

NISAC Annual Report (May 2013-April 2014)

May 2, 2014

Contents

Membership	(p. 2)
Transition Plans	(p. 3)
Activities and Meetings	(p. 3)
Plans for the next year	(p. 4)
Appendices	(p. 4)

NISAC membership May 2013 - April 2014

Science Members

Paul Hanson (NTL) (Spring 2012-2016) - Co-Chair

Paul Bolstad (CWT) (Spring 2013-2016)

Peter T Doran (MCM) (Spring 2013-2016)

Aaron M Ellison (HFR) (Spring 2013-2016)

Cristina Takacs-Vesbach (MCM) (Spring 2013-2016)

<vacant position>

IM Members

Linda Powell (FCE) (Spring 2011-2014)

M "Gastil" Gastil-Buhl (MCR) (Spring 2011-2015) - Co-Chair

Suzanne Remillard (AND) (Spring 2012-2016) - Co-Chair

Sven Bohm (KBS) (Spring 2013-2016)

LNO Members

Mark Servilla (LNO)

James Brunt (LNO)

Bob Waide (LNO)

Members rotating off in May 2014

Linda Powell (FCE) (Spring 2011-2014) - IM

Members rotating on in May 2014

Mary Martin (HBR) (Spring 2014-2017) – IM (pending EB confirmation)

TBD - Science

Plans for leadership and member transitions

Paul Hanson became Co-Chair at his first meeting in 2012 as he replaced Will Pockman. Paul is on sabbatical from October 2013-2014 and has been playing a low key role on NISAC (although still involved). He is willing to continue as Co-Chair after his sabbatical with the intention of another member transitioning into that role during 2015-2016. NISAC is in need of a new Science Co-Chair. IM Co-Chair Gastil will rotate off in spring 2015 and Remillard in spring 2016. Recruitment of science Co-Chair will occur in the fall of 2014.

Four new scientists began in May 2013, and NISAC is in need of an additional science member. IM replacements are selected by the IMC at their annual meeting. Mary Martin awaits confirmation by EB to begin as an IM member on NISAC starting May 2014.

NISAC Activities and Meetings

In response to the uncertainty of the future of the LTER Network Information System, NISAC agreed to write a position paper in support of continued development, deployment and maintenance of an LTER Network Information System. A subcommittee was formed to author the paper, which was submitted 3/2/2014 to the NSF Task Force on envisioning the next LTER Network Office. See appendix I.

The NISAC committee has approved of Terms of References (V1) for NISAC, which serves to clarify NISAC mission and activities. See appendix II.

NISAC has reviewed the progress of NIS development over the period from May 2013 to April 2014. See appendix III.

In the winter of 2013, a call went out to site PIs asking for nominations of potential science members for NISAC. The nominations were reviewed, discussed and voted on by NISAC. Four nominees were selected and sent to EB for approval. These were approved on 4/16/2013. In lieu of a winter/spring 2013 in-person meeting, NISAC held a video-teleconference (VTC) call on 5/9/2013 mainly to introduce the 4 new science members to NISAC. Another VTC call was held on 11/20/2013 to discuss the continuity between current LNO and future LNO, to hear updates from the LNO in general and on NIS components and to vote on the NISAC Terms of Reference. A January 2014 in-person meeting was not held due to lack of funding from LNO, and a VTC has not occurred due to scheduling difficulties. All meeting notes and documents are posted on the IM Website (<http://im.lternet.edu/home/NISAC>).

NISAC Co-Chairs held 3 VTC this past year and have been in communication with EB and LNO regarding committee activities. We feel that committee activities and involvement are stifled by not having a face-to-face meeting and think this should be a high priority, especially given the impending transition of the LNO and implications for the NIS.

M "Gastil" Gastil-Buhl (MCR) represented NISAC at the May 2013 Science Council meeting that was held at Las Cruces, NM.

NISAC Plans for Next Year

The committee has been asked by Bob Waide to provide input and review in the development of a long-term operational plan for the NIS/PASTA, providing the LNO receives the requested funding from NSF. NISAC Chairs view this as high priority and will place it in the NISAC agenda beginning the latter half of 2014.

For the success of this committee, we feel that it is important that members can meet in person. We plan on setting a meeting date on the schedule for next fall or winter and hope that the funding is available.

Replacing science members on NISAC has been challenging. As it stands now, all science members will rotate off in 2016. Chairs will discuss with NISAC committee members options for staggering end dates to avoid mass turnover and help ensure continuity. We would like to recruit an additional science member for NISAC and identify the next science Co-Chair to replace Paul.

Appendices

- I. Position paper on the continuity of the LTER Network Information System (NIS) to NSF Task Force on envisioning the next LTER Network Office (attached PDF)
- II. Approved NISAC Terms of Reference (V1, approved November 20, 2013) (attached PDF)
- III. NIS/PASTA development progress report (See next page)

Appendix III.

NIS/PASTA development progress report for NISAC annual report

The Operational Plan specifies NISAC provide this review. 2014 is the last year specified.

In essence, the NIS developers are presently in a holding pattern waiting funding. This follows the accelerated development period through last August. Meanwhile, they have been doing ongoing maintenance and bug fixes where necessary. At the moment they are working toward adding additional disk space to add the remote sensing data, anticipated to be loaded May 2014.

Optimistic for the funding outcome of the current proposal, they are moving forward with work but not over-extending their resources. They are being conservative addressing 9 tasks by specifically tackling ID Management (Mark) and User Interface (Duane).

The PASTA system is about ready to complete final testing as a Generic Member Node (MN) for DataONE. (The technical part on the LTER end is done. Testing awaits some DataONE code and policy issues. Initially only datasets not requiring authorization will be synchronized with DataONE. Later, when the implementation of access rules in replicating Member Nodes is assured, it is anticipated that all PASTA datasets will be synchronized with DataONE.) As soon as Mark gets word from DataONE, we will transition to that.

This past year, work on the NIS has been more incremental progress than monumental.

Some of the accomplishments in past year (May 2013 - April 2014):

- Expanded search options
- System maintenance/updates of NIS servers
- DOI assignment to all data packages

LTER Site Participation:

- In May 2013, 15 sites* contributed 1,342 data packages
- In Apr 2014, 25 sites* contributed 4,165 data packages

So in the past year, 10 sites began adding data and all sites combined added 2,823 data packages (not counting revisions.) *Site count includes NIN but does not include NWK or Ecotrends as sites. Site count will be 27 when JRN and HBR begin uploading data to PASTA. Package counts omit the Ecotrends packages, of which there are 15,403.