

Exec. Comm. minutes

Here is a short summary of the general Exec. Comm. meeting (not necessarily in the order of occurrence).

Meeting took place June 6 and 7, 1995, at the University of Washington, College of Forest Resources. In attendance were Bruce Hayden, John Hobbie, Bob Waide, James Gosz, Jerry Franklin and John VandeCastle.

The morning of June 6 was spent in 4 sessions with various subgroups of the Network Office staff (Administration, Publications, Communication/Connectivity, and Remote Sensing/GIS). These discussions were valuable to better understand the current functioning of the Network Office to allow the committee to develop the upcoming Network Office proposal.

The afternoon of June 6 was dedicated to developing the outline of the Network Office proposal that this committee will develop for the open competition that we expect NSF to announce soon. Writing assignments were made with the first deadline for those assignments on July 15. Gosz will prompt the committee around July 1 to remind them of the deadline. Gosz will call David Foster and email Kay Gross about their roles when he returns from the Prague trip to discuss their participation. Jerry Franklin and Jim Gosz visited with the Univ. of Washington administration to discuss the cost sharing opportunities on this proposal. They were receptive to further discussions and suggested that the committee develop a list of items that would be appropriate (or necessary) for the University of Washington to contribute to the project for cost sharing. Jim Gosz and Jerry Franklin will develop this during the next two months and visit with the Administration again in July.

The morning of June 7 was dedicated to further development of the proposal.

The afternoon of June 7 was devoted to additional business items, primarily in preparation for the fall CC meeting in Minnesota. This "larger" version of the CC meeting will have a biodiversity workshop attached. Bob Waide and David Tilman have been developing plans for the workshop which will take most of 1 day. The plan at this stage is to present the status of biodiversity across the LTER sites from data that Bob is acquiring as well as a keynote presentation. We identified Ron Pulliam as the type of person that is appropriate and Gosz will contact him about participation. The remainder of the workshop will involve site participation in future plans for developing the biodiversity issue in LTER. Dates for the CC meeting are Oct. 20-22 with the Biodiversity workshop on Oct. 21.

Several other major issues will be discussed at the CC meeting that will provide the basis for a presentation to NSF by the Exec. Comm. in January.

1) A network strategy for deficit funding.

We will analyze the range of ways the sites handled the cut to their budgets and develop a response for how the additional reductions or loss of capability from a flat budget will be handled. Effectively, a flat budget will result in the loss of 1 technicians salary each year (due to inflation). We will discuss whether the LTER community wants to develop a common strategy for this reduced ability. As an example, the sites might want to agree to reduce in certain areas where there is a relatively good chance of acquiring funds from other sources.

2) Criteria for NSF review

We would like to develop suggestions to present to NSF regarding how the mid-term reviews and future panel reviews should be handled. LTER sites are concerned with changing criteria or inappropriate criteria. Also, the sites are concerned that the reviewers have not been given appropriate guidance on renewal proposals. The upcoming renewal of the 2 augmented awards presents a unique new situation.

3) All-Scientists Meeting.

Current Network Office funding prevents an All-Scientists meeting from being financed by the Office. We believe there has been high value from such meetings and would like to analyze the types of products and progress that

resulted from past meetings. We should work on a strategy for holding future All-Scientists meetings in this new budget scenario. For example, can we integrate a meeting with a major scientific society meeting (The ESA meeting in Albuquerque in 1997 was suggested). Can we take advantage of developing interagency efforts at a National network of sites for monitoring and assessment to get funding for such an All-Scientists meeting. Can we save \$ by scheduling one of the CC meetings to coincide with a national meeting to help pay for this.

We are trying to schedule the meeting of the Exec. Comm. with NSF for the week of Jan. 8 - 12, 1996. By that time Jim Gosz will not have a Conflict of Interest situation with NSF.

Other Exec. Comm. business involved discussion of submitting proposals to the Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (the RFP should be out soon). We anticipate that the first deadline will be at the end of the summer and we will have little opportunity to develop a Network-wide effort. We will recommend that the LTER sites/scientists be open with their ideas for how LTER can be involved and share their ideas. We all stand to gain from these synthesis efforts. At the CC meeting in the fall we will discuss the development of themes for the Network and solicit people to develop proposals.

The Exec. Committee reviewed two proposals from graduate students requesting intersite travel funds for their graduate research. One was recommended for funding and the second will be asked for an addendum before a decision will be made. Gosz was in conflict and did not participate in the proposal discussions. The Exec. Committee recommended that a second announcement be made to solicit proposals for the remainder of the funds. The deadline should be Oct. 15 so the proposals can be reviewed at the next Exec. Comm. meeting at Cedar Creek.

John Hobbie discussed the status of the BioScience article and the committee made suggestions for revisions. The next draft of the article should be available by the end of August.

Bruce Hayden recommended that we contact the National Geographic Society for the possibility of an entire issue devoted to LTER research on past, present, and future changes in climate and environment. Gosz contacted NGS but was told the journal (National Geographics Research and Exploration) has been discontinued. He will try to contact Tony de Souza again about other possibilities.

respectfully submitted,

Jim Gosz