

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
January 19, 2011; 12-2 p.m. EST; Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at noon by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending:, Scott Collins, Ted Gragson, Corinna Gries, Steve Hamilton, John Moore, Emily Stanley, Bob Waide, Mark Williams; Unavailable: Nick Brokaw, Hugh Ducklow, David Foster, Dave McGuire,. Also attending: Matt Kane (NSF) through item 3.
2. Minutes for 6 December 2010 approved by consent.
3. NSF Highlights
Matt Kane reported that NSF budget uncertainty is still an issue. As a result there has been no movement on supplements for 2011 to date; sites can expect REU support but there are no guarantees and there will be no call / instructions issued until the FY11 budget is settled later in the spring. Budget uncertainty also delayed until late December DEB approval for sites renewed in 2010; letters should go out shortly. With the potential for NSF's budget to be set back significantly the reaction to the SIP was also more muted than it could have been.
4. Updates:
 - a. Minisymposium planning. Planning is complete and the program (attached below) has been distributed to NSF. Cheryl Dybas at NSF will be preparing publicity material.
 - b. Transformative science highlights. Site bullets have been completed and are now back to sites for the addition of short narratives for each. Sites have been asked to have a majority of their narratives drafted by Feb 15. Bullets and narratives will be published on a network web page for now, with next steps to be discussed at forthcoming EB meeting, perhaps with NAB advice.
 - c. Site PI histories for NSF still awaiting responses from 2 sites. Should be ready shortly.
5. Report on NSF Meetings December
 - a. SIP Delivery. Robertson, Collins, and Waide provided NSF the Network's 2011 Strategic Implementation Plan (lternet.edu/sip.pdf) in December. A meeting with Joann Roskoski, Penny Firth, Bette Loiselle, Nancy Huntly, and Matt Kane generated positive feedback on the importance of the plan for providing a guiding framework for Network activities and growth. Specific points raised by NSF included the need to partner with other groups to meet some of our broader objectives, the central importance of data availability, and protecting long-term studies. Discussion of Future Scenarios initiative was clouded by funding uncertainty; there still appears no obvious funding mechanism for funding large cross-site efforts and NSF offered no concrete strategies other than funding through an existing cross-directorate program with the potential for extended long-term funding after a first funding cycle.
 - b. LTER Working Group. A meeting with LTER program officers (T. Baerwald, D. Campbell, D. Garrison, N. Huntly, S. Langdon, P. McCartney, Myra McAuliffe) was broad-ranging and served to mainly bring program officers up to date on SIP plans. Of particular note was a discussion of potential SBE funding models, which focused on the potential for base budget augmentations rather than supplements, similar to the ways in which NWT and CWT were augmented in the 1990's.
 - c. Synthesis/Legacy Data prospectus. A meeting with Liz Blood to discuss the legacy data prospectus led to agreement to move forward with a pilot project as recommended by others, and assurance that funding for remaining sites would not be jeopardized by a pilot effort. The pilot might logically be limited to 2 sites. Also discussed was the need to identify a consultant able to help with contracting

issues; Blood suggested 2 names that Waide will follow up.

6. 2011 Working Group Proposals

Waide provided a funding update regarding decisions from the December 20 EB review of working group proposals. All PIs have been contacted and further information and budget adjustments solicited from several. Eight proposals will be funded at the requested amount, five will be partially funded, and one awaits revision and subsequent approval. Requests totaled \$336,068; \$247,849 will be funded, with awards ranging from \$9,000 to \$45,777. The EB agreed that the remaining proposal will be reviewed by Emily Stanley and Steve Hamilton who will then advise Waide and Robertson on its acceptability. Funded proposals are listed at <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/working-groups>

7. New Committee Nominations

Robertson reported the results of the call to sites for committee nominations, and a motion to approve the following appointments was made by Ted Gragson, seconded by Emily Stanley, and passed unanimously:

- a. Communications - Karen Baker (CCE), Lina DiGregorio (AND), Julie Doll (KBS), David Foster (HFR), Peter Groffman (BES), Thomas McOwiti (LNO), Marcia Nation (CAP), Chris Neill (PIE), Daniel Nidzgorski (CDR), Nick Oehm (FCE), Bob Waide (LNO), Charley Driscoll (HBR), and Jonathan Walsh (BES).
- b. Networks Coordination Committee – John Briggs (KNZ), Nick Brokaw (LUQ), Dan Childers (CAP), Evelyn Gaiser (FCE), Sherri Johnson (AND), Linda Kinkel (CDR), Dave McGuire (BNZ), Don Natvig (SEV), Oscar Schofield (PAL), Mark Williams (NWT), and Bob Waide (LNO).
- c. Synthesis Data Committee (ad hoc) - Peter Groffman (BES), chair; Emery Boose (HFR), James Brunt (LNO), Ted Gragson (CWT), Don Henshaw (AND), David McGuire (BNZ), Margaret O'Brien (SBC), Debra Peters (JRN), Wade Sheldon (GCE), and Mark Williams (NWT).

8. LNO Biennial Site Survey

Waide reviewed proposed changes to the biennial site survey about LNO performance. Following discussion the changes were approved by the EB, and Waide will contact the UNM survey office for its administration in February.

9. IMC/IMExec Activities

Corinna Gries reported that the IMC is in the process of establishing bylaws (“Terms of reference”) to guide committee operations. There was general endorsement of this activity and discussion of the desirability of guidelines for other Network committees. The board asked to be informed when the final document was ready to be shared.

10. Upcoming meetings

- a. February 23 (Wed), 2011, 2-4 pm EST (VTC)
- b. March 1-3, 2011, NSF/Arlington (Minisymposium Wednesday, March 2)
- c. March 23 (Wed), 2011, 11am-1pm (VTC)
- d. April 20 (Wed), 2011, 11am – 1pm (VTC)
- e. May 17 (Tues), 8am – 5 pm, Sapelo
May 18-19 (Wed, Thur), SC Meeting, Sapelo
May 20 (Fri), 8am – 1pm, Lead PI meeting, Sapelo

11. Meeting adjourned 1:50 p.m