

Minutes of the LTER Science Council Business Meeting
May 13, 2010; 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm; Peabody MA

1. Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm by Chair Phil Robertson.

Members attending:

Meryl Alber (GCE) *, Karen Baker (CCE)*, John Blair (KNZ)*, Barbara Bond (AND)*, Patrick Bourgeron (NWT and INT), Nick Brokaw (LUQ and EB)*, John Chamblee (CWT)*, Scott Collins (SEV)*, Hugh Ducklow (PAL and EB)*, Tim Fahey (HBR)*, David Foster (HFR)*, Anne Giblin (PIE)*, Corinna Gries (CAP, IM, and EB), Nancy Grimm (CAP)*, Peter Groffman (BES)*, Morgan Grove (BES and SOC), Bruce Hayden (VCR and CC), Don Henshaw (AND, IMC), John Hobbie (ARC)*, Steve Hamilton (KBS)*, Sarah Hobbie (CDR and EB)*, Sally Koerner (GRAD), Karen McGlathery (VCR)*, Diane McKnight (MCM and NWT)*, Curtis Monger (JRN)*, John Moore (SGS)*, Margaret O'Brien (SBC, IMC), Dan Reed (SBC)*, Roger Ruess (BNZ)*, Russ Schmitt (MCR)*, Beth Simmons (EDU), Emily Stanley (NTL)*, Bob Waide (LNO), Mark Williams (NWT and EB)*.

Voting Members not present: Evelyn Gaiser (FCE)*

Also Present: Emery Boose (HFR and IMC), George Garcia (LNO), Hap Garritt (PIE), Sally Holbrook (MCR and EB), Chuck Hopkinson (PIE and GCE), Kathleen Lambert (HFR), Thomas McOwiti (LNO), Steve Pennings (GCE and EB), Cathy Pringle (LUQ), Osvaldo Sala (JRN), John Vande Castle (LNO).

2. Minutes for the May 14, 2009, meeting were approved by consent.

3. Science Reports

- a. BioScience Prospectus. David Foster, chair of the BioScience Prospectus Committee, presented a report on the status of the prospectus as it now stands. With some additional edits the group expects to have a final written version ready to transmit to BioScience by the end of the month. Robertson will share with the SC at that time.

- b. Legacy Data Prospectus. Robertson provided an update on the legacy data initiative. The 2-page prospectus, prepared by a 9-member committee chaired by Peter Groffman, was shared with NSF in February. We have now been asked to prepare a short whitepaper expanding on the prospectus and Robertson will be forming a writing group after further discussion with NSF. See May 11 EB minutes for additional details.

4. Strategic Implementation Plan Follow-up

Two issues from SIP discussions earlier in the day have now been resolved:

- a. Nick Brokaw reported that following SC discussion in the SIP final plenary session this afternoon, the Relationship with Other Observatories group is now recommending that we assert scientific leadership rather than a coordinating role among emerging environmental observatories. Robertson solicited additional comments and noted that in the absence of objections the consensus decision will be that this is an appropriate approach endorsed by the SC.

- b. Sarah Hobbie reported that following SC discussion in the SIP final plenary session, the Research group revised its strategy and implementation plans to focus on three approaches – traditional site-based

* Voting member

EB = Executive Board; PUB = Publications Committee; SOC = Social Science Committee; IM = Information Management Committee; INT= International Committee; GRAD = Graduate Student Committee; EDU= Education Committee

research, cross-site research responsive to standard NSF calls for proposals, and large-scale initiatives to be proposed to NSF independent of existing calls. The latter class includes the four Network Synthesis Initiatives now under development – Future Scenarios, Disappearing Cryosphere, Coastal Vulnerability, and Inland Climate Change.

Action: The research group proposes that implementation be staged in the order of project maturity and breadth of interest among NSF directorates, and in particular in the order: Future Scenarios now, Coastal Vulnerability in 2 years, and other initiatives subsequent.

Nancy Grimm made the motion, supported by Anne Giblin, to accept the implementation plan proposed and to encourage the Future Scenarios group to develop the first network synthesis proposal to be submitted to NSF this fall. The motion was met with enthusiasm and adopted unanimously. Robertson and Foster will meet with NSF to define the path forward, and the EB will allocate necessary workshop funds.

5. LNO Report

Bob Waide distributed and presented highlights from the Network Office (LNO) Annual Report for 2009 (<http://intranet.lternet.edu/modules.php?name=UpDown&req=viewdownload&sid=65>). Major points included the implementation of two new Cooperative Agreements, the development of an Operational Plan for ARRA funding, a successful Reverse Site Visit based on this operational plan, the successful annual review of the LNO by EB, a final report from the 2009 ASM, and the introduction of a revised intranet page. Robertson noted the substantial effort required by the LNO to draft and review the operational plan for NIS and other LNO activities over the next 5 years.

