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### Coordinating Committee Meeting, Hubbard Brook Site, New Hampshire, October, 1999

Long Term Ecological Research Network

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## **Minutes of the Coordinating Committee Meeting - Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, New Hampshire**

**October 1, 1999**

James Gosz called the meeting to order at 8 AM.

### **NSF Report**

The first order of business after reviewing the agenda and hearing logistical details was to hear the report from the National Science Foundation. Bruce Hayden, former Division Director for the Division of Environmental Biology presented information and a speaker phone connection with Scott Collins at NSF was used to provide additional detail and answer questions from the Coordinating Committee.

### Biocomplexity

NSF will fund Biocomplexity this year and Congress is likely to provide the request of \$50 million for the competition of these continuing awards. The 2001 budget will probably request even larger amounts of money for this area. The program announcement has not been written; however, there are some clear objectives for successful research efforts. What are the simple properties of complex systems? What are emergent properties of complex systems? It may be useful to focus on systems that are relatively well studied from the point of understanding the nature of the complexity and direct efforts to understand the dynamical properties and emergent properties that have not been studied. Successful proposals are likely to be those that cross directorates at NSF. The competition will be a Foundation-wide effort. NSF expects there will be many proposals that will relate the biological and geoscience disciplines so there will be significant competition in this area. Links with social-economic disciplines (a different directorate) will be important areas as well.

A recommendation was made to look at the publications from the Santa Fe Institute that focussed on complexity. The Network Office will obtain these articles and forward them (or identify where they can be viewed) to the LTER Network.

### NEON

The funding for NEON will probably be in the 2001 budget request for NSF. If Congress agrees, there would be significant amounts for infrastructure with follow-up funding for operations. The form of the request for proposals is not yet clear; however, one of the models that may be important is the development of a consortium of intensive and extensive sites that focus on a biogeographic region or scientific theme. Two workshops are being planned to involve the scientific community and receive input. The first will be in January that will focus on the conceptual aspects of NEON and what this effort can do that is not being done well today. The second workshop is likely for February and will focus on the technology needed for NEON. It is likely that successful efforts will represent a broad spectrum of biology/ecology; genes to ecosystem science. It is appropriate to involve foreign colleagues and sites; however, funding will have to go to the US institutions.

The committee discussed the support of the NSF budget containing NEON by organizing an effort that would allow site representatives to visit their state's delegation in Congress and urge them to support the NSF budget for 2001. More information will come from the Network Office later on this effort. The list of appropriations committee members for VA-HUD and Senate and House can be found at:

<http://congress.nw.dc.us/rollcall/congdir.html>

### LTER Cross-site Competition

The 2000 budget is not definite at this time but DEB anticipates developing a request for proposals for cross-site research. The nature of the request is likely to be similar to past cross-site proposals.

### **Executive Committee Election**

Ray Smith has served on the Executive Committee since 1996 and the LTER policy is to have these committee members rotate after three years. The floor was open for nominations and Phil Robertson

nominated Gaius Shaver. After no further nominations the motion was made to close nominations. A motion was passed to unanimously accept "Gus" for membership on the Executive Committee.

#### **All Scientists Meeting Budget Discussion**

Bob Waide led a discussion of the budget for the All Scientists Meeting that included the money available from the LTER Network Office and the procedure for requesting additional money from NSF. The Coordinating Committee unanimously passed a motion to have the Network Office determine the amount of money that would go to each LTER site (including the potential 3 new sites) based on an estimate of the cost per individual for a fixed number of people from each site. The estimated cost and the amount of money NSF is willing to provide will determine the number from each site. Included in the determination of the cost per individual will be consideration of sites that can drive and airfare costs based on current ticket prices between Salt Lake City and the locations of site scientists.

The Coordinating Committee unanimously passed a motion that "at least 5 graduate students will be brought to the All Scientists Meeting with the funds from the NSF supplement money.

The Coordinating Committee unanimously passed a motion that the Network Office would arrange ticket purchases and reimbursements for site scientists/students for the All Scientists Meeting. This means that the supplement will go to the Network Office and site participants will work with the Network Office to arrange tickets and request reimbursements. Sites will be asked by the Network Office to identify the people that will be authorized to travel on this supplement.

The Network Office will develop the basis for a registration fee for participants and ESA will include this in their organization materials for the combined LTER and ESA meeting.

#### **LTER Shirts**

Patty Sprott of the Network Office developed a LTER logo for shirts that were modeled by several Network Office people at the Coordinating Committee meeting. It was agreed that Patty should send an announcement to sites that these shirts are available. Sites can request bulk orders to allow them to add their own site logo with their own resources. This would provide a common LTER shirt/logo with additional detail that identifies the individual site.

There also will be an option to purchase a LTER shirt at the All Scientists Meeting and to pay for this in the registration fee.

#### **Pre-All Scientist Meeting Activities**

Bob Waide discussed the Network Office money that was available for small awards to fund pre All Scientist Meeting planning efforts for activities that would occur at the meeting. Bob indicated that there was \$60,000 available this year and there would be about the same amount available in each of 2001 and 2002 for follow-up activities. It was decided that a small committee under the chair of Bob Parmenter would discuss the needs for activities and report back at a later date. The Coordinating Committee recommended that the Executive Committee make decisions on the funding for recommended activities.

