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Coordinating Committee Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, April, 2001

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Report from the LTER Coordinating Committee Meeting
Held at the Central Arizona – Phoenix LTER site
April 24-25, 2001

The CAP LTER site hosted the Spring Coordinating Committee meeting on the ASU campus. The first day was devoted to a meeting of the Executive Committee (Gosz, Shaver, Kratz, Robertson, and Porter), which was followed by an evening session of the CC held in the ASU Faculty Club. The meeting continued the next day in the ASU Student Union until 4:00 PM.

Election for Executive Committee

There were five nominees to replace retiring members Indy Burke and Tim Kratz: Nancy Grimm (CAP), Alan Knapp (KNZ), Terry Chapin (BNZ), John Priscu (MCM), and Charles Driscoll (HBR). Each site representative was asked to vote for two candidates. Twenty-one sites voted (Cedar Creek and Bonanza had no representatives present), and Nancy Grimm and Alan Knapp were selected as members of the EC.

Committee Reports

Reports from standing committees were submitted and distributed before the meeting (see attachments). The floor was opened for questions concerning these reports.

Publications – Dave Coleman indicated that negotiations with Oxford were under way to increase publicity for the LTER book series. The EC and publications committee will take up this topic with Kirk Jensen (OUP/LTER Series Editor) at the ESA meeting. OUP will integrate their USA and UK websites to provide European scientists with better access to the series.

Discussion revealed that copies of the new Niwot book were not requested for sites, although a one-time discount purchase is possible. In the future, sites should negotiate with Oxford to provide copies for each site, the Network Office, and NSF. NET will buy a box of the NWT volume at discounted prices to distribute to sites.

Social Science – Morgan Grove suggested that core areas developed by the social science group should be included as appropriate in the review of sites. Morgan described the development of the social science core areas. Henry Gholz suggested that a change at this time would be difficult because half the site reviews have been completed. Chuck Redman suggested that if the social science core areas are found to be important in the site reviews, then NSF could be approached to add money for these areas.

Graduate Student – Jennifer Edmonds indicated that many students in the personnel database have graduated and that better communication is needed to maintain the database. The Graduate Student Committee has organized a workshop at ESA to address social science issues.

Climate – Contract for “Climate Variability and Ecosystem Response” has been signed by Oxford Press. The impetus for this book came from the science theme discussions at the Santa Barbara CC meeting.

David Greenland has recently stepped down as the Chair of the Climate Committee, and Doug Goodin has replaced him. There was a proposal to send a letter of commendation to Dave Greenland from the CC for his dedication and hard work as Chair of the Climate Committee.

Data Management – DataTask held a meeting in Phoenix before the CC convened. A summary of the results of that meeting was distributed.

Technology – Jim Gosz presented the web version of the Technology Committee report (<http://www.lternet.edu/technology/2001techtask/>).

Education - Monica Elser made a presentation based on a written report from the SLTER subcommittee. She covered the history of the Education Committee, including the charge given to the committee in January 1998. She discussed SLTER activities in more detail. Her presentation can be accessed at http://lternet-183.lternet.edu/doc_archive/presentations/. The SLTER group requested information from the sites, but only nine of 24 replied.

Bob Waide moved and Chuck Redman seconded that the CC recognize the high priority of the questionnaire prepared by the SLTER subcommittee and urge the sites to respond expeditiously. The motion was passed unanimously.

There was a recommendation that the Network Office take the lead on re-invigorating the Education Committee.

Hosts for subsequent spring/fall CC meetings

Jim Gosz led a review of the sites hosting future CC meetings and the science themes projected for the fall meetings. After discussion, the following schedule was agreed upon:

Spring 2002	Sevilleta
Fall 2002	Niwot - Causes and consequences of species addition and extinction within and among ecosystems, with an emphasis on biogeochemistry (approved by CC)
Spring 2003	Kellogg Biological Station
Fall 2003	Bonanza Creek – Nancy Grimm is preparing proposal; need to consult with BNZ organizers
Spring 2004	Florida Coastal Everglades
Fall 2004	Virginia Coast Reserve – Extreme events and ecosystem dynamics (approved by CC)

The timing of the next ASM meeting was discussed and three-year intervals was the consensus.

The CC discussed how to involvement information managers in developing databases and standards associated with each science theme. There was a recommendation to ask Don Henshaw to represent the information managers for the PIE meeting and NWT data manager to take the lead for the Niwot meeting.

