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Coordinating Committee Meeting, Niwot Ridge, September, 2002

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**LTER Coordinating Committee
Niwot Ridge LTER Site
September 12-13, 2002**

Business meeting; 7pm – 10 pm, Thursday September 12

1. NAB membership (Gosz)

Jim presented the present membership of the National Advisory Board and opened the floor for nominations for a new committee. There was agreement that Paul Risser should be approached to continue as chair. The following suggestions were made from the floor:

John Fink (ASU)
Jim Levitt (Harvard; 20 year review)
Mary Power (Berkeley)
Peter Arzberger (UC-San Diego)
Sander Van Der Leeuw – French
ILTER
Terry Parr – UK ILTER
Hague Vaughn – Canada ILTER
Gerardo Ceballos (Mexico ILTER;
20 year review)
Emilio Moran (Indiana)
Eleanor Ostrom - (?)
Hilary Swaine – Archbold
Biological Station (20 year review)
Bob Goodman (20 year review)
Claire Frazier (Institute for Genomic
Research)
Jack Stanford - OBFS
Forest Service?
Chip Groat (USGS)



Jim will approach Risser to invite new members and ask others to continue

2. All Scientists Meeting status (Waide)

Bob Waide presented information about the 2003 ASM. The meeting will be from September 18-21 in Seattle following the meeting of the Estuarine Research Federation. On Thursday the 18th, there will be a joint LTER/ERF symposium and an evening mixer, and LTER activities will continue from Friday through Sunday. Further information and a call for workshops will be forthcoming in December.

The program committee is Rob Daoust, Dan Childers, Tiffany Gann, Kay Gross, Berry Lyons, Bill Michener, and Bob Waide (Chair). We are looking for a few more volunteers. There is a subcommittee devoted to organizing joint activities with ERF: Dan Childers (chair), Bruce Hayden, Chuck Hopkinson, Tim Hollibaugh, and Dan Reed.

3. KBS CC meeting

Tentative dates were established for April 29-May 1, but there is a conflict with the Cary Conference conflict. Jim and Phil will set new dates. Bob will post on web page and send a message to site-exec.

The KBS meeting will be during the week. In the future, we will alternate weekday and weekend meetings.

4. BNZ CC meeting

The Executive Committee recommended postponing the Alaska CC meeting until 2004 because of potential conflicts with the ASM (Grimm moved, Huenneke seconded; motion passed). Marilyn Walker indicated that this would not be a problem for BNZ; no other comment was made. We will stay with the same science theme.

The CC voted among four offers to host the Spring 2004 meeting – Santa Barbara, Jornada, Georgia Coastal, Plum Island at MBL. Santa Barbara won overwhelmingly.

Future meetings are as follows:

Spring 2003	Kellogg
Fall 2003	ASM (to be decided later)
Spring 2004	Santa Barbara Channel (perhaps with a working group at NCEAS?)
Fall 2004	Bonanza,
Spring 2005	Florida Coastal Everglades
Fall 2005	Virginia Coast

Send out schedule of CC meetings (Bob)

5. Exec election

Moved and passed to expand Exec to six members and eliminate alternate. Five candidates had been nominated (Childers, Hobbie, Hopkinson, Kelly, and Priscu), but Priscu's name was removed because he had not yet indicated his willingness to serve. No new candidates proposed from the floor.

John Hobbie and Dan Childers were elected in a close vote.

6. NSF annual science symposium theme

This theme should relate to a strategic plan for the 2005 budget opportunity

Exec recommends the following theme: "Examples of integration of geosciences and social sciences into the LTER program: progress and prospects"

This relates to the potential for augmenting sites as was done for Coweeta and North Temperate Lakes.

Potential talks on this theme:

"Overview: Need and Scope of Integration for these disciplines"

"Hydrologic and Land Use Controls on the Dynamics of Lakes (NTL)"

"Social Influences on Ecosystem Variables in Space and Time"

"Storms and Groundwater Controls on Ecosystem Patterning"

"Legacies of Past Land use"

"Dynamic Climate-Vegetation Interactions in a Warming World"

"Do we have to Modify Ecological Theory to more Correctly Involve the Role of Humans in Ecological Systems"

Can we get Academy to sponsor symposium and invite agencies? (Grimm); check with Henry (Bob)

We also need to develop way of capturing science theme talks (Bob)

7. Annual CC meeting themes

Jim presented the following recommendation from the Exec for choosing new science themes:

Decisions will be made on the basis of short proposals due in January of the year before the science theme meeting

will take place. These proposals will be evaluated by the Committee on Scientific Initiatives and recommended to the full CC for approval in the spring meeting. Proposals will include:

- overall theme
- why timely and important
- format of meeting
- resources needed
- long-term follow-up and products such as proposals
- outside participants
- potential to create a module in the NIS
- budget



The first round of proposals will be requested for January 2003 for the fall All Scientists Meeting. The proposed mechanism was accepted unanimously by the CC. The CC further endorsed competition for a science theme at 2003 ASM if resources become available via the Network Office proposal. The science theme for the Bonanza meeting has already been chosen, so the next science them after the ASM will be in Spring 2004.

