

LTER Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 1990  
Estes Park, Colorado

Strategic Plan Draft

Draft copies of the Strategic Plan developed at the fall '89 Harvard Forest meeting were distributed to site principal investigators (PI's) for review. The document is intended primarily as an internal one which NSF (and possibly other groups) may also see because of LTER's high profile. Jerry Franklin asked PI's to look closely at the mission and goals statements and return comments and suggestions to him at the Network Office no later than December 1. A final draft incorporating these will be presented at the Spring '91 LTER/CC in Seattle with a goal of having a completed plan for Jerry to carry with him when he meets with the National Science Board.

Discussion: Fred Swanson suggested that the document incorporate better links with the geophysical community (point made by Phil Sollins earlier in the meeting). Jack Hautaluoma, who assisted the group in the planning process at Harvard Forest, was asked to offer comments: he noted that he was pleased with the Committee's progress in creating a planning document.

New Network Office Proposal

Jerry Franklin reported that the Coordinating Committee grant proposal to NSF for the next period--2/1/91 through 1/31/93--is in preparation at the Network Office. The original deadline set by NSF was September 15, but an extension was granted to October 9 to enable staff to focus on the All Scientists Meeting and to incorporate results from the meeting into the proposal. (Update: the proposal has gone out and is currently under consideration.)

Highlights of the proposal:

Following NSF's direction, there will be no more funding of research or workshops through the Coordinating Committee grant. Funds requested provide infrastructure in support of these Network activities. Apart from a file server, no additional equipment acquisitions are included although, with site support, supplemental equipment proposals may be welcomed.

Funds requested will maintain the Network Office and provide salary of four staff. Rudolf Nottrott will continue to have a coordinating role in developing Network data sharing protocols and maintaining the electronic mail and bulletin board systems; John Vande Castle will focus on the acquisition of remote sensing imagery, archiving and research. (John Magnuson, NTL, intends to use part of his sabbatical in '92 to work with Vande Castle). Stephanie Martin will continue as Publications Coordinator, and Adrienne Whitener as Program Assistant.

- Funds are requested to provide travel support and on-site meeting costs for the Executive, Coordinating and Data Managers committee meetings.
- Funds are requested to continue publishing the Bulletins and NetworkNews newsletters.
- Sites were asked to submit citations of any additional grant-sponsored publications to Stephanie asap for attachment to the proposal, as well as on a continuing basis, so that the Network Office has a complete and current listing.

#### Slide Presentation Project/HFR

David Foster reported that a slide show presentation along the lines of that developed by John O'Keefe for the Harvard Forest Museum (shown at the LTER/CC in fall '89) is under development at his site. He requested slides that show LTER activities at other sites to include in the project, and noted that when the project is completed, a "loaner" copy will be made available to the Network Office.

#### Global Change Action Plan

Jerry Franklin reported the following steps toward implementation: (1) William Schlesinger (JRN) conducted a workshop at the All Scientists Meeting on the mechanics for the Soil Warming Experiment, which may be conducted at the global level. Schlesinger will take the lead in developing a proposal to NSF. (2) Robert Woodbines (CPR) conducted a workshop at the All Scientists Meeting toward a collaborative effort in developing a regional atmospheric biotic interaction approach, extrapolating from the Central Plains site to other biomes, to addressing two Action Items--Predicting

#### Climate Change and Land-Use

Patrician Warner (NSF) addressed the idea of linked population studies in her presentation at the meeting, noting the probable availability of funding since there currently is no good leadership in population studies. Specific proposals under development: (1) Brown/McMahon are preparing a commentary for Science on the importance of ecological studies representing a full range of scales; (2) a workshop proposal including a number of ecologists--both LTER and extra-LTER--to begin developing a more focused view of an ecological global change research plan; (3) Katherine Gross/Gus Shaver will take the lead on a paper for BioScience which illustrates the importance of a broad-scale approach and integration across levels--not just ecosystem, but population, community and landscape work. This initiative is designed to resolve/heal schisms that exist between population and landscape people.

