

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
July 6, 2011; 1 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. EDT via conference call

Meeting called to order at 1pm by Chair Scott Collins; Members attending: Karen McGlathery, John Blair, Bob Waide, Hugh Ducklow, Emily Stanley, Steve Hamilton, Emery Boose, Phil Robertson, David Foster. Unavailable: Dan Childers, Nick Brokaw, John Moore. Also attending from NSF: Nancy Huntly for Agenda Item #2.

1. Approval of the minutes from the 17 May 2011 EB meeting – Approval was delayed so that editorial changes requested by Nancy Huntly could be incorporated and circulated to the EB. The EB will be asked to approve these minutes during the 1 August 2011 teleconference.

2. Report from NSF:

- Continuing LTER program officer – we would be notified soon regarding Nancy Huntly's replacement as LTER PO.
- Supplement call – was very good news in that the LTER program had nearly its full budget reinstated for supplement funding in FY 2011. These funds in supplement activities that will improve data structure and availability for NIS, and foster greater interaction between sites and the LNO. Funds were also set aside for the 2012 ASM (\$300K), along with an additional \$30K to pay our back dues to ILTER. Hopefully, funds will be added to the LNO budget for future dues payments so that we won't continue to suffer the embarrassment of being behind in our dues payment to a network that we initiated.... Supplements are due no later than 19 July, but the sooner the better.
- DEB program officer, Division Director and Assistant Director searches are rolling along in BIO, as well as for an LTER Program Director in Polar Programs. New BIO AD may be announced soon.
- Still no 30-year report. Everyone is holding their breath.
- Nancy Huntly said that the site visits have gone well mechanically, great panels, thoughtful, worked well with review guidelines, and that the panels have focused on the goal of a successful renewal proposal 2.5 yrs from now. These are viewed as formative evaluations that can support "adaptive change". Panels look into strengths and weaknesses – major issues that need strategic thinking. Overall, the reports have been quite positive. Two more reports in process, several site visits still to go. Pleased with the site reviews so far.
- Renewal proposal format will be much the same as in the past. Some page reallocation may occur. Waiting for internal approval of the formal program announcement, which should be out in August 2011.

3. IM Supplements discussion

- LNO sent out a quick survey of interest to site IMs regarding potential topics for cross-site IM supplement activities. Several topics were identified and will be pursued collectively. Sites may buy in or not depending on topics and need. There is no requirement to participate in cross-site IM supplement activities, and it is likely that many sites will do some of both – address site specific needs and participate in cross-site projects as appropriate. It is hoped that site specific activities might have some generality that could be transported to other sites.

4. Collins again requested that members of the EB nominate people to serve on the ASM organizing committee, as well as names of potential new NAB members. The EB also agreed that Tony Janetos be asked to serve as Chair of the NAB.

5. Picking third site for pilot project. CDR withdrew, CWT reluctant. Intent is to have sites help write the RFP, so check back with Ted on that. Will resources be directed to sites to compensate them for the time commitment to participate in the pilot project? Sites need to weigh in on this. Talk with Liz about this? Let the bidders argue for their compensation as they develop the RFP. Assume that anything the contractors do will be of lasting benefit to the site. Ask Ted if he says no, go back to Groffman to get another site nomination from synthesis data committee.

6. There was an extended discussion about the best use of the \$50K funds set aside in the LNO budget for sabbatical funding. If we want to use them for sabbatical support, then the LNO needs to issue a general call for sabbatical proposals. Other options are for more working groups or for grad student/postdoc support associated with working groups. Currently we have \$150K (per year) for working groups and \$50K for sabbaticals, as well as \$87K set aside for decadal plan activities. The latter is allocated to the four prospectus working groups. In 2011 these funds were used to support the future scenarios group (\$45K). It was noted that we would be opening the floodgate by supporting sabbaticals. It was suggested that these funds could be used to support postdocs who are trained as grad students at one site and can go work at another site. Regardless, these funds need to support overall network synthesis goals/prospectus topics, which in some cases may or may not be a good postdoc opportunity. The group concluded that these funds might best be dispersed via two mechanisms similar to NCEAS: working group proposals can include a very well justified component for a post doc, and recent PhDs can apply directly for the postdoc funds to conduct a synthesis project. Once implemented, we will revisit this mechanism in a couple of years to determine its effectiveness.

7. Brief announcements:

- The next ILTER annual meeting will be held in Japan in September 2011
- Dr. Xiubo Yu, Associate Professor, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Secretary General of Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), Chinese Academy of Sciences will be visiting the US and Niwot Ridge LTER in late July 2011. He will be hosted by US ILTER co-

- chairs Patrick Bourgeron and Kristin Vanderbilt during his time in Colorado.
- The 2012 Science Council meeting will be held during the week of 14 May 2012.
 - John Vande Castle is looking into a potential MOU between LTER and OpenTopography that may provide LTER sites with greater access to existing LIDAR data.
 - Sites were encouraged to participate in Congressional Visits Day when their Members of Congress are in town during the August recess. Attempts to schedule meetings with a member of Congress or their staff can be made through AIBS.