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### **Coordinating Committee Meeting, Cedar Creek, Minnesota, April 1986**

Long Term Ecological Research Network

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MINUTES OF LTER COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
AT CEDAR CREEK, MINNESOTA ON MAY 29, 1986

1. Callahan discussed the current status of LTER budgets and activities at the National Science Foundation. Key items included: (1) the RFP for new LTER proposals with special interest in low and high latitude and agro ecosystems. This involves new \$ in the FY 87 budget and is part of the Global Geosciences initiative. Emphasis is on mesoscales; (2) the need for a CY 87 budget contingency plan at each LTER site which includes a 10 % cut. Such a cut would be necessary if next year's budget at NSF receives a cut comparable to this years; (3) All renewal proposals are in, follow last years pattern for preparing the annual reports, which are due in September.
2. Results of workshops and other activities sponsored by the LTERCC would reported: (1) Sediment workshop occurred and a published proceedings was handed out by Sparks; (2) Data management handbook has been published--advertising fliers were handed out by Blood; (3) Results of the data management--meteorological working session at Las Cruces in January was reported and discussed by Conley using handouts; (4) The development of the meteorological standards are nearly complete and work is proceeding on the document reporting and comparing the climates at the LTER sites (reported by Webber); (5) Swanson reported on progress in completing a manuscript based upon the geomorphology/disturbance workshop; and (6) Fitzgerald reported on the progress of his sulfur transformation study (one manuscript already to be submitted) and was given the go-ahead on completing the project with visits to additional sites (LTER and nonLTER).
3. Plans for additional LTER CC-sponsored activities were reviewed. (1) A proposal for a plant x herbivore workshop at Cedar Creek was enthusiastically received and endorsed by the CC. It is clear that all sites will want to participate. Tilman will proceed but with modification to budget (increase), consideration of timing, and enlarged listing of LTER site participants and contacts. (2) A proposal to have the data managers meet between the two week-long sessions of the LTER/NASA workshop in Albuquerque, NM (November 8-9) was approved.
4. The next all-scientist meeting is planned for fall of 1987. Considerable discussion occurred on the relative merits of South Carolina and Colorado as sites. Blood, Lauenroth, Webber, and Tilman will compare and report to the CC at the next meeting.
5. The next Washington briefing on the LTER program was discussed. It is tentatively planned for May of 1987. Whitford will chair a session to plan this presentation on November 8 at Albuquerque. Participants in this session will be (at least) Lauenroth, Patten, Woodmansee, and Franklin.
6. Future status of the LTER CC was discussed. It was agreed to ask Callahan to consider the possibility of an extension and

supplement of the existing grant until the end of CY 1987 so that the new LTER CC proposal can incorporate the concerns and potentials of the new set of LTER sites. Franklin would continue as Chairman of the group through 1987. Callahan will discuss with Brooks and get back to us.

7. Loucks presented the long-term plant monitoring program that has been developed at Holcombe Research Institute and which is being implemented at several locations in the northeastern United States in cooperation with National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. It is designed explicitly to follow populations of endangered plant species.

8. Dave Strayer presented a brief report on the results of study of long-term ecological research that was conducted by the Institute of Ecosystem Studies (Millbrook, NY). A full report will be available in the near future.

9. Franklin reported on the results of the April 28 meeting on affiliation of lter research groups. A draft of the ESA Bulletin material is attached FOR YOUR COMMENT.

10. Patten made a brief presentation on the interests of the statistics group at Penn State in cooperating with LTER sites.

11. Conley discussed his past and potential future involvements with the LTERCC group. His group has dropped out of participation in the Jornada program presenting a problem in support for continuing intersite activities, such as last January's meteorological session. The LTER CC agreed on the desirability of continued involvement by Conley's group in intersite activities. There was extended discussion of the level of support that LTER CC could and should provide in the context of the existing and future grants and whether Conley should develop a separate proposal. The desirability of having such collaborative data analysis activities as a prominent part of any future grant (e.g., the inherent limited attractiveness of a proposal based primarily upon workshops) was noted. An agreement of LTER CC acceptance of Conley's concept and full cooperation by all sites was reached; the consensus on financial support was for support at a level substantially below Conley's total needs, however.

