

1-FEB-1991 16:22 NEWMAIL

TO: LTER Principle Investigators

FR: John Vande Castle

RE: January Executive Committee meeting highlights

The following is a short summary of the LTER/EXEC meeting held in Washington

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1. NET 2-Year Proposal signed-off at NSF
2. Past and "New" LTER Publications
3. Strategic Plan.
4. Interactions with other research groups.
5. Expansion of LTERNET communication server.
6. Possible 4th Year LTER SCI-TECH proposals.

7. Agenda items for Spring LTER Coordinating Committee meeting in Seattle.

1. In discussions with NSF, the LTER/EXEC learned that the Network Office's 2-Year proposal due to start Feb. 1, 1991 had just been signed-off and submitted to NSF's grants and contract department. The proposal included basic support for staff, publications and LTERNET communications server costs, but did not include equipment, workshop or subcontract works as in the last 3-year proposal. Participant support was included for LTER/EXEC, LTER/CC and LTER/DM meetings. A small supplement to this proposal to cover costs for expanded or new publications and activities at the Network Office will be considered by NSF.

2. NSF is obviously very interested in LTER publications. The recent "LTER Core Dataset Catalog" was well received, as was the draft report of "The Status of Technological Supplements within LTER" by David Foster and Emery Boose of HFR-LTER (which is now under update/revision). The recent Climate Variability Report was less well received since it was published through the USFS/USDA and did not explicitly show LTER or NSF support on the cover (this is also being taken care of). There was a consensus to have the Network Office retroactively form a "Numbered Series" of LTER-related publications, and a permanent LTER "logo" to make publications easier to identify and reference. The LTER "site" papers which were prepared for the LTER All-Scientists Meeting will be compiled into an "Expanded Blue Book" publication. Keith VanCleve, who has been collecting most of the revisions will visit Seattle in Feb. to discuss final formats for this publication with NET staff.

3. The "LTER Strategic Plan" document which was initiated at the fall 1989 LTER/CC meeting WILL be in final form for ratification at the LTER/CC

meeting in Seattle. It was suggested that this be an "internal" document for LTER, and that a concise summary will be edited by Jerry Franklin into a short publication for external distribution.

4. Various discussions regarding interactions with other research groups might be useful for future plans of LTER researchers. John Vande Castle and perhaps Caroline Bledsoe (depending on travel restrictions) will attend the "Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems (GCTE) meeting in Briton,UK to represent LTER/NSF. Judy Meyer was interested in initiating LTREB interactions. The "Global Change Summary - site capability papers"

are still in the works by Jim Gosz. Discussions with Robert Corell (Geosciences Directorate) cited increased interest in Global Change research with a specific note on use of "collective networks" as a strategy for research research due to their more unified and cost-effective interaction. Also noted was to check what will be contained

in the "Budget Report" to be published Feb 4 re: FY92 activities.

Meetings including Curtis Mason of NOAA Coastwatch noted a number of new research initiatives within NOAA Forty percent of their proposed \$17.4M FY92 budget is earmarked for research . Their developing nation-wide data distribution network may also be valuable for LTER researchers.

(Curtis's OMNET Email address can be reached though LTERNET as CMason@lternet.washington.edu (Internet) or CMASON@LTERNET (BITNET)).

5. Quite a bit of interest was shown by NSF to expand the LTERNET server machine to allow more real-time communication, file sharing, and extended services to outside research groups. This will probably wait for the installation of the system currently funded for service within LTER, as well as a possible futureworkshop to ascertain the needs of other interested groups.

6. There was discussion by NSF that there may be a possibility for a 4th LTER SCI-Tech supplement. If this should happen, it might include the following items as a focus, to insure standard capabilities within LTER.

A. Capability for processing and utilizing remote sensing data.

This would be in the form of raster Geographic Information System hardware and software at each LTER site.

B. Network connectivity in the form of complete connections to the

Internet and NSFnet backbone for each site. This should include capabilities for remote sharing of hardware and data via

Internet connections.

C. Hardware for archival storage of data including optical disk technology.

D. Additional Geographic Positioning System units (two more pairs).

E. SQL (Structured Query Language) database software for site and intersite data access, storage and archiving.

F. Automated data logging for direct transmission and entry of site. Ants

7. A number of agenda items are planned for the LTER/CC meeting in Seattle.

Also, there will be a long gap until the next planned LTER/CC meeting at NTULTER in February or 1992... A number of associated groups will also be at the meeting including LMER and DOE Parknet. Some of the agenda items already set include:

-Initial suggestions for the next LTER All Scientists Meeting planned for 1993 including time and place

-Acceptance of the wfinal" LTER strategic plan

-Election of a new LTER/EXEC member to replace John Magnuson who will be rotating out of office. The LTER/EXEC decided to have nominations sent to a nominating "Nominating Committee" who will select nominations from suggestions sent to them prior to the meeting

-Review of the Site Descriptions prior to final printing as an "Expanded Blue Book"

"RFAT." Science discussions