

Coordinating Committee Meeting
August 3, 2000
Snowbird

1. Status of BioScience articles from John Hobbie. Goal to publicize accomplishments of LTER with one author from each site.
2. Discussion of preparations for 20-year review – Discussion included the issue of what needed to be prepared to present to 20-Year Review Team. Several themes were suggested, including biodiversity, NPP, regionalization, and cross-site research. We discussed the goal of refreshing the intellectual aims of LTER as part of our preparation. We also discussed coupling our preparations to the BioScience articles.

Suggestions about major questions to be addressed included:

- natural climate variability and response
- disturbance and ecological response
 - droughts, floods, land use change, invasions
- forecasting ecological change from variability in space and time
- forecasting ecosystem change from scaling and process studies
- human and ecological legacies
 - past land use
 - past ecosystems
- biodiversity and ecosystem function

Discussion of preparation of white paper – The consensus was that it should focus on scientific priorities and it should integrate the existing vision statements. The document should include a discussion of the mechanism for setting priorities. This mechanism should include Network and network Office priorities, as the review is of both. A review of the Risser Report and our success in achieving its recommendations would be valuable. The document should reflect the fact that we have accommodated mission creep over the years through priority setting, not the addition of new money.

Scott Collins arrived and fielded questions about the 20-Year Review process. 3>

Planned schedule – A draft of the white paper will be developed beginning with a fall meeting of the Exec and Scientific Initiatives Committees. The draft will be reviewed at a January meeting of the lead Principal Investigators and then presented to the NAB at the February 2001 Exec meeting. The Exec will revise the document for the April 2001 CC meeting in Phoenix.

There was a motion to adopt this schedule which was passed unanimously.

3. The review of the Network Office was received today. The review calls for prioritization of activities in the Network Office, but that will require prioritization by the Network first. The CC needs to establish a mechanism for sites to provide input to future reviews of the Network Office. A discussion of this point was pu off until a future meeting.
4. Following up on ASM activities, the CC decided to solicits request for support for post-ASM working groups to be funded by the Network Office. Proposals will be sent to the Network Office and evaluated by the Executive Committee. There is about \$180K in the Network Office budget for these activities. The focus should be on working groups that aim to produce real products. We should investigate the possibility of co-

funding these activities with NCEAS. We should also consider working with other groups (AIBS, ESA) for future meetings.

What can we do to have another ASM in 3 years? Collins indicated that the next ASM should be 6 months separate from ESA and at another venue.

5. Several other items were discussed

- Thanks to organizers and NET Staff
- Meeting reimbursements
- Communication issues, particularly poor response to queries
- Cross-site competition – these funds come from venture funds in directorates, but these are not available every year. This time there were only 36 proposals, which raises the question of whether this competition is worth it with such a small number of submissions. It might be a good idea to have the next competition the next All-Scientists Meeting. There also needs to be an effort to get SBE involved in cross-site studies.
- OCE may be interested in buying into LTER - may be interested in setting up own network.
- There was a meeting with agency representatives to discuss the development of network of networks idea. We are working on a more formal planning effort.
- Dave Greenland has stepped down as Climate Chair. Doug Goodin will replace him.