

Minutes of the LTER Science Council Business Meeting
May 19, 2011; 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm; Jekyll Island, GA

1. Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm by Chair Phil Robertson.

Members attending¹:

Meryl Alber (GCE) *, John Briggs (KNZ)*, Barbara Bond (AND)*, Patrick Bourgeron (NWT and INT), Nicholas Brokaw (LUQ and EB)*, John Chamblee (CWT)*, Dan Childers (CAP)*, Scott Collins (SEV, EB)*, Charles Driscoll (HBR)*, Hugh Ducklow (PAL, EB)*, David Foster (HFR, EB)*, Evelyn Gaiser (FCE)*, Anne Giblin (PIE)*, Morgan Grove (BES, SOC)*, Steve Hamilton (KBS, EB)*, Bruce Hayden (VCR, CWC), Don Henshaw (AND, IMC), Sally Koerner (GRAD), Karen McGlathery (VCR)*, Diane McKnight (MCM and NWT)*, Mark Ohman (CCE)*, Deb Peters (JRN)*, Margaret O'Brien (SBC, IMC), Dan Reed (SBC)*, Roger Ruess (BNZ)*, Russell Schmitt (MCR)*, Gus Shaver (ARC)*, Beth Simmons (PAL, CCE, EDU), Emily Stanley (NTL, EB)*, David Tilman (CDR)*, Bob Waide (LNO, EB), Mark Williams (NWT, EB)*.

Voting Members not present: John Moore (SGS)*

Also Present: Byron Adams (MCM), Steve Archer (JRN), Emery Boose (HFR), Dawn Browning (JRN), Todd Crowl (LUQ), Scott Doney (PAL)*, George Garcia (LNO), Daniell Generette (CAP), Nancy Grimm (CAP and NSF), Sally Holbrook (MCR), Jay Lennon (KBS), Steve Pennings (GCE), Will Pockman (SEV), Ben Ruddell (CAP), John Vande Castle (LNO).

2. Minutes for the May 13, 2010, meeting were unanimously approved without discussion following a motion made by David Tilman with support from Russ Schmidt.

3. NSF Report

Nancy Huntly provided an NSF update. Topics included

- a. Budget – Programs await final budget allocations, at which time BIO expects to announce a general REU/ROA/RHASS/RET call for underrepresented groups, as well as an LTER-specific call as in past years, pending available funds.
- b. 30 year review – NSF is still awaiting the written version of the 30y LTER review. The verbal report at the BIO-AC meeting in March was highly laudatory of the Network at several levels. The committee nonetheless had several specific recommendations which presumably (but may not) make it into the final written report; these include 1) leadership for network science initiatives – ensuring that incentives are available for research leadership; 2) scientific vision and direction – ensuring that the network not inappropriately limit itself to ISSE-type research; 3) data availability – ensuring that the promise of networked sites is realized with accessible data; 4) NSF program management – ensuring continuity in program officers; 5) workforce diversity – ensuring greater representation by underrepresented groups; and 6) stakeholder engagement – ensuring that decision makers are engaged, and especially policy makers.
- c. Questions from the floor.

4. Science Initiatives Reports

- a. BioScience Issue / ESA Symposium. David Foster provided an update on the status of the special issue of BioScience featuring LTER articles and the associated symposium at ESA. We have 6

¹ CWC= Climate and Water Committee, EB = Executive Board; PUB = Publications Committee; SOC = Social Science Committee; IMC = Information Management Committee; INT= International Committee; GRAD = Graduate Student Committee; EDU= Education Committee

* Voting member of SC

articles plus an editorial slated for publication, each article with 6-24 authors. All manuscripts are in final draft form (authors and titles available at <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/node/3454/>) and expected to be submitted within the next week, with potential publication next winter. Prior to that, lead authors will be presenting based on their articles at an ESA symposium in Austin on August 9 (Tuesday) 1:30-5pm.

