

Annual Committee Report (2019-2020)

1. **Date of report:** April 28, 2020
2. **Name of Committee:** LTER Communications Committee
3. **Name and site affiliation of the Committee Chair (or co-chairs or Executive Board):** Sarah Garlick, Hubbard Brook; Lina DiGregorio, HJ Andrews
4. **List of current members:** Clarisse Hart, Julie Doll, Lina DiGregorio, Marty Downs, Alexandra Rose, Charley Driscoll, David Foster, Elizabeth Schultheis, Frank Davis, Kristen Weiss, Lauren Wood, Nicholas Oehm, Peter Groffman, Sarah Garlick
5. **How membership is determined (identified by sites, voluntary, appointed by the Executive Board, etc):** Voluntary
6. **Meeting frequency:** Every 2 months
7. **Major activities or accomplishments for the year:**
 - a. Ecosphere special issue
 - b. 2020 LTER Calendar
 - c. AISL proposal on LTER Engagement
8. **Currently active subcommittees or working groups:** N/A

9. **Planned activities for the coming year:**

Following the LTER Communications Committee's updated statement of purpose (see below), the committee is exploring the idea of leading a collaborative process to create a proposed set of strategic goals for science communication and stakeholder engagement at the LTER Network level. This would include working with the members of the Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) to "mind map" the key stakeholders and issues to which a LTER Network-wide or cross-site approach to engagement would be valuable. The committee would then use the results of the mind mapping exercise, along with previous network strategic plans, to propose to the Executive Committee a set of goals, priorities, and possible action items for stakeholder and policy engagement.

10. **Any recent or upcoming changes in leadership, purpose, or process:**

The LTER Communications Committee recently decided to clarify its purpose, see updated description below. Sarah Garlick (HBR) was voted as new co-chair, with Lina DiGregorio (HJA), in January 2020.

LTER Communications Committee Purpose

The goal of the LTER Communications Committee is to open strategic opportunities for science communication and stakeholder engagement related to the LTER Network as a whole. The committee

is a working group of participants from across the Network with interest and expertise in science communication and stakeholder engagement, including PIs and other researchers, students, postdocs, and education and outreach professionals. Because most work in science communication and stakeholder engagement occurs at the individual site level, this committee serves as an important mechanism for supporting science communication and stakeholder engagement work at the cross-site and network levels. The LTER Communications Committee seeks to play a supportive role for both the LTER Executive Board and LTER Network Office on issues related to public communication and stakeholder engagement.

In the past, the LTER Communications Committee has also served as a “ground up” community of practice for science communication practitioners at LTER sites. However, as the LTER Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) has continued to grow as a community of practice and as the EOC’s interest areas have shifted to include science communication and stakeholder communication practices alongside formal education, we began to notice redundancy between these two committees. To address this redundancy and maximize benefit to the LTER, the LTER Communications Committee has proposed to narrow its focus on the working-group model described above.

- 11. ****(new for 2020)****:** In 2020, the Science Council Meeting will be organized less around reports (which we plan to have available online, ahead of the meeting) and more around discussion of committee, LNO and EDI priorities.

Do you have specific questions or problems on which you would like to receive feedback from the LTER Science Council? (Please limit to one or two high priority questions from each committee and provide enough background to make sense of the question.)

We would love to hear what the LTER Science Council thinks about our redefined purpose and ideas described above. Is this valuable to you/your site? Are there other areas of focus that would be more valuable for the LTER Communications Committee?