The Executive Committee also was recommended to make decisions on the plenary speakers for the All Scientists Meeting.

A recommendation was made to develop a broader steering committee for the All Scientists Meeting that will be considered by the co-chairs, Bob Waide and Bob Parmenter.

One of the pre-All Scientists Meetings that was strongly recommended was an activity on regional science efforts. Many sites have developed interactions with other sites and institutions in their region and all sites would benefit from the processes developed and models used for these interactions. This activity would also serve the purpose of helping prepare sites for the anticipated NEON program that may require a consortium effort.

### **Future Coordinating Committee Meetings**

Requests were made for sites to host Coordinating Committee meetings for 2001-2003. There will not be a Coordinating Committee meeting in 2000 as the All Scientists Meeting will be the prime activity for the year. The following sites were approved:

2001	Spring: Central Arizona Project (CAP; Phoenix Urban LTER) Fall: Plum Island Sound, Mass.
2002	Spring: Sevilleta, New Mexico Fall: Niwot Ridge, Colorado
2003	Spring: Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan Fall: Bonanza Creek, Alaska

A science theme was selected for the fall, 2001 meeting at Plum Island Sound of:  
Terrestrial - Aquatic Interactions

Science themes for the subsequent years will be selected following the All Scientists Meeting.

### **Tom Callahan Memorial**

A discussion was held regarding memorials for Tom that would represent the importance of Tom's work for the LTER program.

John Porter will identify the amount needed for a permanent display at Blandy Farm where the family has indicated that these memorials should be developed. It was suggested that a bench be located at one of the places that Tom liked to visit with a plaque that indicated the memorial was from the LTER Network. When we know the amount needed, the Network Office will request the appropriate amount from each site to cover the cost of the memorial.

A second effort will be pursued with the ESA Long Term Studies Section to establish an award for a student in Tom's name. A suggestion was made that the Organization of Biological Field Stations also be contacted to participate in this student award.

James Gosz closed the meeting at 12:30.

The remainder of the Coordinating Committee meeting was devoted to a field trip to the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and a workshop on Net Primary Productivity. The agenda follows. Various activities were identified in the workshop that will be reported on in subsequent reports by individuals leading these efforts.

A great thanks is due to the scientists and staff of Hubbard Brook for the excellent organization and operation of the Coordinating Committee meeting. Job Well Done!!!

## Fall 1999 Meeting of LTER-Coordinating Committee Agenda

### Patterns and Control of Net Primary Productivity Across Biomes

#### Friday, October 1

Morning	8:00-12:30	Business meeting
Afternoon	1:30-5:00	Field trip
Evening	5:00-6:00	Happy hour - USFS R.S. Pierce Laboratory
	6:00-?	Barbecue - USFS R.S. Pierce Laboratory

#### Saturday, October 2

Morning	Session 1 - NPP Workshop	
	6:15	Hike <span style="float: right;">if interested, contact P. Groffman</span>
	8:00	Introduction <span style="float: right;">T. Fahey</span>
	8:15	Insights from models of forest NPP <span style="float: right;">J. Aber</span>
	8:45	Description of MODIS-NPP Project <span style="float: right;">J. Vande Castle</span>
	9:15	Group Discussion: Modelling and Synthesis
	9:45	Break
	10:00	Large-scale NPP patterns: Marine Ecosystems <span style="float: right;">R. Smith</span>
	10:30	Large-scale NPP patterns: Grasslands <span style="float: right;">B. Lauenroth</span>
	11:00-12:00	Break-out Discussion Groups
		1) Modelling NPP <span style="float: right;">Aber presiding</span>
		2) NPP standards for LTER Network <span style="float: right;">Gosz presiding</span>
		3) Belowground productivity <span style="float: right;">Ruess presiding</span>
	12:00-1:00	Lunch
Afternoon	Session 2 - NPP Workshop	
	1:00	Spatial variation in terrestrial NPP: Environment and plant form <span style="float: right;">T. Chapin</span>
	1:30	Annual variation in terrestrial NPP <span style="float: right;">J. Blair and G.</span>
Shaver	2:00	Group Discussion: Spatial and temporal variation
	2:30	Break
	3:00	Forecasting primary producer dynamics using long-term data from lakes <span style="float: right;">S. Carpenter</span>
	3:30	NPP at ecotones <span style="float: right;">P. Reich</span>
	4:00	Biodiversity and NPP <span style="float: right;">K. Gross</span>
	4:30-5:30	Break-out Discussion Groups
		1) LTER All-Scientist Meeting <span style="float: right;">Parmenter</span>
presiding		2) Biodiversity and NPP follow up <span style="float: right;">Waide presiding</span>
		3) Annual variability follow up <span style="float: right;">Blair presiding</span>
Evening	Dinner at Loon Mountain	

#### Sunday, October 3

Morning

Time TBA

Departures