12. Franklin made a brief presentation on synthesis activities at the H. J. Andrews site. These are built primarily around production of a volume for Springer-Verlag's ecological studies series. The theme of the book is variability in structure and function of coniferous forests/streams along temporal and spatial gradients. A device relieving major use is that of writing retreats for the collective group of authors. This is proving to be extremely stimulating and productive of serendipitous ideas.

13. The next meeting of the LTERCC is scheduled for November 9 in Albuquerque, NM.

5/21/86 DRAFT FOR ESA BULLETIN  
COMMENTS SOLICITED!

J. Franklin

FACILITATING LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH

On April 28, 1986 eighteen scientists met at the University of Minnesota to discuss needs and mechanisms for nurturing long-term ecological research (lter). The group included scientists associated with a wide variety of agencies and institutions (see below) as well as sites which are supported by National Science Foundation as part of the Long Term Ecological Research network.

Identification of activities which would contribute to nurturing of lter was addressed first, with emphasis on items requiring some level of cooperation or association between personnel, programs, or sites. These activities included:

- (1) Collaborative research on common topics or questions, e.g., in extension of work from intensive study sites to landscapes, regions, or the continent, application and testing of models, and exploration of hierarchy theory;
- (2) Development of common methodologies, including experimental designs, to facilitate comparative analyses and encourage comparable experiments;
- (3) Development of comparable data bases (i.e., measures of same parameters at multiple sites) for use in comparative studies and testing and application of models;
- (4) Development of common standards of data management, such as in the levels of documentation;
- (5) Development of networks of similar ecosystems to provide for replication in lter studies;
- (6) Exchanges of scientists between long-term research programs, encouraging exchange of methods and ideas and helping stimulate programs at less-intensively studied sites;
- (7) Providing greater recognition of importance of long-term research for sites and programs within agencies currently lacking a strong committment to long-term ecological research programs, i.e., greater internal leverage;
- (8) Training and interning of graduate students and young scientists; and
- (9) Creation of a higher profile for long-term ecological research within the scientific community including broader recognition of the existing data bases and dedicated research sites.

Many mechanisms for achieving the objectives were proposed and discussed. These included: developing a section of the ESA on long-term ecological research; producing a directory of scientists, programs, and sites interested in lter; producing a lter newsletter; producing a catalogue or directory of long-term data sets; and organizing symposia on lter topics.

A decision was made to explore the development of an ESA section and simultaneously begin compiling a list of individuals, programs, and sites interested in lter. Consequently, I am asking ESA members to contact me about their interest in such a section as well as with comments and suggestions on objectives and mechanisms for encouraging collaboration between personnel and programs committed to long-term research. I also solicit names of individuals, sites, and programs that should be a part of any lter directory.

Participants at the Minnesota meeting were: E. Blood, Univ. South Carolina; J. Callahan, National Science Foundation; J. Ewell, Univ. Florida; J. Fitzgerald, Univ. Georgia; J. Franklin, USDA Forest Service; A. Grable, USDA Agricultural Research Service; T. Jordan, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center; D. Kaufmann, Kansas State Univ.; W. Lauenroth, Colorado State Univ.; O. Loucks, Holcombe Research Institute; J. Magnuson, Univ. Wisconsin; D. Parsons, USDI National Park Service; P. Robertson, Kellogg Biological Station; R. Sparks, Illinois Natural History Survey; D. Stone, Organization for Tropical Studies; D. Strayer, Institute for Ecosystem Studies; D. Tilman, Univ. Minnesota; R. VanHook, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; P. Webber, Univ. Colorado;

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