Bob will draft a **call for proposals** and **circulate draft to Exec**) for two science themes by January 1, 2003. One would be at the ASM and the second would be a working group meeting in association with the CC meeting in Santa Barbara in 2004.

8. BioScience

John Hobbie gave a summary of the status of the BioScience articles.

9. ILTER activities

Jim gave a brief overview of the status of the ILTER Network. Mexico, South Africa, and France are the newest networks. The following specific points were raised:

- The 2003 ILTER annual meeting will be held in Beijing from September 5-8. The theme is “Theory, methodology and applications for ecosystem management.” There will be a one-day business meeting followed by a two-day paper session leading to manuscripts for a book.
- There is an effort with the U.S. State Department Office in Copenhagen to develop a Baltic Regional ILTER Network. Bob Waide will be visiting Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Belgium in November at State Department expense to discuss ILTER with scientists, institutions, and agencies.
 - Perhaps Marilyn Walker can talk up ILTER at ITEX meeting in Norway (Bob)
- There has been an expression of interest from our ILTER partners in France, the UK, Austria, and the Slovak Republic to the European Commission for a project in on long-term ecological research to be included in the 6th Framework research plan. The project is called ALTER-EUROPE, An LTER-Network for Detecting, Forecasting and Managing Change in European Socio-Environmental Systems. The purposes are to:
 - To create a European Network of Long Term Ecosystem Research (LTER) sites, based on existing national programmes and practical network design principles, to implement long-term policy-relevant monitoring, research, modelling, assessment and forecasting of ecosystem vulnerability to global change across Europe
 - To integrate the study of ecological and human dimensions of environmental change in order to better understand and manage the integrated socio-environmental systems concerned, and in particular to determine the relationship between governance and sustainable development

- To develop an integrated information system and clearing-house linking distributed data-bases to enable data exchange between LTER scientists and delivery of information products to users across Europe
 - To analyse and compare data from a network of sites in order to identify, quantify and better understand natural and man-induced environmental changes and to provide a sound basis for adaptive management and policy development
 - To harmonise observational and experimental programmes across Europe, to exploit existing comparable long-term data-sets and generate new ones, to identify ecosystem vulnerabilities and to deal with them sustainably
 - To improve the relationship between the science and the policy-making communities and to enhance the synergy between research and policy-making
 - To spread excellence in LTER through the expansion of the network to cover new countries, ecosystems and biogeographical regions across Europe.
- This effort ties into the EC-US work shop on “New Research Tools for a Life Sciences Decade” held in Valencia in June, 2001. The Global Ecological Observatory Network was one issue discussed at this meeting.

Both of these developments indicate that we need a European Liaison Group. **Bob will send out a call for volunteers.**

10. Network Office Proposal Review status

Bob Waide gave a brief overview of the status of the Network Office proposal.

11. CUAHSI (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences ...)

Nancy Grimm gave a brief overview of CUAHSI and the Elements of it's Water Cycle Plan:

- Long-term Hydrologic Observatories (like NEON and LTER)
- Hydrologic Measurement Technology Center
- Hydrologic Information System (like NIS)
- Hydrologic Synthesis Center
- Possibly an information storage center and community modeling effort

Nancy recommended that LTER support this effort.

Business meeting; 8 am – noon, Friday September 13

12. Twenty Year Review

Jim presented an overview of the Twenty-year Review Report. Major points can be found at <http://lternet.edu>. Discussion followed:

- What can we do to develop a plan that takes advantage of this review to let us do things that we already want to do? Our white paper has strategies, but doesn't really say what we want to do for network research. So we need white paper 2 with more goals.
- They also charged us to re think our governance. But that would have to come after the strategic plan
- Can we develop a strategic plan for responding to events – serendipitous science?
- The notion of picking questions for a decade of research that would be sunseted is a good one, but it can be done while leaving a framework of core areas intact?
- Jim asked for evidence that the sites are really behind the network research model?
 - Problem is that sites weren't selected for network research
 - Gus – if network were designed like NOAA, it would be less productive overall. This should be seen as an optimization exercise to see if site based research can better contribute to integrated questions.
 - Is there room in this model for synthetic activities that are not necessarily LTER network?
 - Jim – there are no constraints. There is not need to limit to 24 sites. Links to other stations can build a more complete regional dataset. That's still networking.

