

**Minutes of the Executive Board Video Teleconference**  
**January 23, 2007**  
**11:00-1:00 pm EST**

**Participants**

John Magnuson, Chair  
Phil Robertson, Chair-Elect  
Peter Groffman  
Morgan Grove  
Don Henshaw  
Charles Hopkinson (by phone)  
Berry Lyons  
Mark Ohman  
Deb Peters  
Dan Reed (by phone)  
Bob Waide (by phone)  
James Brunt  
Sherri Johnson

**Executive Board Members Not Present:**

Scott Collins

**Agenda**

Announcements:

NEON Funding at LTER Sites

1. MOU with Forest Service Renewal
2. Report on Committee Letters (Brunt/Magnuson)
  - o Which letters have been sent?
  - o Which letters have been approved but not sent?
  - o Which letters have not been approved?
    - o (Entertain motion to table discussion until after IMEXEC) Open Discussion on IM/Tech/GIS/RS/Climate committees (Brunt/Henshaw)
3. Brief report on Post ASM workshops status (Brunt)
4. Report on ISSE/planning grant (Magnuson/Collins)
5. LNO Survey Revision/Decision (Hopkinson/Groffman)
  - o Do we send the old survey this year?
6. Discussion of LTER strategic analysis compilation (Waide)
7. 11:00 AM CST Discussion of March 7-9, 2007 meeting @ NSF (Magnuson/Robertson)
  - o Executive Board Agenda
  - o 11:00 CST - Mini-Symposium (Carpenter invited to join for this part)
  - o National Advisory Board
    - o Discussion topics include:
    - o What input do we want to have into the NAB agenda?

- What interaction do we want with NSF?
- What should be in our briefing?

Closing Discussion:

February videoconference needed?

### **Announcements**

a. NEON Funding at LTER Sites - publicity Opportunity (Magnuson) - We have received a list of presently funded NEON Funding from Liz Blood. We are asking McOwiti to prepare a newsletter article on the set and Magnuson is approaching the PI's to encourage them to write a combined BioScience article on them.

b. Association of Science/Technology Centers opportunity (Brunt) - a participating science center will partner with a local LTER to develop a project illustrating the local impact of climate change. Forward to McOwiti and the Education Committee.

c. Minutes of 10/31/06 and 12/05/06 approved.

### **1. MOU renewal between the US Forest Service and NSF (Magnuson reporting)**

James Brunt announced that he had received communication from Deb Hayes, the USFS responsible for preparing materials for the renewal of the MOU between NSF and the US Forest service, requesting any input that we might have regarding the renewal. Discussion was held and the Executive Board passed the following motion unanimously:

“The LTER Executive Committee encourages NSF to renew its MOU with the US Forest service for collaboration between the LTER and the Forest Service.”

In addition: the EB would like for the MOU recognize the LTER sites with Forest Service connections and joint work. Henry Gholz should contact and negotiate with Deb Hayes at the Forest Service in Washington DC who is responsible for Memoranda of Understanding to include this list of sites in the MOU. These sites are:

HJ Andrews Experimental Forest  
Bonanza Creek  
Coweeta Experimental Forest  
Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest  
Luquillo Experimental Forest  
Niwot Ridge  
Baltimore Urban Ecosystem

**Action Item:** John Magnuson will contact Henry Gholz regarding this resolution.

### **2. Standing Committee Review Progress**

James Brunt reports that committee letters have been drafted and approved for Publications, NISAC, Education, Graduate Student, Social Science, and International Committees. Final drafts were presented for approval of the EB (attached as appendices). Discussion was held on the reporting procedures of the standing committees and it was noted that the bylaws require annual reports from the standing committees and the consensus of the Executive Board was that this would be most useful immediately prior to the EB meeting at the annual Science Council meeting in the spring.

**Action Item:** James Brunt will send out these six letters to the committee chairs (done).

**a. Open Discussion on IM/Tech/GIS/RS/Climate committees (Henshaw reporting)**

The potential broadening of the Information Management Committee (IMC) to include the GIS/RS, Technology, and Climate Committees was discussed in a directors' meeting at the LNO and were reported to the IMExec Committee in a recent conference call. The IMExec has requested that formal discussions regarding recommendations from the EB be postponed until after IMExec has had a chance to consider this issue at its annual meeting in Albuquerque on 13-14 February.

