

NISAC Annual Report (May 2014-April 2015)

May 8, 2015

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NISAC membership May 2014 - April 2015

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

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

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

Sven Bohm (KBS) (Spring 2013-2016)

Mary Martin (HBR) (Spring 2014-2017)

LNO Members

James Brunt (LNO)

Bob Waide (LNO)

Members rotating off in May 2015

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

Members rotating on in May 2015

TBD - Science

TBD – IM

Plans for leadership and member transitions

Spring 2016 will be grim for NISAC membership as most members, including chairs will be rotating off. There has been no recruitment of new members. Ideally, the Science Council/Executive Board and Information Managers Committee should each nominate a new member to begin immediately. Also, replacement co-chairs should be identified to begin a transition in the fall/winter. NISAC members should discuss options for staggering end dates to avoid mass turnover and help ensure continuity.

NISAC Activities and Meetings

NISAC activities have been sparse given the uncertain environment regarding the LNO and the NIS. NISAC Co-Chairs held 3 VTC this past year and have been in communication with EB and LNO regarding committee activities. Our main discussions centered on potential ways that NISAC could help sites and scientists prepare and endure the LNO transition to its next iteration. However, IM-Exec has been pursuing a similar effort geared towards identifying which sites depend on which LNO services. NISAC activities should be driven by the scientists. The chairs are trying to identify exciting and engaging topics to increase science interest and involvement and have contemplated the question: Are there tools that a NIS could provide to enable science synthesis to proceed?

NISAC held a full committee VTC last week to discuss the LNO transition, future NISAC activities and possibilities for the ASM. Guests Peter Groffman, LTER Chair, and Philip Tarrant, IMC Chair joined the conversation. The recently funded NSF EAGER proposal "Conceptualizing sustained environmental information management in the landscape of current and emerging eco-informatics infrastructure." (Pls Gries/O'Brien/Tarrant) may provide a good opportunity for NISAC involvement as they are looking to a wide variety of input. NISAC is poised to assist in facilitating conversations between the EAGER group and LTER scientists.

NISAC has not had a representative attend the Science Council meetings since 2013.

NISAC Plans for Next Year

NISAC will continue to identify an activity that will be exciting and engaging over the next year. We would like to propose an activity at ASM that would move the committee in that direction. Three specific tasks to help provide that critical link from scientist to information are to 1) participate in EAGER Activities, 2) articulate needs for data and data center, and 3) help to maintain LTER momentum in terms of data.

Evaluation of LNO Operational Plan technical milestones

The Operational Plan charged NISAC to evaluate annually whether technical milestones have been met using data provided by the LNO. The following list was obtained through a discussion with the NIS developers and summarizes progress since May 2014. NISAC has not formally evaluated this content:

1. Finalized deployment and testing of the DataONE Generic Member Node for PASTA; PASTA-GMN is now the production DataONE Member Node.
2. Replaced PASTA's use of Metacat with Apache Solr as the core search engine.
3. NIS Data Portal now supports direct upload of data for harvesting into PASTA.
4. Code generation links now added as part of NIS Data Portal - these links interoperate with web-services at VCR to generate data loading and package analysis code in Matlab, R, SAS, and SPSS based on EML metadata in PASTA.
5. NIS Data Portal now displays Google Map of data location if declared in geographic coverage element of EML metadata in PASTA.
6. PASTA now supports upload/download of large data entities (e.g., 50GB).
7. NIS Data Portal now supports a "data shelf" (i.e., "shopping cart" model) for LTER authenticated users that allows persistent identification of high-use data packages.
8. LTER Landsat-5 and LEDAPS remote sensing data now being loaded into PASTA.