Other business

Nancy Grimm proposed including geosciences among the LTER core research charge. NSF GEO is involved in funding of three new sites. A biogeoscience theme was suggested for one of the NSF brown bag presentations in February 2002.

Wednesday, April 25

Preparations for the fall science meeting

Chuck Hopkinson, lead PI at the Plum Island Estuary site, discussed preparations for the fall meeting, which will take place from September 20-23, 2001, at the New England Conference Center. The schedule is as follows:

Wed 19th – EC travel

Thursday 20th – EC meeting

Friday 21st– science symposium

Saturday 22nd – am business meeting

pm –field trip

pm – early departures from Rawley train station

Sunday 23rd – departures

The science theme for the meeting is “The Linkage between Land and Water – From the Atmosphere to the Coastal Zone”. The goal of the meeting is to summarize the state of knowledge on watershed hydrology and biogeochemistry through a series of 12-13 presentations. Potential products from the meeting include a special journal issue (Biogeochemistry or Ecosystems?) and a Bioscience-type review article. The results from this meeting will be presented at an NSF Brown Bag symposium in February 2002.

Henry Gholz suggested that substantial representation from non-LTER sites be included.

Intranet – Patty Sprott introduced the new LTER Intranet page located at <http://intranet.lternet.edu/>. The Intranet page is aimed at the needs of LTER scientists and students and contains information on personnel, sites, meetings, and documents. The public LTER page (<http://lternet.edu>) will remain the principal source of information for the general public, students, and non-LTER scientists.

NSF Report

Henry Gholz

Budgets have now been passed down the to program level. LTER increases were approved as part of budget. At present the LTER annual budget is \$17.6 million, with \$14.6 million in core funding from DEB and \$3 million for Polar and GEO. Regularly scheduled increases need to be built into Polar and GEO money

Discretionary money increased by 10% this year. All pending supplements have been approved and are being processed.

Two site reviews completed (CAP and BES), and seven more are scheduled. The new sites don't fit well into site review rotation, and some adjustments may be necessary.

The twenty-year review is still planned for this year. Leonard Krishtalka has agreed to co-chair with Frank Harris. Many people have been asked to serve on this committee and declined.

The recent COV report emphasized imperfections in reporting by LTER sites. Dr. Clutter has to look at the LTER reports, and therefore we must be careful not to underreport achievements.

NEON is not in FY-2002 budget, but there are efforts on hill to increase NSF's budget over Administration's request for 2%

The COV did discuss the issue of continuity in staffing of the LTER Program Office. In particular, there is an understanding of the need for continuity between site reviews and renewals. Henry will be asked to help with Ecosystems because of Penny's leave

Annual LTER presentations at NSF – Gosz

Henry Gholz suggested that the LTER network should make annual presentations at NSF as part of the

February Exec meeting. The Executive Committee needs to develop a structure for these presentations and suggest priorities to the CC. Bob Waide proposed to employ fall science meeting themes as the basis for synthetic talks at NSF and to accompany the synthetic talks with site vignettes. Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Report from Committee of Visitors – Coleman

Dave Coleman (CWT) served as chair for the first Committee of Visitors (COV) to examine DEB's long-term programs. A list of COV participants is attached to this report. The COV report will be one of the documents examined in the 20-year review.

Four major points were raised by the COV:

- Improve outreach through more funding to education efforts
- Increase information management efforts and funding
- Encouraged permanent program officer and rotator
- Address inequities among sites (both because of cohorts and augmentation)

Waide asked if augmented sites being held constant in funding until others catch up? If so, how does this affect incorporation of social science? Gholz indicated that the idea at the time was that all sites would be augmented, but this has not happened. Henry assumes that the augmented sites will maintain at higher levels at renewal, but this has not been decided?

National Advisory Board Report discussion

Jim Gosz presented and discussed the draft report from the LTER National Advisory Board. In addition, he discussed the presentation to NSF made at the February meeting of the Executive Committee (see attachment).

Priority setting

The CC broke into five working groups to discuss criteria for priority setting. These breakout groups discussed goals for LTER in the Synthesis Decade in five areas:

- A) Maintain quality of science
- B) Increase pace of synthesis
- C) Increase experimental and comparative research
- D) Facilitate and increase multidisciplinary research and synthesis efforts with other disciplines such as physical, economic, and computer sciences
- E) Extend use of LTER knowledge in education, policymaking, management and public understanding