The LNO discussion of “reinventing” or merging of IMC with other committees was stimulated in light of requests for committee meetings by GIS/RS/technology/climate groups in a period of flat funding and the need for promoting integration among these areas. The LNO discussion considered that this broader committee would better allow for achievement of integrative science as put forth in the ISSE, and allow for coordination of activities across these groups. The IMExec would continue to be the steering committee for IM, but other steering subcommittees for GIS/RS, Technology, and Climate would be formed to focus on developing agendas for those specific areas. While the steering committees would meet primarily by VTC, the broader group would still hold an annual face-to-face meeting, and it was noted there is considerable overlap in site representation to these committees.

The potential for merging the Climate Committee with the ad hoc hydrology group was discussed. Brian Kloeppe (CWT) has volunteered to become chair of this committee. The addition of physical oceanographers to this expanded committee was considered.

**Action Items:**

1. Discussion of recommendations for the IM/GIS/RS/Technology/Climate Committees will be added to the March meeting agenda. This will allow the IMExec Committee to consider LNO suggestions for the reorganization of the IM and these other committees at its annual meeting.
  2. John Magnuson will contact Brian Kloeppe (CWT) regarding interest in chairing the Climate Committee.
  3. Mark Ohman will ask physical oceanographers about their interest in participating in a combined climate/hydrology committee.
- b. The meeting was adjourned.

### **3. Post ASM workshop Funding Status (Brunt reporting)**

James Brunt reported that all letters acknowledging funding or decline have been sent except for the 1 proposal remaining to provide additional information (Valentine et al.) and for 6 proposals that for a variety of reasons related to institutional email difficulties were not considered in the first round. Bob Waide indicated that he would find funding from next years synthesis travel budget to cover any of these that executive board reviews in the fundable category which would be at or above the funding cut-off for the previous review group.

**Action Item:** James Brunt will process these for review and get them out by the end of February.

### **4. Status of the ISSE/Planning Grant (Magnuson reporting).**

Based on the review by the STF advisory Committee, the ISSE has been modified and edited to broadly represent the ecological community and not LTER by itself. These changes have been largely made and look good. We need a version of the ISSE to distribute to the National Advisory Board and NSF two weeks prior to the March 7-9 presentations at NSF (Mini symposium) and to the National Advisory Board. The date when the ISSE will be in final form seems to have slipped somewhat and is of concern. We also need to send an updated version of the ISSE to the speakers at the Mini-symposium, the STF, and the Lead PI's for use at the Ste Reps meeting in April in Athens.

**Action Item:** The STF meeting in Albuquerque on Jan 31 and Feb 1 will include serious discussion the timing of the ISSE document to take maximum advantage of the planning activities and the promotion and marketing of the ideas (done).

### **5. LNO Survey Revision/Decision (Hopkinson/Groffman)**

It was the consensus of the Executive Board to use the old survey this year and begin a process of preparing a survey (s) that would address the needs of LNO and the network by committee during the next 9 months?

**Action Item:** James Brunt will review last year's survey and go over it with John Magnuson to correct any material that might be deprecated and will forward to Marjorie Hudson for execution via web-based survey.

### **6. Discussion of LTER strategic analysis compilation (Waide)**

**Several points were raised by Bob Waide on the importance of doing this. The item will be worked on as a committee of the whole at the march Executive Board meeting and will be led by Bob Waide.**

### **7. Discussion of March 7-9, 2007 meeting @ NSF (Magnuson/Robertson)**

#### **a. Executive Board agenda for March meeting.**

##### **Possible items for the agenda.**

Discuss, organize, and plan LTER strategic analysis project (Waide)

**Discussion of options for the IM/Tech/GIS/RS/Climate committees reorganization**

LNO Survey design project. (Hopkins and Groffman)

Report from H. Gholz,

Meet with NSF staff in relevant sections to complete briefing on the ISSE.

Review Planning Grant Schedule and progress.

**b. Mini Symposium.** Steve Carpenter joined this discussion.

Action Items; Steve Carpenter will send a email to the speakers reminding them that the purpose of the mini symposium will be to provide a background on the ISSE concept and present research examples that indicate activities in the areas encompassed by the ISSE. Steve will provide titles for each talk and we (Magnuson) will forward those to Henry Gholtz so that he can begin to advertise the activity (done).

Henry Gholz has requested that we provide additional names of people to invite to the LTER Mini symposium. To help with that process he is sending the list of the present invitation list to the members of the Executive Board.

**c. Items for the National Advisory Board.**

**Possible agenda items for the NAB**

The NAB members will attend the mini symposium and hopefully meet with NSF staff. They have already commented on the ISSE so we do not need additional revisions of that document from them In addition we should make presentations and request advice. These should be relayed to the NAB cchair, Peter Arzberger (done).

