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Coordinating Committee Meeting, Channel Islands, California, January 1985

Long Term Ecological Research Network

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LTER NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 22, 1985
Channel Islands National Park,
Ventura, California

Meeting brought to order by Dr. Jerry F. Franklin, Committee Chairman

Report on Organizational Biological Meeting, held in November at the Bamfield Marine Station, Vancouver, British Columbia - Dick Marzolf

Approximately 50 people attended. Meeting report from the May 1984 meeting was shortened to about a 45 minute presentation (by Marzolf). Presented a general outline of LTER work - this was well received by the group and lots of good questions were asked. LTER should be more involved with OBFS.

(T. Callahan) 1986 NSF budget looks good for Field Station support - there are limits as to how much can be applied for - \$6-7 million total over 5 yr. period.

Direction for LTER II - Tom Callahan

The original six LTER sites that will be submitting grants (due April 12, 1985) received letters from Callahan stating format and specifics for proposals. 15% of total should be specified for inter-site work. Inter-site work can be funded from other sources. Sites are encouraged to do a majority of inter-site work with LTER sites, not as much with lter sites.

(W. Swank) Pointed out that budget does not allow for much new research!

(T. Callahan) All sites could productively use 50% more money - but funding levels are not certain after 1986.

All sites were polled - everyone is willing to adjust budgets to fit NSF guidelines.

Meeting with NSF, if conducted correctly, could be beneficial. Bob Woodmansee will set up - Franklin would like to be part of - Woodmansee will select the other members of delegation after proposal submission. Delegation should go in with with real agenda, real examples of work. Should be scheduled after Spring meeting.

Original Six Sites - General Report of Work

H.J. Andrews - J.F. Franklin

During the next 5 years of LTER we expect to follow-up in the five areas of research that were started during the first 5 years of NSF funding. We will also be killing trees in groups of 1-2-4 & 8 trees - creating snags and gaps. Will be developing with long-term site productivity study.

Coweeta - D. Crossley & W. Swank

Held a major symposium summarizing 50 years of research -- only 2 LTER sites participated. Plan to continue work started during the last 5 years. Areas of research proposed are: geomorphology of soils; major recovery processes; atmospheric deposition process (mainly funding other than LTER); oxidant damage (mainly funding other than LTER); organic acids (new work under LTER); expand all modeling that has been started; log decomposition study - would like to work with H.J. Andrews. 10% of new work will be funded by LTER.

Niwot Ridge - P. Webber

Held meeting in November to work on proposal for next 5 years. Will continue work that was started during first 5 years. Areas of research proposed: interaction between terrestrial and aquatic systems; nutrient movement in Alpine system. Will continue "landscape" ecology. Change - reduce by 1/2 the number of subprojects. Will hire a modeler. Webber is no longer head of INSTARR; has requested a 12 month fellowship to work on LTER; working with city of Boulder on watershed research.

Northern Lakes - J. Magnuson

Areas of present research: long term patterns and changes; disturbance; looking at 7 lakes, rather than limiting research to one site. Areas of proposed research: lake acidification project (started last year) - got outside funding because we were an LTER; what influences ground water chemistry; will initiate coring and marking of sediment; paleo measurement; linkage between ground water and lake chemistry.

Konza Prairie - R. Marzolf and D. Kaufman

Site was established in 1976. Present research includes: fire and grazing impact on tall grass prairies (measurements taken on no-burn, annual burn and 4 year - will add 2 year burn). Will be adding intensive sampling in 4 year burn area. Closer attention will be paid to stream disturbance. Will be involving other agencies in research - USGS, EPA, etc.

North Inlet - J. Vernberg

Will be conducting more intensive sampling in the spring and fall. Plan to continue data base beyond the 4 years we now have. Look to LTER for "core" support for research projects. Areas of research proposed are: expansion of boundary lines - more forest marsh lands interaction; may clearcut area to study effects on marsh lands. Plan inter-site comparisons with other estuaries. Will be adding a new position - ecological geneticist.

Past Workshops

Itasca - John Tester

Very successful for "working" scientists. The number of papers presented at the Denver meeting was larger because of Itasca. All six NSF attendees felt the meeting was very successful and that the quality of planned and unplanned discussions was superb. A meeting of this type should be planned for every 2-3 years.

Denver/Stream - Dick Marzolf

Only sites with major stream research were invited. Meeting was very productive and informative. Two manuscripts on hydrologic predictability were discussed. Outside attendance should be encouraged for future meetings of this type.

Data Managers Workshop - John Vernberg

Well received by all who attended, and much cooperative work will come from the interaction of sites. A report prepared by Bill Michener was handed out to the Coordinating Committee. (J. Franklin) Feels that we will end up with the finest Data Management Report prepared thus far. (G. Davis, National Park Service) The meeting was very good, and provided a good opportunity to interact with various data management programs.

Work funded by Coordinating Committee

John Fitzgerald, "Sulfur Transformations in Terrestrial Ecosystems Within and Outside the LTER Network of Sites" (\$7,953)

(Progress reported by Wayne Swank) Fitzgerald is about 60% through with sampling, and analysis of samples. Work appears to be ahead of schedule. Need to keep on track so that sampling, analysis, etc. doesn't get out of hand, and to make sure that a manuscript emerges. Coord. Comm. should consider providing more money if it is needed, or requested, for travel, and finishing up.