Discussion, other related experiments: Bill Odum (VCR)- NSF supplements for new population studies at sites; David Greenland (NWT)- the climate variability study now underway would be complimentary to Woodmansee's effort; David Foster (HFR)-Jerry Melillo and Paul Steudler have received DOE funding to initiate a soil warming experiment at HFR; Caroline Bledsoe (NSF)-a proposal stemming from the LTER workshop on root processes and belowground activities to take measurements across sites is under development; Jerry Franklin-\$1.2 million/crane canopy access system (CANACSYS) may be funded in the Pacific Northwest, LTER in a position of leadership; John Hobbie (ARC)-Center for Ecological synthesis, independent synthesis center much smaller in scale than NIE, to enhance synthesis in reference to the "bigger questions."

Global Change Book -Caroline Bledsoe reported that she would not be able to edit the book to be developed from the site prospectus papers prepared for the November 1989 Global Change Workshop. Jim Gosz has agreed to take over with assistance from Stephanie in the Network Office. The papers may form individual chapters or be synthesized with individual excerpts.

#### Data Managers Committee

James Brunt (SEV) handed out proceedings of the August 1989 Data Managers meeting in Snowbird and reported that the meeting had been a

maturation of the group. Highlights of their discussions/recommendations:

- Decided to develop a data management symposium and publication (already have potential funding);
- Discussed a plan for distributive climate database;
- Discussed developing a link with Chinese data managers;
- Planned a workshop to link data management/remote sensing and GIS;
- Decided to prepare a short position paper on long-term archival storage;
- Discussed developing outreach to data managers from other agencies;
- Decided to develop a one-page summary of minimum documentation standards;
- Decided to establish a working group to address criteria for evaluation of data management--position paper on its way to sites;
- Decided to develop electronic connectivity between LTERnet and Parknet;
- Agreed to seek new funding to develop ideas.

#### Intellectual Proprietary Issues

Judy Meyer (CWT; LTER/EXEC) reported on the data managers' concern with intellectual proprietary issues especially with regard to the soon-to-be-released Data Catalogs, and noted that an expanded taskforce had been selected to address them: Bill Michener (NIN), John Porter (VCR), Susan Stafford (AND), James Brunt (SEV), Barbara Benson (NTL), Rudolf Nottrott (NET; ex-officio). Discussion centered around concerns that LTER policy won't be in place as the catalog "hits," that related legal issues have not been tested in the courts or by NSF, that data sharing may break existing laws, and that data ownership is unclear (although ultimately data is public if developed with public funds). A two-page summary of guidelines for site policy from the Data Managers Report on intellectual proprietary rights (IPR) was handed out. After revision by the ad-hoc group, the draft will be distributed to the sites to develop specific policies and to recommend changes by December 15. The Executive Committee will incorporate these changes at its January meeting and present a final document for Coordinating Committee approval at the spring '91 meeting. Jerry Franklin entertained a motion from Judy Meyer to make the Intellectual Proprietary Issues Committee a standing committee. The motion did not pass; the Proprietary Issues Committee will remain a continuing ad-hoc group.

#### GIS Working Group

Chair David Foster (HFR) reported that Emery Boose (HFR) had circulated a questionnaire to the sites and the Network Office to access GIS development since MSI, to identify common interests and project to possible intersite projects. Thus far six sites are very involved and the remainder are in the development phase. An outline of responses to the questionnaire will be sent to sites. Foster suggested ongoing communication, particularly as there is no one GIS software that is flexible enough to accommodate the needs of all the sites. He suggested that the Bulletin Board be used to share information on different packages, and that database development be deferred to a later time when more research has accumulated and greater interaction with Data Managers has occurred.

