Approved Meeting Notes - LTER Executive Board

July 21, 2017

Attending:

Name	Present	Absent
Peter Groffman (chair)	x	
David Foster (HFR)		x
Michael Gooseff (MCM)		x
Sally Holbrook (MCR)		x
Steve Pennings-GCE	x	
Dan Reed (SBC)		x
Michelle Mack/Roger Ruess (BNZ)	x	
Eric Seabloom/Sarah Hobbie (CDR)	x	
Katie Suding (NWT)	x	
Jess Zimmerman (LUQ)		x
Kari O'Connell (EOC-rep)		x
Wade Sheldon (IMC-rep)	x	
Frank Davis (NCO)	x	
Marty Downs (NCO)	x	
Corinna Gries (EDI)	x	

[June Meeting minutes,]() **approved.**

Current items

Logo

Marty presented survey results, interpretation, and new options.
The major points emerging from the survey (in which 284 people participated) were that:
- *the presented logos seemed too generic (felt like a telecom company)*
- *too technological (looked like a circuit board)*
- *There was also concern that biology and urban systems were not specifically represented*

Discussion:
- *The word "Network" appears twice*
- *Like 1A, but doesn't represent "network" well enough*
- *Bar graph with icons has a lot of appeal -- place based and strong biology component -- but seems like it will be too busy and hard to interpret at small scales.*
- *The globe seems to refer to the geographic placement of sites and the connections of the network -- also reads as biological because of the colors -- but doesn't say science.*
- *Is there a way to add "network" and "urban" to 1A? maybe add some different colors -- more orange and brown?*
- *Is there still an opportunity to make changes? Yes to text, some color and style changes, but need a choice to keep web site moving forward.*

- *Any objections to moving forward with 1A?*

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- *Will request an orange-yellow layer at the top and text to be styled at right instead of below.*
- *Approved.*

1A with text like 3, yellow-orange bar at top.

Potential for LTER/NEON collaboration

Following up on a series of LTER-NEON workshops funded by NSF, Henry Gholz (now working with NEON) suggested that LTER should consider formalizing its relationship with NEON, possibly with a formal Memorandum of Understanding. Is this something the Executive Board thinks we should pursue? What synergies could it help realize?

- Could we use each other's sampling? NEON and Ameriflux, for example now have a formal data sharing agreement.
- We've been working to clarify that NEON and LTER are different and both are important. Maybe a formal MOU would help with that.
- It could be useful, but personnel turnover has been a challenge whenever we've tried to make these kinds of arrangements in the past, especially at the national level. However, maybe a formal agreement would help to support institutional memory.
- Could we develop some mechanism for showing that we are often working at the same sites.
- Need to include the information managers with the scientists. If we had a synthesis project with NEON and LTER data that would serve as a testbed for discoverability -- it would go a long way toward helping resolve some of the inconsistencies.
- There are lots of specific items that we might want to coordinate on (NEON planes, for example. Nobody really knows how they are tasked or how to request them).
- Should it be one big MOU or several smaller ones?
- Training opportunities is another area.
- Has anyone connected with NSF program officers on this? At the Science Council Meeting, Paula Mabee was responsive to the idea of an RCN. NSF seems to have increased interest in the synergies between networks. How they are different; how are they the same, what are the opportunities?
- LTER sites have historically been undercapitalized. NEON is infrastructure. Maybe formalizing the relationships can help alleviate some of our infrastructure needs (or highlight them?)

ASM content planning/committees

A supplement has been submitted for Asilomar. No formal response yet, but we should start planning.

Need to identify a Program Committee (or committees); Important elements to consider:
- *Science talks*
- *Workshops*
- *Cross cutting themes*
- *Plenary Speakers*
- *Fun*

What about themes?
- *Last ASM before the 40 year review*
- *Collaboration with NEON? Possible theme -- a new era of network science synthesis.*
- *Some fun elements: Who has the longest data set? What's your Keeling curve?*
- *Synthesis Working groups -- next steps?*

- *Davis is willing to co-chair; but we need a science co-chair.*
  - *Katie is willing to help. David Foster? Evelyn Gaiser? John Kominoski?*
- *The group should be big enough to include some diversity of opinion and to generate new ideas. It also offers an opportunity to participate in the Network and build leadership.*

Resolved: Peter will send an email to site PI's requesting them to designate someone to participate.

Proposed decommissioning of SiteDB
Any issues/concerns? No

ILTER
The bill for dues arrived ($10,000). Frank is consulting with NSF -- but key program officers are on vacation. they are scheduling a call for early August.

Updates from IM
ESIP is next week. There's lots happening there. Probably best to defer an update until afterward.

Adjourn

Continuing Items (reserved for later meetings)
- WWW site: Vendor has been chosen through a national competition. [New Directions in Computing](#), based in Santa Barbara, provided the best value and had the strongest portfolio in terms of data integration and data architecture. They have proposed doing the site in WordPress, but are fully capable of switching over to Drupal if it is determined that our requirements demand Drupal. Data migration is underway.
- Minisymposium planning: Cheryl Dybas is designated as NSF's main point of contact. Marty and Cheryl discussed topics and logistics in mid-July. Possible themes:
  - Integrating human "disturbance" -- from science council (save for 2019)
  - Focus on a synthesis working group (Metacommunities? Synchrony?, Biodiversity and productivity?) For reference, current working groups are here: https://lternet.edu/synthesis-working-groups-2016 and https://lternet.edu/working-groups-2017
  - LTER Futures (from 2016 Science Council) -- how to differentiate from recent "Scenarios" symposium
  - Marty and Frank will be on the lookout for ideas at ESA
- Revising our committee structure: No substantial progress at SC. Let's let it sit for a bit and see how things evolve.
- Nature of our network