J. Roger Adams, "Sediment Movement: Mechanics, Measurement, at LTER Sites and Integration with Hydrology" (\$7,528)

Workshop is scheduled to be held in late March. Some of the sites have not been contacted thus far.

Walter Whitford, "The role of termites in wood decomposition in a coastal plain forest"

Working with Liz Blood - good collaboration, one site helping another.

New Proposals

Jack Lattin, "Workshop for ecologists and Systematists to Identify Priorities for Collaborative Research on Soil Organisms"

Proposal is to "broad", and not sufficiently focused. Coord. Comm. recommends funding a modified proposal with sharpened focus. Revised proposal will be sent to the committee for comment. There is no need to save it for discussion at the Spring meeting. (\$10,000)

Walt Whitford, "Data Managers Workshop"

To be held at the Jornada Site, January 1986. Purpose is to get all data managers together to exchange information and ideas. A product must be produced from this workshop. Committee is willing to support meteorological types to participate. Funding was approved (\$9,000).

Paul Alaback, "Biopac Proposal"

Proposal is for development of software. There is potential application at all sites, but it is missing specific indications of possible use. It was decided that the Committee should not set precedent of funding software development, and that funding should be denied.

Bruce Haines, "Intersite Comparisons: Sulfur gas emissions"

(\$2,100) Copies of the proposal had not been distributed to the Coord. Comm. prior to the meeting, so rather than making a quick decision it was decided that copies will be sent to the Committee for review and comment.

Carl Jordan, "Ecosystem Comparison"

Because of the size of the funding request and the request for salaries it was decided that a recommendation should be sent to Jordan suggesting that he seek funding via a National Science Foundation proposal.

International Geosphere/Biosphere Program - Bob Woodmansee

Group organized to look at global scale problems (examples: CO₂ and acid rain). During the past 4 months some redefinition has taken place, resulting in "biosphere" now holding an equal portion with "geosphere". The first workshop will struggle with the problem of taking information from site level and building it to landscape level, then regional, then to seas, and then global (scheduled for last week of October). Conflict of interest could be a problem, but not at this stage of workshop planning.

Intersite Synthesis - Eleven people (one from each LTER site) should come up with questions that concern ecology, then get together for 2 days to discuss research/science that is pertinent. Whitford will identify a date and place for the meeting -- best to be held mid- to late-May.

Renewal of Coordinating Committee Proposal, J. Franklin

Whitford is scheduled to take over as chairman of the Coordinating Committee January 1986. Whitford may not be available (because of possible sabbatical and/or change of jobs). A decision should be made one year from now concerning the chairmanship. Should wait till mid to late summer 1986 to develop a new NSF proposal for continued funding of Comm.

Next Meeting

Coordinating Committee should not go more than six months between meetings. Tentatively schedule next meeting for late September 1985, in Wisconsin (Trout Lake?). Plan to meet during Date Managers workshop at Jornada, January 5-6, 1986.

Inter-Site Collaboration

Some forms of inter-site collaboration that are now being practiced are: workshops; cooperative experiments; reciprocal experiments; comparative analysis (single and well as multiple); pulse, or SWAT team approach. Possibly submit proposal to NSF for the funding of a full-time position to look at comparison, integration, analysis, and synthesis. Maybe should be an "add-on" to an existing grant rather than a competitive grant. Two day all-site scientist meeting could come up with some good ideas on the matter.

Affiliation

Would advance long-term ecological science. Specific ideas that would facilitate cooperation: idea exchange; data exchange; collaborative research; reciprocal studies; catalyze synthesis. Should nurture other "lter" sites/programs through the exchange of technical expertise. Demonstrate to "outsiders" that we want to collaborate instead of being an exclusive group. Need to form some sort of objective criteria for selection of sites/programs to be included in affiliation efforts. (Bill Halverson) LTER is not providing leadership to anyone outside of the group, and that should be one of their responsibilities! (Don Kaufman) We don't seem to be communicating our work very well. Talking too much is being pushy - too little is being secretive.

Comments from each of the sites - generally very positive for cooperative work with "Iter" sites. Should stress communication. It was suggested that groups such as Channel Islands National Park have an Advisory Committee, which would include members from the LTER group.

Question posed:

Does LTER group feel any responsibility to provide leadership? YES!
Maybe a "Super" Blue Book should be compiled - should include listing of all people involved directly with LTER research. Should continue to communicate and help each other.

Possibility: Form committee that would include 4 from LTER Coord. Comm. and 4 from outside to consider affiliation question. (Dick Marzolf, Bernie Patten, Bob Woodmansee, and Jerry Franklin -- from Coord. Comm.) - (Someone from a Park Service sponsored site, Hubbard Brook and/or LaSalva, and maybe a DOE sponsored site.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00pm

Attendees at meeting included:

Carl Bowser	Dave Parsons	Bob Woodmansee
John Magnuson	John Tester	Bernie Patten
Dak Crossley	John Vernberg	Tom Callahan
Don Kaufman	Dick Marzolf	Walt Whitford
Pat Webber	Rick Sparks	Wayne Swank
Bill Halverson	Bob Hodson	Jerry Franklin
Judy Brenneman		