#### Climate Committee

Chair David Greenland (NWT) referred to the report in the Fall '90 Network News that the climate variability monograph is due out this fall. The climate document will be updated to include the new site(s) and to include summaries and standardized data, as well as precipitation, temperature data and time series analysis. Funding for the document will be sought elsewhere (outside the collaboration grant). In addition, information regarding climatic aspects of global change will be shared across e-mail, with site climate representatives responsible for its dissemination.

#### Land Margin Ecosystem Research (LMER) Program

Richard Costanza (Chesapeake Bay LMER), who attended the meeting as a representative of the LMER Program, reported that the four existing LMER sites in overall structure and goals are similar to LTERs. (See fall '90 Network News for background on development of the program.) He posed several questions that will likely be addressed by the LMER sites when they meet as a group for the first time in November at Chesapeake Bay: How should LMERS interact with LTER? What can be learned (and not reinvented) from LTER? Should the LMER sites be added to the LTER Network as a separate but coordinated group that parallels its development? Discussion revealed general receptivity to any proposal from LMERS for integration into the LTER Network, and an invitation to submit such a proposal was extended. It was suggested that the LMER group check with NSF to see if LMERS can be viewed in the same mode as LTERs (for example, whether the five core areas exist in LMERS.) To facilitate further interaction, Jerry Franklin requested that one or two LMER representatives attend the January Executive Committee (LTER/-EXEC) meeting in Washington, D.C., and that the Network Office and the LTER/EXEC be represented at the November '90 LMER meeting.

#### DOE National Environmental Research Parks and Laboratories

Dale Bruns, representing DOE's National Environmental Research Parks and Laboratories (ParkNet), provided a brief overview of the seven sites in that network. He noted that LTER and the DOE network are united by common research goals and areas, and that they are involved in similar kinds of activities: ad-hoc cross-site analysis, computational workshops, data management activities. Bruns announced that LTER will be invited to participate in computational workshops, and proposed that personal and professional interactions between the groups be developed. Toward this end, he suggested that a ParkNet representative might attend LTER/CC meetings, and that already-established electronic communication links be maintained, possibly in a more formal way. He noted that Parknet was prepared to negotiate a mutual arrangement for the costs involved in their participation in the LTER Network. A motion was passed in favor of including a Parknet representative at LTER/CC meetings and coordinating on technological connections, and of welcoming a proposal to the LTER/EXEC from Parknet to maintain these linkages, with an agreement of resource contribution.

#### Next LTER Meetings:

(At PI Bill Odum's request, the Spring '91 LTER/CC will not be held at Virginia Coast Reserve as announced earlier.)

January 14-15, LTER/EXEC, Washington, DC

Spring '91, LTER/CC April 21, 22, 23 Seattle, WA (field trip to Olympic Peninsula)

August '91, LTER/CC Central location (ESA dovetail, Chesapeake LTER site,

DC or Denver, among possibilities suggested.)

February '92, LTER/CC North Temperate Lakes Wisconsin

August '92, LTER/CC Alaska site(s)

Spring '93, LTER/CC Virginia Coast Reserve

Discussion of what the content/format of upcoming meetings should be included: science focus, critique sessions, free time for individual scientist-to-scientist interactions, more "LTER tastings," flexibility.

Next All Scientists Meeting

Chair Jerry Franklin noted that NSF's original idea was to have an LTER All Scientists Meeting every three years, not six to seven. It was proposed that LTER schedule another three years hence. The Executive Committee will identify specific dates for approval by the full Coordinating Committee at an upcoming LTER/CC meeting.

All Scientists \*\*Site Papers

Keith VanCleve (BNZ) reported that the site papers on current research submitted to him were all in "good shape," and that only minor editing was needed to standardize format in a few cases. He noted that he would need the papers on disk to move on to the production phase, as well as a photo of each site for the final document. Brief discussion centered around distribution (audience: scientists at All Scientists Meeting, additional cooperating agencies) and identifying how the document would differ from the "blue book" (this document focuses on research questions, the blue book focuses on site description).