- b. Future Scenarios Initiative. Foster also presented an update on the Future Scenarios effort. A version of the project involving 6 forested LTER sites went forward as a Macroecosystems Ecology proposal last month, and efforts are continuing to inform potential stakeholders within federal agencies and NGOs of the value and vision of the larger effort.
 - c. Synthesis / Legacy Data Initiative. Robertson reported that the initiative is on track, with 10 sites having responded to the call for 3 sites to work with the proposed contractor in an initial pilot project. The Synthesis Data committee will rank the sites for a final EB decision in June as the statement of work is finalized and a contractor sought.
 - d. Network Office Report
Bob Waide reported on network office activities over the past year; highlights are attached.
5. Chair Report
Robertson reported on the expected 30y review response, explaining that the EB will elicit comments from the SC and NAB prior to responding to the report, perhaps after NSF's response (a formal Network response is not required but advisable, as in the past, whereas NSF is required to respond to the BIO-AC at its Fall meeting). He also reported on the delivery of the Strategic Implementation Plan to NSF, and its current status as a living document and roadmap for EB and Committee activities. In response to questions, he additionally described the outcome and progress of the transformative science bullets (see EB minutes for further information).
6. 2012 Minisymposium
The 2012 Minisymposium will be broadened to include greater stakeholder engagement, and in particular to appeal to Hill and agency staff who do not usually come to Arlington for the event. A subcommittee of the Communications Committee (Charley Driscoll, Peter Groffman, and Phil Robertson) will be working with NSF and others to find alternatives and make recommendations. Nancy Huntly suggested that we not move the minisymposium from NSF because it is such an outstanding opportunity for NSF program officers and directors to learn of LTER science, and instead add activities to enlarge its reach.

Robertson called for nominations for a theme, and following discussion a consensus emerged to focus the theme on the role of long-term research for informing sustainability; expected talks would tie into the new SEES initiative at NSF. The program committee will be charged with sharpening the title (incorporating, for example, innovations and insights from long-term observations and experiments, and perhaps ecosystem resilience) in addition to recruiting speakers.

Action: Karen McGlathery with support from Diane McKnight moved that a committee comprised of Nancy Grimm, Dan Childers, Dave Tilman, Mark Ohman, and Barbara Bond be charged with developing a title and soliciting speakers to the theme above. Following additional discussion the motion passed unanimously.
7. 2012 Science Council Meeting
The 2012 SC Meeting will be hosted by AND at a date in May to be determined following Science Council polling. Subsequent meetings are planned for JRN (2013) and MCR (2014); the following three meetings (2015-2017) will be held at CWT, KNZ, and HFR in an order to be determined.

Action: Following discussion noting the success of linking this year's SC theme to the Minisymposium theme, Dan Childers with support from Steve Hamilton moved that the SC theme for 2012 follow from the 2012 Minisymposium theme, with a committee to be co-chaired by Karen McGlathery and Evelyn Gaiser and members appointed by the EB chair. After additional discussion the motion passed unanimously.

8. National Advisory Board (NAB) Nominations

Robertson noted that it is the responsibility of the SC to nominate new NAB members (half are nominated by the SC and half by the NAB chair), and 4 openings means that the SC needs to nominate 2 new members each for a 3-year term once renewable. Scott Collins will solicit nominations by email following this meeting, with an eye towards specific backgrounds as outlined in the EB minutes. Current and former NAB members can be found at <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/sites/intranet2.lternet.edu/files/National%20Advisory%20Board%20Membership%20March%202011.pdf>.

9. Recognition and thanks

Robertson led the SC in thanking the following for their recent outstanding service to the Network:

- a. Outgoing NAB chair Carol Brewer, who has served on the NAB since 2006 and as chair since 2009.
- b. Outgoing EB members Ted Gragson, Corinna Gries, David Foster, and Mark Williams, who will be replaced by incoming members John Blair, Emery Boose, Dan Childers, and Karen McGlathery.
- c. The Minisymposium Organizing Committee members Scott Collins (chair), Diane McKnight, Hugh Ducklow, David Foster, and Dan Reed.
- d. The SC Science Program Committee members John Blair (chair), Mark Ohman (convener), Merryl Alber, Kirstin Dow, Nancy Grimm, Morgan Grove, and Sharon Harlan.
- e. The BioScience Prospectus Committee members David Foster (chair), Sarah Hobbie, Chris Boone, and Dan Childers.
- f. Outgoing committee chairs Chelse Prather (Graduate Student Committee) and Wade Sheldon (NISAC).
- g. the 2011 SC Meeting Local Organizers Meryll Alber, Steve Pennings, and Chuck Hopkinson, LNO staff George Garcia and John Vande Castle, together with the many other GCE staff and investigators who contributed to the meeting's success.
- h. Many many other committee members and chairs.

