LTER Executive Board Meeting Notes

March 7, 2019

- Executive Board Zoom Link: https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/706470284   or Telephone: US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833 (Meeting ID: 706 470 284)
- Executive Board Trello Board: https://trello.com/b/vD2zoerp
- Executive Board Google Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B3xT0TaiQmt0TkQxOVNhMGh0Tkk?usp=sharing

Attending:

Name	Present	Absent
Peter Groffman (chair)	x	
Diane McKnight (chair-elect)		x
Ken Dunton (BLE)		
Sally Holbrook (MCR)	x	
Michelle Mack (BNZ)	x	
Oscar Schofield (PAL)		x
Eric Seabloom (CDR)		
Emily Stanley (NTL)	x	
Katie Suding (NWT)		
Jess Zimmerman (LUQ)	x	
Annette Brickley(EOC-rep)	x	
Dan Bahauddin (IMC-rep)	x	
Frank Davis (NCO)	x	
Marty Downs (NCO)	x	
Corinna Gries (EDI)	x	
Jonathan Thompson/David Foster (HFR)	x	
Sally Holbrook (MCR)	x	

Agenda and Notes

Approve Notes from prior Executive Board Meeting.
Voted to give Peter, Frank and Marty authority to approve minutes.

LNCO proposal
- Budget is smaller -- $800K per year instead of $840K
- The Executive Board stands ready if the LNCO needs a letter of support

Science Council Planning

- Logistics is in good shape. Invitations have gone out and people are making reservations.
- The Decadal Self-Study Committee is asking presenters to identify three general themes where they have a good example to support the self-study narrative. Once they know the broad distribution, the committee will assign one topic for each site to focus on.
- It will be interesting to get to dig into themes a little more deeply. This approach may contribute to setting up synthesis discussions at future Science Council meetings.

FAIR project
- The Information Management Committee (IMC) was contacted by the [Enabling FAIR Data Project](#), which is encouraging communities of researchers, publishers, funders, and scientific societies to develop data and metadata standards that encourage data sharing to enable re-use.
- The IMC looked at the proposed practices and they are perfectly consistent with LTER practice, therefore they are recommending that the executive board votes to make the LTER a signatory to these principles.
- Moved; Seconded; Approved.

Information Management update
- Semantics and Bibliography working groups are meeting on a regular basis.
- The committee is working with the Environmental Data Initiative on PASTA data checks.
- Monthly virtual water coolers continue. The most recent one focused on using Zotero for reference management.
- The committee is developing a 2-page report to contribute to the decadal self-study. Is there a particular question that the self-study committee would like the IMC to respond to? Currently the focus is: how does the IMC support the science inside and outside the Network.
- The summer meeting is being planned in association with Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP). LTER information managers will meet the day before before the ESIP meeting and also contribute presentations at the meeting.

Environmental Data Initiative (EDI) Update
- The EDI proposal is written, although no solicitation is available yet.
- EDI submitted an AccelNet proposal focused on controlled vocabularies, includes the following elements:
    - Meeting with International LTER (ILTER) information managers.
    - Use a schema.org schema (alternative to EML metadata).
    - The goal is to be able to search one word on google and return all the alternate languages.
- EDI has submitted 2 workshop proposals for the Leipzig ILTER Open Science Meeting.
- Recently EDI has seen a major uptick in data submissions.
- The EDI fellows program will return for 2019. Received applications from nine sites, plus one that will pay its own way. Have received 18 fellow applications.
- EDI is holding a workshop next week on the next generation of the ClimHydroDB
- A [code registry Hackathon](#) has been announced for June 10-June 14.
- Lots of activity is planned for the Ecological Society of America Meeting, including the data help desk, with the same partners as last year, plus NEON.

Education Committee Update

- Since the ASM in October, the subcommittees have been active.
- Children's Book Series is discussing how to work with the publisher to make the series a money making venture. One approach would be to write one book with a common theme across 3 or 4 different sites.
    - The publisher would like to see a curriculum that could supplement the books, making them more marketable to schools and teachers.
- The Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) subcommittee is exploring how mentors can get better training.
- The data literacy group is mainly focused on datajams, where students explore a dataset, develop a scientific report, plus a creative interpretation. The working group has developed a common student survey which is allowing them to learn what the students are gaining from the experience.
- Considering a collaboration with the [Tempestry project](), which provides temperature data for different locations, which is knit into a scarf. Considering trying to do that at all of the LTER sites.
- Has this committee been talking about things they want to highlight for the 40 year review?

AccelNet

- AccelNet is a recent NSF solicitation intended to to catalyze international Networks of Networks
- The LTER proposal (Frank Davis PI) combines working groups dedicated to synthesizing data from the TeaComposition study and the ILTER Nitrogen Initiative and feeding the results into into design of a low-cost, variable intensity sampling strategy (NEON, NEON-lite, NEON-very-lite).
- Additional proposals that we know of include one from Jim Tang with an LTER-NEON combination, one that involves DataONE in an international Data Federation, and the already mentioned EDI Vocabulary project.

Midscale infrastructure -- level 1 and level 2

Mid-scale infrastructure is one of NSF's 10 big ideas. Should LTER be seeking funding for large cross-site experiments through this program?

- We brought up this question--including ideas such as NEON experiments and urban components of NEON-- with the program officers. They were open and curious, but needed to discuss it further. Then the government shutdown happened and no progress was made.
- Have sites put in individual proposals?
    - Hubbard Brook LTER put in a proposal to highly instrument two of the long-term study watersheds.
    - Sevilleta put in one (topic unknown).
    - FCE put one in on ecological forensics.

To discuss in April:

Science Council synthesis going forward.