

LTER Science Council Business Meeting May 14, 2014

Host: Konza Prairie LTER

Room: TBA

Hilton Garden Inn

Manhattan, KS

1. Roll call

HJA:

ARC: Gus Shaver

BES: Emma Rosi-Marshall

BNZ:

CCE: Mike Landry

CDR: David Tilman

CAP: Nancy Grimm

CWT: Ted Gragson

FCE: Evelyn Gaiser

GCE: Meryll Alber

HFR: Jonathon Thompson

HBR: Melanie Fisk

JRN: Curtis Monger

KBS: Phil Robertson

KNZ: John Blair

LUQ: Jess Zimmerman

MCM: Diane McKnight

MCR: Russ Schmitt

NWT: Katie Suding

NTL: Emily Stanley

PAL: Hugh Ducklow

PIE: Anne Giblin

SBC: Dan Reed

SEV: Will Pockman

VCR: Matt Reidenbach

2. Approval of May 2013 Minutes (1 minute)

Approved

3. NSF Report – Saran Twombly (60 minutes)

Lots of advice was submitted to NSF regarding the goals and structure of the next version of the LNO. Input came from a wide variety of sources both inside and outside NSF. There will be an LTER Network Office. One goal will be to expand the goals of the LTER to be more national to address and involve more than just the LTER community. One aspect of the LNO will be for communication, synthesis and outreach. Next provide skills and management for data management and discovery. Split these functions into two different “offices”. These objectives have different needs for long-term sustainability. Communication, synthesis, outreach, etc. Will plan a solicitation to integrate data management with other networks. This will be maintained by multiple sources of funding. Consolidated data management center that will assure long-term curation, management and discovery. Manipulation and analysis. Help data be interoperable with other programs. Customer service offices, not research agenda. This will open LTER data to the broader LTER community. No new money for this effort. The budget for these efforts will be the same as the current LTER LNO. Data management will be more expensive than outreach, synthesis and communication. Might free up a bit more money for research. Time line for

communications office will be in fall 2014, proposals due in April 2015. Solicitation for data management center will come later. Bridge funding to current LNO will be provided because of the timing of these solicitations. NSF is committed to a collegial transition from old to new office. Could merge IM aspects with synthesis aspects to make them more compatible. EarthCube is supposed to find a mechanism to blend various IM centers and approaches.

Renewal Panel is to meet in mid-June.

2015 will be a year of site visits. Site visits will be extended to 2.5 days. Maximizing interactions between review teams and site scientists is important. So, more informal interactions will be promoted in future site visits, including meals and poster sessions, etc.

There will be changes in award abstracts and other processes within NSF to make the decision and justification process more transparent.

The new Executive Officer for BIO is Jane Silverthorne, a plant molecular biologist. Also, a new AD in SBE will start in September 2014.

Overall, this means there is a lot of great opportunity for LTER right now. LTER needs to come to NSF to meet the new administration and to introduce them to LTER. This will be very important to do once the new BIO AD is appointed and arrives at NSF.

NSF budget declined slightly in 2014 compared to 2012. Budget proposal for 2015 includes a relatively significant cut to BIO. Chance to offer synthesis grants or supplements to sites next year.

4. Report from Chair – Scott Collins (10 minutes)

Scott Collins suggested the possibility of establishing a MOU with NEON and better integrating with the LTAR Network. He gave an update on the recent Congressional visits in DC. There was also discussion of mining Fastlane information for a baseline on LTER diversity. He suggested getting Andrea at NSF involved in working on this.

5. Report from Executive Director of LNO – Bob Waide (20 minutes)

The 2013 Annual report will have the same general structure as 2012 report, with sections on overall accomplishments, site bullets, featured sites, and the mini-symposium. The LNO is working with the Communication Committee to assess format and content. If there is a report that describes the primary productivity work done at the SC meeting, we will add a section to the 2014 report

LTER data in the NIS – the LTER NIS continues to grow and now contains 4,185 data packages contributed by sites and 19,590 total data packages. In addition, we have identified the first citation of an NIS-assigned DOI, from use of LTER data in the paper “Ecology and Evolution Affect Network Structure in an Intimate Marine Mutualism” (Andrew R. Thompson, Thomas C. Adam, Kristin M. Hultgren, and Christine E. Thacker. *The American Naturalist*, Vol. 182, No. 2 (August 2013), pp. E58-E72). doi:10.6073/pasta/a7447f66c3570c879b88bf25c605a2c9)

The LTER Network Information System is now accepted as an official repository for data from papers in *Nature*. See the following link for information on how to use the NIS as a repository for your next *Nature* paper: <http://www.nature.com/scientificdata/for-authors/data-deposition->

[policies.](#)

James Brunt in the LNO used the opportunity of the Science Council NPP working group to prepare a demonstration of dynamic time-series data using SEV and JRN NPP data. The data packages from this exercise can now be updated automatically when new data are submitted by sites.

The LNO is issuing its annual plea to sites to take and contribute better pictures to the LTER image gallery, specifically high resolution pictures with metadata (names, places, what's going on) and the name of the photographer.

The LNO will begin to ramp down activities as the end of its funding approaches in April 2015. Tasks will focus on consolidating progress, completing remaining development tasks for PASTA, and writing proposals to continue support for key LTER services.

6. Election of a New Chair – (15 minutes)

Peter Groffman

7. Higher Education Survey Results – Mary Spivey (15 minutes)

The Diversity Committee developed a survey focusing primarily on REU experiences in the LTER Network. The purpose of the survey was to begin to understand the range of undergraduates' living and learning experiences at LTER sites, in combination with their experiences as diverse individuals. There were 147 complete student responses from 10 LTER sites (or 11 sites, depending on how you count one student's situation), from students who participated in summer programs dating from 2001 to 2013. A summary of the report can be found on the LTER document archive under the Education Committee.

8. Distributed Graduate Seminar proposal on Big and other sized Data – Collins (10 minutes)

9. 2015 Minisymposium (15 minutes)

The SC chose the theme of NPP, and named an organizing committee including John Blair, Emily Stanley, and Dan Childers.

10. 2015 SC Meeting (15 minutes)

The 2015 meeting will be hosted by Harvard Forest with a theme focusing on biogeochemistry. The organizing committee includes Emma Rosi-Marshall, Phil Robertson, and Nancy Grimm.

11. Recognition and thanks (10 minutes)

- Local SC Hosts (John Blair and Konza LTER)
- SC Program Committee (Evelyn Gaiser and Mary Spivey – John Vande Castle, George Garcia and the rest of the LNO staff)
- Outgoing EB members: John Blair, Dan Childers, Karen McGlathery, Emery Boose. Incoming sites: AND, PIE, HBR; Incoming IM: Margaret O'Brien
- Minisymposium Organizing Committee (Dave Foster, Nancy Grimm, Charlie Driscoll, Mark Ohman)
- Outgoing committee chairs (Graduate Student, Marcia Nation - Communication)
- Many many other committee members and chairs

- Everyone for doing awesome science

12. Announcements

Grimm

13. Adjourn