10. Chair transition.

Bob Waide led the SC in recognizing Phil Robertson for his 4 years of service to the Network as Science Council and Executive Board Chair, and presented a plaque and gift from Network scientists. Following brief remarks and thanks, Robertson passed the gavel to incoming chair Scott Collins who adjourned the meeting following additional remarks.

11. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Report from the LTER Network Office

May 19, 2011

Robert B. Waide

Major priorities of the LNO from May 2010 to May 2011.

Research

- Support and facilitate research working groups (14 groups supported for a total of \$262,000)
- Support and facilitate Network-wide research initiatives (future scenarios, inland climate, disappearing cryosphere, coastal vulnerability; total of \$126,000)
- Coordinate meeting of the Science Council, Executive Board, and lead PIs on Jekyll Island, GA
- Develop a web page providing a history of LTER site proposals, panel summaries, and mid-term reviews for the past three funding cycles
- Develop agreements to provide access to data from Macrosystems Biology projects
- Participate in a Macrosystems Biology proposal involving five LTER sites

Education

- Participate in a proposal being prepared by HBR in partnership with SimBio to develop an e-text interactive chapter on Water Resources and Hydrology
- Facilitate communication with and within the LTER Education Committee, Math and Science Partnership, and LTER Children's book series
- Participate in LTER Math and Science Partnership project by developing a platform for professional development materials
- Initiate discussions with the LTER Executive Board on allocating additional support to LTER education efforts to address goals of the Strategic and Implementation Plan

Communication

- Participate in the development of the Strategic Communication Plan and subsequent activities of the LTER Communications Committee
 - Submit a proposal in collaboration with EarthSky to produce eight LTER interviews that will be distributed via their radio network, podcasts, social media outlets, and a dedicated page on the EarthSky website (<http://earthsky.org/>)
 - Revise the LTER Intranet page (<http://intranet2.lternet.edu/>)
 - Initiate planning for new gateway LTER web site by developing preliminary design document (<http://www.lternet.edu/>)
 - Prepare a web page that will highlight key findings from LTER research
 - Prepare and distribute the biennial survey on LNO activities and services
 - Support and webcast the LTER mini-symposium

Information management

- Continue development of the LTER Network Information System (<https://nis.lternet.edu/NIS/>)
- Support and facilitate IM working groups on:
 - Web services (working group and compensation to site for IM time)
 - Enhancing the Utility of the LTER Controlled Vocabulary (working group)
 - EML congruency checker (working group and compensation to site for IM time)
 - Designing and writing workflow scripts in the PASTA framework (working group and compensation to site for IM time)
 - Creating a network-wide basemap and Interactive Cartographic Almanac (compensation to site for IM time)
 - Training in the Drupal Environmental Information Management System (working group)

SC Minutes - Attachment 1

- Contribute to development of the synthesis data project; development of baseline documents, interaction with ad hoc committee, consultation with colleagues at NEON, preparation for RFI and RFP
- Prepare a document on best practices for developing data management plans
- Facilitate the development of new LTER databases (e.g., Streamchem DB)
- Coordinate transfer of SGS data to the LNO
- Migrate the ClimDB and HydroDB databases to the LNO
- Complete a cyberinfrastructure assessment survey

Coordination with other networks

- Explore joint efforts with NEON, Organization of Biological Field Stations, National Phenological Network, Critical Zones Observatories
- Participate with other environmental observatories in coordination of cyberinfrastructure, data management, input to NSF s2I2 program, data publication, and data lifecycle management