- a. presentations
  - a. Recommendations in last NAB report and LTER response to them
  - b. ISSE and Planning Grant Activity and status
  - c. cyberinfrastructure strategic plan
- b. request advice
  - a. promotion and marketing of the ISSE
  - b. cyberinfrastructure
  - c. Planning grant content and governance structure
  - d. Where do we go next other than planning grant activities
  - e. Other strategic initiatives

**Closing Discussion**

It was the consensus of the Executive Board that February videoconference was not necessary.



## LTER Network Executive Board

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Date: 23 January 2007

To: Phil Robertson (robertson@kbs.msu.edu), Chair, LTER Publications Committee

From: LTER Executive Board

Re: Review of LTER Publications Committee

As you are aware the LTER Executive Board (EB) recently undertook a review of the standing committees in the LTER Network. As part of that process the EB is now providing feedback to the committee chairs in the form of this correspondence. Below you will find a summary of the EB discussions and any action items that they wish to encourage you to undertake.

Thank you for submitting your report on the status of the targeted LTER Publications Committee to the LTER Executive Board. Although this committee meets on an infrequent basis, the committee fills an important role in promoting and providing coherence to the LTER Network book series. The reactionary charge of the committee is appropriate given that most books in the series are identified and controlled by the sites. We agree with the committee that expanding their role to encourage site synthesis volumes and other synthesis products would be good. We also agree that term limits, a rotation system for members, and a method for chair selection should be determined.

Please direct any comments regarding this letter directly to me ([jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John J. Magnuson, Chairman  
LTER Executive Board

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# LTER Network Executive Board

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Date: 23 January 2007

To: Don Henshaw (don.henshaw@oregonstate.edu), Chair, Network Information System Advisory Committee (NISAC)

From: LTER Executive Board

RE: Review of NISAC

As you are aware the LTER Executive Board (EB) recently undertook a review of the standing committees in the LTER Network. As part of that process the EB is now providing feedback to the committee chairs in the form of this correspondence. Below you will find a summary of the EB discussions and any action items that they wish to encourage you to undertake.

Thank you for submitting your report on the status Network Information System Advisory Committee (NISAC) to the LTER Executive Board (EB). NISAC serves a very important function for the LTER Network and the EB commends its members (past and present) for their excellent service and numerous accomplishments. The proactive development of a strategic plan that includes a well defined mission statement, goals and strategies for achieving those goals is admirable and sets a fine example for other standing committees in the LTER Network. The EB recognizes an important continuing role for NISAC in facilitating cross site synthesis and we encourage the committee to work closely with the EB in the planning and execution of future tasks.

One of the major strengths of NISAC is the composition of its membership, which is designed to help bridge the gap between science and technology. Serving as chair of NISAC is a substantial commitment and we encourage the committee to develop a process for a regular rotation of this position.

As a point of clarification, the EB is the administrative body of the new LTER governance structure and NISAC should submit all future reports and recommendations to the EB for review and subsequent action.

Please direct any comments regarding this letter directly to me ([jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Bob Waide

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John J. Magnuson, Chairman  
LTER Executive Board





## LTER Network Executive Board

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Date: 23 January 2007

To: Chelsea L Crenshaw [chelseal@unm.edu](mailto:chelseal@unm.edu) and Amy Burgin [burginam@msu.edu](mailto:burginam@msu.edu)

From: LTER Executive Board

Re: Review of LTER Graduate Student Committee

As you are aware the LTER Executive Board (EB) recently undertook a review of the standing committees in the LTER Network. As part of that process the EB is now providing feedback to the committee chairs in the form of this correspondence. Below you will find a summary of the EB discussions and any action items that they wish to encourage you to undertake.

The LTER Graduate Student Committee is a standing Committee with two co-chairs. We thank and congratulate Tiffany Troxler Gann for her previous role as co-chair and look forward to working with the current co-chairs, Chelsea Crenshaw and Amy Burgin.

The Executive Board is tremendously impressed with the energy and activities of the LTER Graduate Student Committee from large coordinated events such as the April 2005 First Graduate Student Collaborative Research Symposium and opportunistic events such as LTER/ESA student mixer in Montreal Canada where you had an informal luncheon chat with LTER PI's. In addition to your brief report, many of us had an opportunity to observe the many impressive graduate student programs, activities, and interactions at the 2006 LTER All Scientists Meeting.

We encourage you to continue and believe this is one of the more important committees of the LTER Network because of its activities and because its members are the "future" of long-term ecological research.

