

## Draft Meeting Notes - LTER Executive Board

October 5, 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)	MM	
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	

***Previous Meeting minutes: Approved with Henry Gholz' name removed as NEON contact.***

## *Current items*

### **Henry Gholz update.**

Symposium plus evening session is in planning for ESA. Frank Davis and Peter Groffman taking lead on symposium. In the past, the Network has taken up a collection and made a donation as a group. Marty Downs will organize this.

### **New solicitation has been released.**

- Deadline is March 2
- Solicitation: [https://nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp](https://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp);
- FAQ's: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17137/nsf17137.jsp>
- Comments/concerns?
  - The solicitation was clearer than in the past.
  - There were questions in the FAQ's that had to do with modeling and the emphasis seemed to be on models and modeling rather than on synthesis and

predictive understanding. Specifically, modeling was described as a goal of LTER and that hasn't been the case in the past.

- Data management is no longer solely in PASTA, can also deposit data in other broadly recognized repositories. NSF has been moving that direction for a while, with the emergence of the Arctic Data Center and BCO-DMO, most sites are working to establish connections so that data can be deposited in one place and searched across locations.
- Is there a need for the Executive Board to raise any questions with the NSF Working Group?
- Marty will poll the renewing sites for any additional concerns.

**NCO update:** NSF wants a mid-term Review of the NCO (January)

**Draft Internet web site designs (Marty)**

- Home page: <http://dev.ndic.com/work/LTER/LTER-6E.jpg>
- Interior Page: <http://dev.ndic.com/work/LTER/LTER-Inside01.jpg>
- These are still design mock-ups. We need approval before they will move on to a fully functional site. Stories running in sidebars will relate to topics of main pages.
- Are the categories right? Have I left off important things?
- Responses:
  - Generally positive.
  - Categories are not fully parallel. At Cedar Creek, for instance, most observations are on experiments. Maybe using verbs instead would help.
  - Need more time to look it over, with specific questions. Marty Downs will share outline of structure with home page mock-ups.

**Draft network diagram (for framing governance pages on the LTER site)**



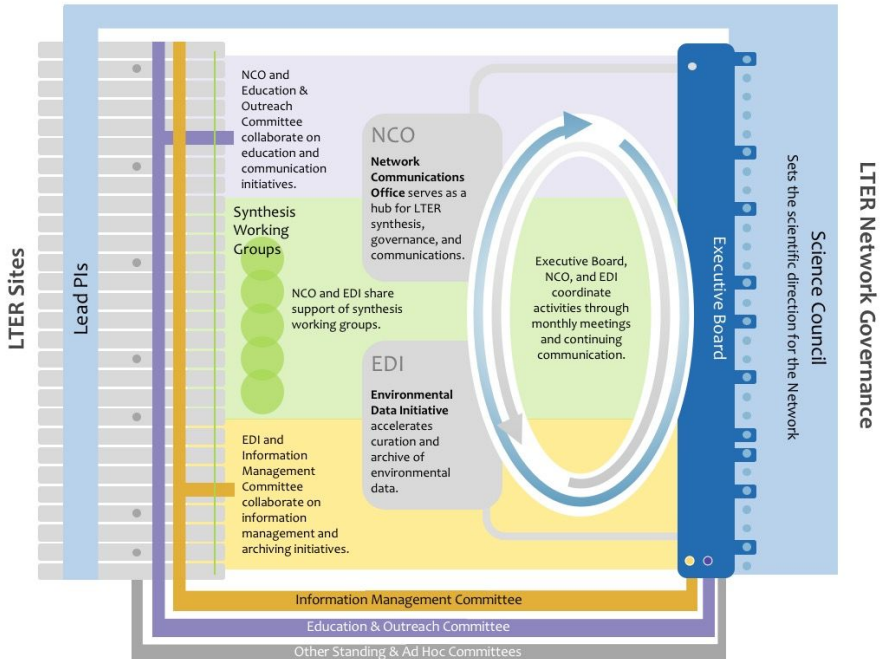
Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) sites pursue theoretical and applied research on ecological phenomena that play out over decades, including rare and extreme events, shifting baselines, and legacies of past environmental change.

