

LTER Executive Board Meeting Notes

July 23, 2019

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Additional ways of connecting:

Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 706 470 284

International numbers available:

<https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/706470284>

The LTER Executive Board meets monthly. Agendas and minutes for current members are available on the [team google drive](#).

See the [Executive Board Committee page](#) for current membership and approved minutes of past meetings.

Attending:

Name	Present	Absent	Minutes approved
Diane McKnight (chair)	x		
Ken Dunton (BLE)		X (travelling)	
Oscar Schofield (PAL)	x		
Emily Stanley (NTL)	x		
Katie Suding (NWT)		X (in the field)	
Jonathan Thompson (HFR)	x		
Jess Zimmerman (LUQ)		x	
Annette Brickley(EOC-rep)		x	
Dan Bahauddin (IMC-rep)	x		DB
Frank Davis (NCO)		X (travelling)	
Marty Downs (NCO)	x		
Corinna Gries (EDI)	x		
Jenn Caselle (guest)	x		
Julien Brun (guest)	x		
Heidi Sosik (NES)	x		HS
Jess Nippert (KNZ)	x		
Nick Haddad (KBS)	x		NH

Please note any concerns with minutes here or as a comment in the appropriate section:

Agenda and Notes

*Agenda items are in plain text. Discussion notes are in italic.

Approve Notes from [prior Executive Board Meeting](#).

Update: Decadal Review: The target submission date to NSF is still October 1. The draft narrative is slated to go out to PI's for review in August, with the following goals:

- a. identify any better examples within each theme (Legacies; Biodiversity & Ecosystem Function; Nutrients; Trophic Cascades; Connectivity; Resilience/State change; Evolution)
- b. correct any inaccuracies

2. **NCO/LNO Update (Marty Downs):** The cooperative agreement to continue funding for the Network Office is in process. NSF has approved a proposed name change from "LTER Network Communications Office" to "LTER Network Office". Frank Davis' title will be Executive Director; Marty Downs' will be Director.

Main discussion topic: Review the request for new synthesis proposals. (Jenn Caselle)

Documents for review are attached to the meeting email and available in the google drive, here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1WTzv3FAW6v17fr8d1OhaZZXLEgq2xCF9>

Jenn made a short presentation on the revised RFP:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wKFx1oqyi2tCaWHlwKbpEbpPaiKUkmAa>

Discussion:

- *It may be useful to add some special encouragement for marine sites.*
- *Technical Liaison could be good contact for EDI as well as NCO*
- *Proposers will need to provide a table of expected data sets*
- *RFP and webinar both reiterate NCEAS and LTER require that derived datasets will be published*
- *Review process consists of both written reviews and a virtual panel discussion.*
 - *The panel recommends a short list of high ranking proposals*
 - *Final decision is Executive Director of LNO in consultation with the chair of the EB*
 - *The LNO will occasionally request a budget revision.*
- *Bullet -- on things that should be funded by "other" organizations*
- *The opportunity is definitely open to other independent scientists (even as lead PI)*
- *LNO is doing deliberate outreach to marine sites.*
- *The opportunity will be promoted at ESA with a slide for speakers and by handing out cards/flyers at data help desk and individually.*

Continuing discussion: EDI would like to combine the LTER-branded data portal with the main EDI portal. Corinna Gries (EDI PI) presented briefly and took questions.

Statement from EDI about why the current situation is inefficient and any potential impact of the proposed change:

The Environmental Data Initiative (EDI) is currently maintaining two data access portals as two independent applications, both accessing the same backend data store. EDI was originally funded in 2016 with the mandate to not only host LTER data and support the LTER community but also host environmental data from other research projects. This mandate led to the necessity of redesigning the data portal to not be LTER centric and more welcoming to other data providers. Furthermore, the lternet.edu domain in which the LTER portal operates is currently maintained by being grandfathered into the overall concept 'edu'. Although, it now appears to be more stable than assumed during the transition from LNO to NCO, EDI is now using a different domain that will be better maintainable into

the future. However, EDI personnel has maintained the LTER portal throughout these developments for continuity. Although all data are available in both portals this has led to some confusion.

During the first funding period of EDI we implemented several new functionalities requested by data providers including LTER IMs. These were built into the EDI portal rather than the LTER portal and the two applications are now diverging from each other. Furthermore, EDI is now going into sustainability mode (NSF sustainability funding stream) and our long-time programmer, Duane Costa, is retiring. Overall, we don't have the resources to update two separate data portal applications at this time.

In summary we request to deprecate the LTER data portal because

- It is confusing to have two portals serving the same data
- EDI's resources are limited
- The future of the lternet.edu domain is uncertain
- Functionality in the two portals is diverging with the EDI portal providing the better search capabilities.

Discussion:

- *Advancing Biological Infrastructure and Field Stations and Marine Labs have now been split into three categories. EDI has applied to the SABI (Sustained Availability of Biological Infrastructure), meaning that the enterprise is now in "sustainability mode." The funding hasn't changed much, but the approach is more conservative.*
- *Could EDI have an innovation proposal in addition to the sustainability proposal?*
- *EDI logo v. LTER portal*
- *Some functionality is starting to change. One example is the time frame query, for example, a user can now request all data sets that run longer than 10 years. The functionality has been implemented in the EDI portal, but not in the LTER portal.*
- *LTER would lose some of our identity. Having the LTER data portal distinguishes us from, say, an LTREB.*
- *Different LTER sites are already submitting to other data repositories. And Ocean sites are submitting to BCO-DMO. It's a bit more work to have them show up in both portals.*
- *Is there a way to do a search for only LTER data? Not really for all LTER data. But for an individual site, yes.*
- *EDI/NCO should come back with a proposal to address the branding issue.*
- *The important thing is to maintain our data transparency over a long period of time.*

Update: Follow up from June Meeting (Diane McKnight): Further discussion on Lead PI videoconferences.

- Diane has reached out to Phil Robertson and will talk with some others for next month.

Potential topics for August meeting:

- education and outreach committee discussion
- (?)including cross-site REU potential
- priorities and approaches for diversity and inclusion activities
- Review mission and operating guidelines for ILTER Committee
- role of the Communications Committee in developing cross-site communities of practice (possibly invite Lina Digregorio or other member of the committee)

- Followup (if needed) on EDI portal discussion