

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
August 31, 2007; 11am-1pm EST - Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 11:00 by Chair Phil Robertson; members present: Morgan Grove, Don Henshaw, Sarah Hobbie, Chuck Hopkinson, Sherri Johnson, Steve Pennings, Dan Reed, Bob Waide; members absent: Peter Groffman, Sally Holbrook, Berry Lyons.
2. Information Items
 - a. 2008 SC meeting schedule finalized: 8am Wednesday, May 7 to noon Friday May 9
NOTE: EB meeting Tuesday May 6; schedule May 5 for travel date
 - b. Funding increments for 2008 renewals
Robertson reported from Henry Gholz tentative funding values for renewal proposals going in next February; for non-augmented, non-polar sites (KNZ, AND, SGS) a 14% increase to \$940k; for augmented sites (CWT, NTL) 11% increase; for PAL 16%.
Increase not tied to ISSE or other specific expectation for new science.
3. Minutes for June 25, 2007, meeting approved by consent.
4. Minisymposium 2008
 - a. Discussed potential dates of Feb 20, 21, 27, or 28 as vetted by NSF; holiday the week of the 20th suggests 27 or 28; Robertson will check with NAB chair to see if preference and choose date.
 - b. Agreement to make topic similar to last year's, e.g. LTER Science for Society and the Environment, in order to keep ISSE before NSF.
 - c. Discussed organizing committee, suggestion to recruit from last year's speakers accepted. Robertson will contact and charge.
5. Strategic Plan
 - a. CyberInfrastructure Approval
Discussion of cyberinfrastructure strategic plan led by Grove, who noted recommendation of subcommittee (Grove, Groffman, Robertson) to 1) add explicit description of our relationship to other observatory networks with respect to CI; 2) include explicit expectation that we will work with commercial vendors where possible and cost-effective rather than develop own software; 3) note that the implementation plan will be science driven, perhaps NISAC directed; and 4) add a site-science example to the modeling section to bolster. Discussion followed, including consensus that implementation plan should be directed by NISAC. Grove made a motion to approve the CI strategic plan pending attention to the points above (as determined by the chair), seconded by Hopkinson. After additional discussion, motion passed by unanimous consent. Robertson will solicit changes from CI group and others; Henshaw, Groffman, Grove volunteered to help edit.

Also discussed oversight for implementation plan for CI.
 - b. Education Strategic Plan Approval
Discussion of education strategic plan led by Hobbie, who noted recommendation of subcommittee (Hobbie, Johnson, Pennings) to ask Education group to revisit the plan to

refine its statements of vision, scope, goals, and implementation strategy. Considerable discussion led to general agreement that plan needs work before being approvable. Waide agreed to organize the revision effort.

c. Research Plan Status (not in this order)

Robertson reported on status of research plan, tightness of timeline once first draft is completed mid-September.

d. Total package

Robertson noted that following discussion with Gholz the package submitted to NSF on October 1 will consist of the following elements:

1) cover letter; 2) executive summary; 3) integrated research plan; 4) strategic plan for education; 5) strategic plan for CI; 6) governance plan; 7) EcoTrends summary; 8) ISSE.

6. Workshop Proposals

Waide provided information on amounts available in current LNO grant for network synthesis activities such as workshops (\$100k for next 2 years), and options for allocating. After discussion there was general agreement to use funds to cover 2007 EcoTrends meeting (\$10k), a potential \$25k overrun expenses for the upcoming 2008 SC meeting in Baltimore, and \$65k for workshops to develop specific proposals to follow from the network research plan now being finalized.

7. LNO Proposal

Robertson presented the annotated listing of major activities to be funded by the 2009-2015 LNO proposal, as developed by Waide. Presentation of 5 activities in each of 4 areas (Synthesis, Cyberinfrastructure, Outreach/External Relations, and Basic Services). Each activity was discussed, overlaps noted, and improvements suggested. General agreement that activities are appropriate and sufficient. Waide will revise and redistribute for final deliberation and formal acceptance at later fall meeting.

8. Other

a. ASM Dates 2009 - Waide reported potential conflict with chosen date of 2009 ASM with religious holiday; after discussion consensus is that he should contact YMCA to figure out a way to avoid if possible, perhaps by starting meeting on Sunday rather than Wednesday.

b. Next meetings:

- i. September 20 2:30-5:00 ET
- ii. October 4 2:30-5:00 ET
- iii. November 1 12:30-3:00 ET
- iv. December 13 2:30-5:00 ET

9. Meeting adjourned 1:15pm.