election:

John Hobbie will be off of the EC. Three nominations have been proposed and nominations will be accepted during the CC.

LMER Situation:

NSF will fund a workshop that will include discussions of merging the LTER and LMER program. The first date that the workshop could be organized will be August of this year. John Hobbie brought up issues such as sites within JGOFS or others that have a long-term program efforts, and LTER should discuss the issues involved.

Other issues:

The EC discussed management issues at the site - how an LTER site functions. PI leadership, and how to transition site leadership would be good to discuss within LTER. The policies of NSF regarding the review process and changes that have occurred were discussed, and a desire to have a firm policy by NSF would be good. Jim suggested there be a subcommittee assembled to discuss these issues and collect the ideas of the LTER community regarding the review process. A PI and government project leader for each site - ongoing analysis and evaluation. The CC voted unanimously to move ahead with this. NSF must relay the information to Don's program. Thomas Bearwald is the lead contact in goesciences and is the person to transmit information to the Global Fudicial Program.