

LTER Executive Committee Notes-January 13, 1995-Washington D.C.

A proposal is on the table to modify the LMER program into LTER. This will be initiated by a workshop lead by Hobbie and Hayden, to formulate a working plan.

Bruce Hayden presented a progress report from the LTER publications committee on the status of LTER publication - that all the sites are working on a number of publication efforts which are summarized in a report to the LTER chair, LTER/EC and LTER/CC. Discussions by the EC suggested that LTER be proactive on putting together synthetic site-level publications.

Jim Gosz gave background on potential interactions with NASA, including the LTER/EOS cross-site proposal, potential links with the ORNL-DAAC and other activities. Other activities that might result from the recent USFS/NSF MOU that was signed were brought up, as well as new potential links with EPA.

Jim mentioned that NSF might now be interested in an urban LTER site competition be opened up. Discussions mentioned that this has been thought of as a priority by LTER itself, and would include social science activities.

Discussion of criteria for "associated status" of sites, especially on the international basis in ILTER activities. Criteria to be considered include publications and scientific activities as well as data management and exchange as well as communication. A difficulty in this is that some sites are looking for acceptance by US LTER as a stamp of approval for use as leverage by other sites. It must be considered that one of the reasons for affiliation with LTER is access to data, information and expertise of the LTER Network. For LTER this would help to have more formalized partners, and remove the views of being a closed institution. Bob Waide was keyed with developing criteria for affiliation, and the purpose for affiliation.

ILTER activities are proceeding at both the site and Network level with significant catalytic activities planned by Network Office and connectivity committee personnel including the Australian ERIN Network, Taiwan, and Hungary workshop.

The LTER All scientists meeting date of Sept 15-20 was confirmed by the LTER/EC and to be held at a "remote" location near a major hub - such as Salt Lake or Denver. The Network Office will begin negotiations for the meeting.

LTER Exec meeting with NSF and LTER/NSF Video Teleconference

Briefing of sites on Smithsonian "Forces of Change" display planned for 1998 which could link directly to LTER research and public awareness. This could be managed through supplemental funding to sites at a level of \$50K to 20% of the total LTER grant - to produce public education and outreach material.

Bruce Hayden presented information on what the publication committee has assessed to date. A report has been prepared for submission to the LTER CC at the spring meeting at VCR. The report detail about 20 volumes of synthesis as well as other publications of the sites. Many of the sites have produced special journal issues - approximately 12 volumes.

Jim Gosz gave linkages such as potential collaborations would develop from the USFS/NSF MOU, linkages with NASA, EPA and NBS.

Jim mentioned the previous discussions of an Urban LTER site. which hopefully could be added with new money - to include social sciences - discussions that have been made before.

Jerry forwarded discussion on criteria for LTER affiliation, that would probably be different for US and foreign participation - the criteria to be initiated by Bob Waide for discussion at the spring CC meeting - These would primarily be filters based on the mission of LTER and technical capability of current activities. Jerry pointed out there needs to be a clearing house - probably at the Network Office so everybody is informed on what is happening on the international front. Jerry pointed out the previously documented list of international activities and meetings planned for 1995 and beyond.

Jerry gave information on what was decided for the LTER all scientists meeting including the need

Mary Clutter mentioned that DEB is in need of a new division director as a key point. Mike Allen mentioned a need for an ILTER strategic planning document. Other opportunities have been moving along very rapidly with other agencies and LTER is well respected in Washington both at NSF and other agencies. Mary Clutter pointed out the positive scope of the current budget and keyed the LTER groups to pay attention to the president's February budget. Overall the teleconference went quite well. Costs will be evaluated and shared with the sites. Carolne brought up the issue of accession numbers for datasets, and after much discussion it was decided this should proceed, especially since it should be applied to metadata standards.