

Summary of Conference Call, February 19, 2003

Participants: David Smith, Susan Steiner, Robert Bohanan, Monica Elser, Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Elena Sparrow, John Moore, Patty Sprcott, Sonia Ortega. Alan Berkowitz provided email input prior to call.

1. Input for Executive Committee: Strategic Plan for LTER Education will be presented to Executive Committee next week. One of the goals of our Strategic Plan is to assess current education efforts. Have Executive Committee revisit this issue. Without an assessment, it's difficult to plan for the future. Strategic Plan for education will be strengthened by having an assessment. Have Executive Committee consider/incorporate Strategic Plan for Education into the Network Strategic Planning.

2. Assessment Alternatives. Considering that NSF did not favorably accept the proposed Statement of Work for the Assessment of Education activities, we considered the following alternatives:

a) Look into the possibility that CLT (Centers for Learning and Teaching) conduct an assessment of LTER education as one of their projects. One of the goals of CLT is capacity building.

**Action:** Sonia will talk with Michael Haney about this possibility.

b) Link the assessment with the MSP (Math and Science Partnerships). SLTER might be included into emerging projects within MSP. Might tap into some evaluation/assessment expertise.

**Action:** Robert will send email with ideas and details.

Sonia will talk with Elizabeth Vanderputten at NSF regarding MSP.

c) Submit a proposal to the NSF Teacher Professional Continuum (NSF 03-534). Put a team together to work on the proposal. Address category #2: Research and Development of Educational Models and Systems. The idea here would be to evaluate/assess LTER education as a sustainable model that connects K-12, teacher preparation and other elements (e.g. undergraduates, graduates?).

**Action:** John will take the lead and will send an email to committee with ideas. Sonia will forward message to education reps. to find out who's willing to be part of the team.

Sonia will talk with David Campbell and Michael Hayne about this.

3. Workshop at Konza Prarie (Valerie Wrights' idea). Valerie plans to change the date to June (either 8-11, 9-13 or 23-27). Suggest to her to use the workshop to jump start network wide projects such as: Fact Sheets or Education Handbook.

**Action:** Sonia will contact Valerie and will pass on the suggestion.

4. ASM meeting. Use ASM to educate ASM participants about LTER education. Need to develop an agenda, need to include a person with education interest in the planning committee.

Have Education Reps meeting at the ASM.

Develop a theme such as: How to include an education component into LTER grants.

How to develop education activities at LTER (handbook)

**Action:** David, Robert, Stephanie and Sonia will work on ideas for agenda, working session.  
Sonia will look into possibility of bringing teachers to ASM especially those that have participated in multiple activities at LTER sites.

5. Another Mini Symposium for Education at NSF. The purpose is to showcase LTER education activities for NSF staff. Develop a theme such as connection of LTER with CLT and MSP. Consider other ideas.

**Action:** Sonia will inquiry with NSF about interest and funding for this.

6. Cross-site proposals. Currently several proposals are being or have been developed. Biocomplexity: Agricultural Landscapes led by Monica. Instructional Material led by Robert. Teachers in the Woods and High School science led by Marian Dresner.

7. Upcoming Activies/ Sonia's role, future plans.  
ESA activities. All are encouraged to submit posters, participate. Patty will develop a poster.  
Sonia will participate in panel for Diversity Lunch. Theme is communicating science to diverse audiences. Sonia will talk about LTER and how science is communicated to education groups.

Sonia's appointment at Network Office ends in September. Committee suggested to request extension of her appointment beyond September.

**Action:** Sonia will look into possibility of extension.  
Committee needs to start developing a mechanism for education coordination after Sonia leaves. Continue exploring John's offer to have his site coordinate the effort.

SO/2/19/03