With its broad geographic distribution, common scientific themes, and careful data stewardship, the LTER Network offers an ideal structure for synthetic ecology, which is facilitated by the Network Communication Office (NCO) and the Environmental Data Initiative (EDI) through the Synthesis Working Groups (SWG).



Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) sites are funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in cooperation with other federal agencies, universities, and private foundations.

NSF directly funds the operations of the Network Communications Office and the Environmental Data Initiative.



○

○ Discussion :

- Who is this for? Web site users. People both inside and outside the Network.
- EB and science council seem like they should be closer to sites and NCO/EDI further away.
- But NCO and EDI interact directly and frequently with the sites.
- Maybe what's needed is two diagrams. Mostly, people just need to know the bodies involved. Not who belongs where.
- Marty will share with the committee for feedback by end of next week.

**Committee structure & funding proposal (Frank)**

- The Network Communications Office has about 50K to support Network governance. We are proposing that each committee have a budget every year coming out of that 50K. They would start each year knowing what they had to spend and could plan based on that.
- One major need is for the Information Manager's Meeting -- that would be about \$25K.
- ILTER Committee also needs to be able to maintain some kind of dues schedule and travel to the coordinating committee meeting.
- Education and Outreach Committee would get about \$8K
- Funds would be bankable from year-to-year, as long as they didn't carry over beyond the NCO renewal.
- Advantages: It allows the information managers to meet, starts to address ILTER and is not too much trouble to administer.
- Committee representatives would like to run it by their committees before voting.
- **LTER-NSF symposium**
  - Date: April 19, 2018
  - Suggested topic is a focus on coastal and marine sites, with the understanding that future symposia will also have focus in other areas
  - A proposed theme has been approved by the NSF working group and NSF public affairs, pending EB approval:

## Understanding our Ocean Connections: The Role of Long-Term Ecological Research

- Advantages: It's much easier to know who to target for outreach on media, agency partners, etc. Allows a tighter focus.
- Disadvantages: Runs the risk of leaving the impression that that's all the Network is about. Distracting from cutting edge science.
- Discussion:
  - Would need to have a good synthetic introduction and wrap up to be sure the breadth of the Network science is understood
  - We haven't had much success in reaching out to press and agencies in the past. Trying to reach them can become a distraction from presenting our best science to NSF.
  - The fact that the Working Group assigned the symposium to public affairs suggests that's where they think the value is.
  - Presenting a symposium that is all about oceans is selecting for just geoscience attendees.
  - Yes, but a larger percentage of geoscience will have to be there. And we'll get to present more of our most relevant science to an audience that cares about it.
  - What if we propose 3 themes that cut across ecosystems and ask working group to pick the most interesting to them?

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### Deferred to next month

- ASM theme: Maybe "Demystifying Synthesis." In any case, something synthesis-related.
  - Plenary speakers and workshops will aim to inspire and inform WRT the different aspects of synthesis: Next generation data analysis; science of team science; integrated communication all, of course, with an ecological flavor.
  - Recommendations for speakers and/or workshops are welcome
- EDI update
- IM Committee update
- Education/Outreach Committee update
- Science Council 2018:
  - Date: May 15-18 at NTL
  - Locations are secured
  - Need a program committee
  - Proposed theme (based in SC discussion) is Land Use/Land Cover Change
  - We discussed many possible changes to the structure of this meeting at this year's science council. (bringing data , setting up working groups before the meeting, defining who the "second" should be) Are there any that we want to try and implement?
- EB Chair Nominating Committee

- Have asked 2014 Committee (Deb Peters, Alan Knapp, Emma Rosi-Marshall, Mark Ohman) if they are willing to serve and requested suggestions for replacements.
- Suggestions so far include: Niall Hanan (replacement for Deb Peters), Katie Suding, Mike Gooseff, Sarah Hobbie (possible replacements for Emma, since she is working on a renewal), Mark Ohman (willing to serve), no response from Alan.