

LTER Executive Board Minutes 19 September 2013  
12:00PM-2:00PM EDT  
Conference Call

Meeting called to order at 10:00AM EDT by Chair Scott Collins; Members attending: Dan Childers, John Blair, Emery Boose, Evelyn Gaiser, Bob Waide, Mark Ohman, Mary Spivey, Gus Shaver, Karen McGlathery, Emma Rossi-Marshall, Deb Peters, Will Pockman

Not attending: Childers, McGlathery

**1. Approval of draft minutes**

Approved unanimously

**2. Proposal for book for Oxford series**

Approved unanimously

**3. Proposal for series of PBS documentaries (see attached resume, story line, and sample video at <https://vimeo.com/74879768>)**

Mark Williams is working with another geoscientist on ice cores, and this person also produces documentaries for PBS. He wants to submit a proposal to do a season of PBS shows that would feature LTER sites. Would we be agreeable to that? YES! Focus of past work is on pre-teens. How might we help him produce a pilot? Cost would be between \$20-40K. We would likely need to help find resources for this to happen. Seems like an excellent opportunity worthy of follow-up. Education Committee will also weigh in on the plans and strategy funding. CCE volunteered to be used for the pilot.

**4. LNO update - effect of budget reduction on support for Network activities**

There was hope the last time we reported on LNO budget activities. That hope has been dashed. Originally there was a plan that was verbally approved to allow a large carry-over in core award because of the ARRA money spend-out by Sept 2013. UNM admin confounded the problem by not providing the information requested by NSF in a timely manner. Three staff have been notified their positions will end 30 Nov 2013. Others may not be extended past June 2014. Consequences: may not be able to complete PASTA framework, reduction in office staff responses, no progress on workflows for EcoTRENDS data, management of ClimDB and HydroDB will need to be covered by remaining personnel, no synthesis working groups in final 2 years, IM compensation, training, limited LNO travel so no webcast of minisymposium, no other travel support. Participant support is limited next year. May cancel funding for NISAC and NAB travel. Etc. Need to redirect these funds to SC meeting. Possible to get some additional funds from NSF, but not likely. Pushing for a meeting with NSF personnel to see if they might allow additional funds to be released. We need a strong statement of support from EB to back up request for at least additional funds to complete NIS.

Without additional funds, office may have to shut down in Feb 2015 prior to the Science Council meeting. Some of these actions are "draconian." We need NIS/PASTA, synthesis workshops, science council meetings. We need funds to maintain and use NIS/PASTA. Bob Waide will draft a statement for the EB to endorse. The statement will then be submitted to Diane McKnight, as chair of the LNO v2.0 scoping committee, and Program Officers at NSF.

**5. Process for election of chair-to-be**

Scott is into his second and last term. This term ends at the Science Council meeting in 2015. We need an election at the 2014 SC meeting. EB must appoint a nominating committee of 4-5 scientists. That committee must generate a list of potential candidates. The list of candidates is presented to the EB. A month before the SC in 2014 CVs are distributed to the LPI/Science Council. Election occurs at the SC business meeting.

**6. ASM 2015 theme discussion at SC**

Need a theme for the ASM. Will be putting down a deposit for YMCA in Estes Park assuming it is still standing. This meeting also needs a program committee. That committee is rather large. What should we plan to do at that meeting. General structure. We will circulate the science themes for the last 3-4 ASMs.

**7. Update on mini-symposium**

Theme has been set - "Scenarios and ecosystem forecasting: toward an actionable science". As yet we do not have a date for the minisymposium. Three or four potential speakers in mind, but no one has been invited. As soon as we get a date we can start inviting speakers.

**8. Start thinking about what we might want to do with LTER funds**

Continuity of LNO funding  
Synthesis workshops – hi priority; many driven by young investigators  
Cross-site competition  
Infrastructure enhancements – logical for a program to request funds when you actually need it  
PBS series on science in the LTER Network  
EAGER awards  
Cross-site exchanges of REU and RETs  
Network level distributed LTER course

**9. New business**

None