6. EB Report

Robertson reported on general activities of the Executive Board, noting meeting frequencies and availability of minutes for those wishing further details. He also thanked outgoing members Sarah Hobbie (CDR), Sally Holbrook (MCR), and Steve Pennings (GCE), who are rotating off of the EB after this meeting, and welcomed incoming members Steve Hamilton (KBS), John Moore (SGS), and Emily Stanley (NTL).

Major activities facing the EB in the coming months includes shepherding the SIP through its final drafts and then to NSF, responding to 30y review panel requests, and shepherding the network research and education initiatives through the Foundation.

7. 2011 Minisymposium

Network Bylaws call for the SC to set the theme for the minisymposia, and Robertson opened the floor for nominations after noting the success of the 2010 meeting and thanking organizers and presenters. Several potentials were offered and discussed, and consensus is to host a theme highlighting climate change research in the network (e.g. “Understanding the current global experiment: from a geological and ecological perspective).

Action: A suggestion was made to appoint Scott Collins, Hugh Ducklow, Dave Foster, Diane McKnight, and Dan Reed to the 2010 Minisymposium Program Committee and develop a theme based on climate change research. Diane McKnight agreed to chair, the others nominated agreed to serve, and the suggestion was adopted by unanimous consensus.

8. 2011 SC Meeting

The 2011 SC meeting will be hosted by Moorea, with a date in May to be set by email polling. Sally Holbrook provided logistics information, noting that travel time will require a full week’s commitment including travel. Station capacity is 70 participants. Participants were reminded that the LNO will cover costs for 1 representative per site and one chair per standing committee, with costs for a second

representative to be covered by sites. LNO will also cover targeted social science representatives up to the capacity of the station from Decadal Plan funds. However, sites will be responsible for nominating first, second and targeted reps, and the program committee will determine which targeted reps will be invited based on the overall composition of the group. Discussion of possible themes elicited the topic of Climate Variability and Adaptation/Resilience, which was adopted by unanimous consent, partly in consideration of the new SIP strategy to develop the Coastal Vulnerability theme as the 2nd Network Synthesis initiative (see item 4b above).

Action: A suggestion was made to appoint a program committee comprised of Merryl Alber, John Blair, Nancy Grimm, Morgan Grove, Sharon Harlan, Mark Ohman, and Kirstin Dow (with Russ Schmitt and Sally Holbrook as the local committee). Merryl Alber agreed to chair, the others nominated and present agreed to serve, and the suggestion was adopted by unanimous consent. Robertson will contact nominees not present and then charge the committee.

9. SC Chair Election

Robertson reviewed the process by which nominations were solicited for the next SC and EB Chair, to serve a two year term beginning in Spring 2011. The nominating committee, comprised of Steve Carpenter (chair), Barbara Bond, Terry Chapin, Alan Knapp, John Magnuson, Karen McGlathery, and Dan Reed, provided the names of two nominees for consideration by the Science Council: Scott Collins and Peter Groffman. In accordance with bylaws, nominating materials were circulated in early April.

Action: A closed ballot vote elected Scott Collins as the next SC and EB chair for the 2-year period that begins after the 2011 SC meeting; a one-year term as chair elect begins immediately.

10. Committee Chairs Q&A

Committee chairs were invited to bring items to the attention of the membership and vice versa.

John Blair asked that the Publications Committee look into the quality of book covers for reprinted Oxford Press books – a recently ordered Konza site volume came with a shoddy-looking black cover rather than the original full-color cover. **Action:** Robertson will ask Publication Chair Alan Knapp to investigate.

Bruce Hayden indicated that the Climate Committee will henceforth be known as the Climate and Hydrology Committee.

11. Issues Arising

A call from the floor requested that we consider the potential for holding SC meetings twice per year for years in which there is no ASM. Discussion supported the suggestion. **Action:** Robertson will work with the EB to consider financial and other costs and poll the membership.

12. Recognition and thanks

Robertson led the SC in thanking the following for their recent outstanding service to the Network:

- a. Outgoing EB members Sarah Hobbie, Sally Holbrook, and Steve Pennings, who were also presented with a token of Network appreciation by Bob Waide for their 3 years of Executive Board service;
- b. NAB members Michael Bender, Trudy Cameron, Tony Janetos, Bob Kates, and Frances Westley, who have completed 2 year terms;
- c. the 2010 Minisymposium Organizing Committee: Morgan Grove, Dave McGuire, and Jess Zimmerman;
- d. The many members of the Network who served on ad hoc committees and in other capacities over the past year;

- e. Local SC Hosts Anne Giblin, Hap Garritt, and the many other PIE staff and investigators who contributed to the meeting's success; and
- f. Meeting coordinators John Vande Castle and George Garcia from the LNO

13. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.