

LTER/EXEC Meeting Minutes
October 19, 1991
Hog Island, Virginia Coast Reserve and Washington, D.C.

1. Future of the LTER Program LTER has suggested to NSF that the Program be expanded to include additional sites which would improve the Network's abilities to respond to global change research. Expansion might be pursued through current and developing NSF initiatives: the Freshwater Initiative, the High-Performance Computer Initiative, and Biodiversity and Global Change Initiatives. LTER has already implemented high-performance computing and should continue to; biodiversity is already an integral part of current LTER research; freshwater ecologists within LTER are ready and waiting for more opportunities, and; sustainability, the current focus of global change research, is also already an integral part of LTER research.

2. Ten-Year LTER Evaluation NSF has expressed interest in reviewing the overall LTER program. Several approaches were suggested. NSF is also very concerned with the Program/ Network demonstrating a major synthesis capability and seeing this reflected in publications.

3. Trout Lake LTER/CC It was decided that more individuals should be getting experience in chairing LTER/CC meetings. As a result, at the Trout Lake meeting Jerry Franklin will handle the business, John Magnuson a science session, and John Hobbie a session on synthesis. Invitations should go out to invite people to discuss current and future cross-site synthesis (Mark Harmon, Bill Schlesinger, and others). In addition, one- to two-hour sessions should be organized on: (1) safety net for sites; (2) regionalization capabilities of the Network (should be expanded into several sub-sessions); (3) how to do synthesis as a network.

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4. Fall '92 Alaska LTER/CC Schedule: July 31 - EXEC travel in to Fairbanks; August 1 - LTER/EXEC meets/ LTER/CC representatives travel in; August 2 - LTER/CC in Fairbanks; August 3 - Bonanza site visit/field trip; August 4 - drive via van to Arctic site; August 5 -field trip to Toolik Lake. August 6 - drive to Prudhoe Bay and fly to Fairbanks by the 7th for travel home or to ESA on the 8th.

5. Other Upcoming Meetings Summer '92 LTER/EXEC Meeting: Tentatively June 11-12, or June 18-19 (Thursday-Friday) Washington, D.C. To be combined with a visit to the Smithsonian Institution's facility on Chesapeake Bay.

1992 LTER Data Managers Meeting: August 8-9, Honolulu, Hawaii, preceding AIBS/ESA meetings.

6. LTER Slide Set The Data Managers have suggested that a data management-specific slide set be developed to supplement the current slide set, with a synthesis manual to be developed later. A first step will be to have someone (Bill Michener) give a presentation on this at the Trout Lake meeting.

7. Bibliographic Database System Discussions suggested that developing an intelligent bibliographic database could be a very costly project--over \$100,000, primarily for person-costs to collect and index the material. It was decided that this issue should be discussed further at the Trout Lake Meeting. (On the other hand, such a product would be very valuable: as an effective PR tool; for database access and downloading through LTERNET; more important, as a source for research information within LTER. Also, since LTER researchers WANT to promote their publications, the project shouldn't carry the proprietary concerns that exist with the Core Dataset Catalog.)

8. Future NSF Directorate Meetings Agenda should include items such as future technical supplements which are logical for the Directorate to fund--instrumentation, optical disk jukeboxes and processors for the sites, as well as

8. Future NSF Directorate Meetings future upgrades of LTERNET. A proposal for high-resolution imagery (< 30M - multispectral) with future plans to implement EOS data for the sites
could be submitted to NASA or another division. Future upgrades of LTERNET and Network-wide communications could be funded through the DIR directorate.

9. Caroline Bledsoe Caroline Bledsoe's new position for facilitation of interaction between LTER and NSF will be for one year, initially. She reported that the fall 1991 Network of Networks workshop was held to bring together the different US reserach networks. Possibilities for collaboration could include research on biological controls and biogenic gas flux measurements, as well as a whole organismal research, starting with a workshop perhaps on an insect phenology or human population.

10. International LTER activities China - A continuing CERN/LTER link is a logical connection limited perhaps only by personnel here. CERN is applying for a World Bank loan to acquire the equipment needed for research (at central sites, more than by individual CERN researchers). The current program has been supported by LTER "volunteers." Costs of continued interaction need to be made more concrete to obtain funding for those in LTER who wish to participate. This is particularly important with regard to data management, perhaps the weakest aspect of CERN research. Financial support will have to be obtained for future interactions.

11. 1993 All Scientists Meeting To be held in late August or early October. Same basic format as five-day 1990 meeting in Estes Park. An off-campus location preferred, possibly Estes Park again, with better attention to poster display and meeting space. John Vande Castle will coordinate, but a committee of volunteers will handle the actual meeting details--site selection, program organization, etc. Volunteers will be identified at the Trout Lake LTER/CC. A site must be reserved before summer of 1992. An estimated 650 people will attend.

12. Meeting with NSF Restructuring occurring now; the BBS Directorate has been divided into two separate directorates, one for biological sciences and one for social, economic and psychological sciences. The Trout Lake meeting NSF representative might be asked to interpret results/impacts for LTER. There is some consideration at NSF for moving LTER-type research into a separate program which might include long-term programs like the Land-Margin Ecological Research Program (LMER) and other collection-based programs.

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