Gosz presented six topics that need to be addressed, and requested volunteers for three working groups on topics 1, 3, and 5: intellectual goals, core areas revisited, and balance between site and network priorities.

Recommendations that pertain to each working group (from Grimm)

1 – 1, 2, 3, 4

3 – 5, 6, 7,

5 – 7, 8, 9

*1. Intellectual Goals of the Network (Hayden, Shaver)

Questions for X-site synthesis, interdisciplinary collaboration

What is our niche?

2. Primary Activities essential to site and network function

Monitoring, modeling, informatics, synthesis, experiments, standing committee efforts, management, communication, etc.

*3. Core Areas revisited (Grimm, Gosz, Waide)

What does a core area do?

Should they be changed or expanded?

Do we organize the network by core areas, questions, interdisciplinary collaboration?

4. Funding Strategy, other directorates?

*5. Appropriate balance between site and network priorities (Knapp, McCartney)

Strategies for Synthesis

Facilitating Network Science and synthesis through information management (NIS)

6. Network Governance

Working Group Charge:

Develop material for the Coordinating Committee and Executive Committee to use to formulate a response to the 20-yr review, and propose next steps to NSF (including budget). Additional group meetings may be required to develop a full strategic plan

Reports from each working group are available at <http://lternet.edu>. The next step is to work on incorporating notes into skeleton of strategic plan by September 25 (Bob, Jim, Bruce)

13. Increasing the rate of synthesis and network-scale publishing (Waide)

This agenda item was passed over

14. NIS working group/oversight committee effort (McCartney)

The advisory group for the development of NIS, the Network Information System for the LTER was created from the May 2002 EXEC recommendation that a mechanism be created for encouraging better interaction between scientists and information managers with respect to building cross-site data products. At the Fall CC meeting at NWT, EXEC reviewed a proposed plan of action developed by the information managers and then recommended to CC that a committee as described in that plan be formed for a limited duration with the specific goal of drafting a long-term plan for NIS development. This plan would become part of the LTER response to the 20-year review. The following areas need specific attention: 1) improving the articulation of IM efforts with the long-term plans being made for network-based research in LTER, 2) setting expectations for content and useability of data products, 3) establishing criteria for evaluating progress and performance toward those goals, and 4) the recognition of responsibilities between researchers, IM personnel, the Network office, etc. In keeping with Gus Shaver's comments, we also need to decide whether this group should persist formally beyond the production of this plan or whether its mandate can be sustained simply by defining some de facto rules for membership based on involvement with current cross-site activities.

Membership is designed to ensure balance between the CC, the IM committee, and the Network office. Site principal investigators that have agreed to participate are David Foster, Mark Harmon, and Marilyn Walker. The working group will put together a draft by the February 2003 Exec meeting.



Niwot Ridge CC Meeting September 12-13, 2002

Business meeting; 7pm – 10 pm, Thursday September 12

7:00 NAB membership (Gosz)

7:15 All Scientists Meeting status (Waide)

8:00 2003 CC meeting in Alaska status (Waide/Walker)
Changing Climate and Disturbance Regime

8:45 EC election (Gosz)
Gene Kelly
John Hobbie
Chuck Hopkinson
Dan Childers
John Priscu (?)

9:15 Next annual Science Theme at NSF in Feb. (Gosz)

- DOM dynamics in freshwater and coastal systems – Childers (FCE)
- Biogeosciences. Integration of ecology with physical sciences, especially hydrology, -atmospheric science, astrobiology – Grimm (CAP)
- Global Warming and Ecosystem Change – Ducklow (PAL)
- Decomposition: The other side of production – Harmon (AND) and Coleman (CWT)
- Taking advantage of the LTER Network to address regional, continental and global scale questions – Knapp (KNZ)

9:45 BioScience articles/status (Hobbie)

ILTER activities (Gosz)

Network Office Proposal Review status (Waide)

Business meeting; 8 am – noon, Friday September 13

8:00 Twenty Year Review (Gosz/Waide)

Report and cover

Krishtalka review/discussion

Strategic plan development, budget development

Preparation for the EC meeting at NSF in Feb.

Working group formation

10:00 break

10:15 Working groups if needed

11:15 Increasing the rate of synthesis and network-scale publishing (Waide)

11:30 NIS working group/oversight committee effort (McCartney)