You seem to have a good organization and a rotational plan for members and leaders. If this is not formalized we suggest that you prepare a brief document that can be used for to guide sustained activities of the committee and training new members.

We hope that you move forward to ease the listing of new graduate students across the network and perhaps keep some record when a person moves on. Please work with James Brunt at the LTER Network Office to make this membership process simpler and more useful.

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We also encourage you to document your activities as they occur on the LTER network webpage to leave a centralized and complete record of your activities.

Finally, we agree that developing resources for graduate students to conduct inter-site research is important. It is important that graduate students continue to take advantage of the synthesis activity support provided by the LTER Network Office. It is important to note that the LNO is not a funding source for research. Therefore, we encourage the committee to seek funding opportunities. We do hope that the LTER planning process will result in additional funding for cross-site research. Indeed, one of the recommendations to be made as an outcome of the LTER Planning process is to encourage NSF to consider altering the guidelines of the existing dissertation improvement program to encourage and support collaborative research proposals as part of an "improved" dissertation experience. We urge you to generate and discuss other ideas that might help to present more opportunities for synthetic and collaborative research among graduate student.

Please direct any comments regarding this letter directly to me ([jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Magnuson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John J. Magnuson, Chairman  
LTER Executive Board



# LTER Network Executive Board

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Date: 23 January 2007

To: Co-Chairs LTER Education Committee, Ali Whitmer ([whitmer@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:whitmer@lifesci.ucsb.edu)),  
Carol Landis ([landis.83@osu.edu](mailto:landis.83@osu.edu))

From: LTER Executive Board

Re: Review of LTER Education Committee

As you are aware the LTER Executive Board (EB) recently undertook a review of the standing committees in the LTER Network. As part of that process the EB is now providing feedback to the committee chairs in the form of this correspondence. Below you will find a summary of the EB discussions and any action items that they wish to encourage you to undertake. Your committee report was submitted by Monica Elser and was reviewed in early November by the EB.

First of all, the EB thanks your committee for their energetic and diligent efforts on behalf of the Network. Your group has had many successes over the past few years and we compliment you on them all. We especially recognize the importance of the production of the first edition of the Handbook for LTER Education, developed in 2005 and put on-line earlier this year. This is a substantial piece of work and one that will clearly be an important reference in future years. The EB strongly supports your efforts and recommended that your committee be continued.

The EB recognizes the important emphasis placed by your committee on the Network Schoolyard LTER (SLTER) activities and supports its continuance. However, the EB suggests that you might want to broaden your activities and interests to include more emphasis on graduate and undergraduate education. It was suggested that the addition of a few researchers and a graduate student might help to do this. The EB asks that you provide information on how your committee is structured and the names of your executive board.

The EB also would like a list of your full membership. If this information could be provided to James Brunt at the Network Office ([jbrunt@LTERnet.edu](mailto:jbrunt@LTERnet.edu)) in the next few months, it would be gratefully appreciated.

In conclusion, we applaud your efforts, especially in relationship to K-12 education in SLTER, and encourage you to continue this good work.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

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John J. Magnuson, Chairman  
LTER Executive Board



# LTER Network Executive Board

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Date: January 23, 2006

To: Patrick Bourgeron <Patrick.Bourgeron@colorado.edu> and Steven Hamburg <steven\_hamburg@brown.edu>, US-LTER International Committee

From: LTER Network Executive Board

Re: Review of US-LTER International Committee

As you are aware, the LTER Executive Board recently undertook a review of the standing committees in the LTER Network. We appreciate the report that you submitted in support of this review. As part of that process, the Executive Board is now providing feedback to the committee chairs in the form of this correspondence. Below you will find a summary of the Executive Board discussions and any action items that we encourage you to undertake.

The International Committee is a relatively new standing committee (2003), created as part of a two-pronged strategy to clearly separate the ILTER from the US-LTER and to coordinate US-LTER activities in the ILTER. The International Committee has played an important role in transforming the ILTER and the involvement of the US-ILTER from essentially an infrastructure-building project to a more diversified, stable organization with the ability to implement substantive scientific projects.

The Executive Board recognizes that the International Committee has provided a number of important functions for the LTER Network, and has achieved a number of accomplishments during its relative short existence. The Executive Board recommends that the International Committee continue as a standing committee.

The Executive Board also identified some concerns for this committee, and made the following recommendations that need to be addressed:

1. Broaden LTER site participation in International Committee activities, research, and educational efforts. To achieve this objective, it will be important to identify, publicize, and be pro-active regarding opportunities for US-LTER scientists and students to participate in international exchanges and collaborations, particularly exchanges and collaborations that can be clearly mapped to the LTER Planning Grant framework. Correspondingly, the International Committee should think strategically with regard to the LTER planning effort to make sure that the

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appropriate international links are included in the plan.

2. It will be essential to identify contacts and resources at the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support International Committee related research and educational efforts. At the same time, NSF contacts need to be aware of and prepared for LTER sites to pursue International Committee related research and educational activities.
3. Prepare a document that summarizes research and educational opportunities through the ILTER Network and resources and contacts at NSF. This document could be shared with LTER site representatives and the Graduate Student committee, and posted to the International Committee webpage on the LTER Network webpage.
4. Set specific goals for the committee to be met with a time line for completion. This plan is crucial for the long-term sustainability of the committee as well as building and expanding the constituency of the International Committee within the LTER Network
5. Implement your plan for a rotation in leadership and membership. The Executive Board recognizes the important contributions made by the co-leaders; however, we believe that it is time to initiate a rotation in leadership.

With these recommendations in mind, the Executive Board would like to encourage you to initiate a proposal for continued funding of the U.S. LTER participation in ILTER. The Executive Board would also like to thank you for your important contributions to make the International Committee and ILTER Network successful. We recognize that it has taken a great deal of time, patience, and travel on your part to make this happen.

Please direct any comments regarding this letter directly to me ([jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Magnuson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John J. Magnuson, Chairman  
LTER Executive Board



# LTER Network Executive Board

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Date: 13 December 2006

To: Morgan Grove and Ted Gragson Co-Chairs LTER Social Science Committee

From: LTER Executive Board

Re: Review of LTER Social Science Committee

As you are aware the LTER Executive Board (EB) recently undertook a review of the standing committees in the LTER Network. As part of that process the EB is now providing feedback to the committee chairs in the form of this correspondence. Below you will find a summary of the EB discussions and any action items that they wish to encourage you to undertake.

The LTER Network Social Science Committee (SSC) is a relatively new targeted standing committee that was formed to assist the LTER Network in its efforts to integrate social science research and education into LTER Network's mission of providing the scientific community, policy makers, and society with the knowledge and predictive understanding necessary to conserve, protect, and manage the nation's ecosystems, their biodiversity, and the services they provide. Its membership has purposely been open to all LTER participants to foster collaboration among sites and disciplines and to encourage idea development. It has been very successful in this regard as its current membership of 40 individuals from 22 of the 26 LTER sites represents a wide range of interests and expertise in the social sciences.

The Executive Board (EB) recognizes that the SSC provides a number of important functions for the LTER Network and has several notable accomplishments to its credit during its relative short existence. In addition to its main activities associated with building a LTER community of social scientists and contributing to the Network's Planning activities, the EB views the SSC's role as a liaison to the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Directorate of NSF as crucial and encourages the committee to remain active in this capacity.

The SSC's plans to solicit reports on social science activities from each of the LTER sites will be useful in promoting awareness and collaboration in the social sciences throughout the Network. However, the value of these reports may be better realized by posting them on the LTER Network website (with notification to [all\\_lter@LTERnet.edu](mailto:all_lter@LTERnet.edu)) rather than including them in the committee's annual report to the EB. The SSC would be best

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served by bringing their cyberinfrastructure needs to the attention of the Network Information System Advisory Committee (NISAC).

It is the expectation that research and education in the social and natural sciences will become fully integrated within the LTER Network after the activities proposed in the planning process are implemented. Once this occurs the SSC should anticipate that it will have fulfilled its purpose and will no longer need to exist. Until then the EB believes that the SSC is providing a very important service to the LTER Network and should be continued. The EB offers the following recommendations for maintaining and improving the effectiveness of the SSC:

1. Develop a written strategic plan that includes a mission statement, goals and strategies for achieving those goals. NISAC recently completed such a plan and the EB encourages you to look to it for guidance.
2. Because the SSC is likely to continue to grow in its membership it will be necessary for it to change from its current ad hoc style of management to a more defined committee structure in order to maintain its effectiveness. A multi-tiered structure, such as that adopted by the IM committee (i.e., a small administrative executive committee, voting members consisting of one representative from each of the 26 sites, and non-voting members) would enable the SSC to continue its open membership without compromising its effectiveness.
3. Adopt bylaws that describe the governance structure, the process by which decisions and recommendations are made, and the process and terms by which administrative and voting members are elected.

Please direct any comments regarding this letter directly to me ([jjmagnus@wisc.edu](mailto:jjmagnus@wisc.edu)).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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