

**Notes from meeting of Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) network Executive Board (EB) –
December 20, 2016**

Attending: Frank Davis, Charley Driscoll, Anne Giblin, Mike Goosef, Peter Groffman, Sherri Johnson, Michelle Mack, Kari O’Connell, Steven Pennings, Dan Reed, Eric Seabloom, Wade Sheldon

Items discussed

1. Approval of notes from last meeting.
2. Planning for discussion with NSF about expectations for LTER renewal proposals:
 - We were hoping to have a 90 minute internet-based meeting early in 2017. However, this does not seem possible.
 - However, the NSF LTER working group is firm in wanting to revise the next renewal solicitation and clear it within NSF before having any discussions with the community. This is more or less dictated by NSF policy. They received the questions that we sent and these will inform the revision of the solicitation. They are also going to sort through our questions and see which ones they can simply answer versus which really are appropriate for a wider discussion.
3. Mini-symposium
 - Speakers and talks are posted at: <https://lternet.edu/node/84404>
 - Hoping to get France Cordova and/or James Olds to introduce the program.
 - Will include a small poster session posters aimed at an NSF audience focused on a few good high profile, synthetic stories. These would be special posters prepared specifically for this event.
 - The event will include a panel discussion including participants from several federal agencies.
 - The Executive Board members that will be there (Groffman, Davis, Driscoll, Mack) will try to set up an informal meeting with the NSF LTER working group.
4. 2017 Science Council Meeting
 - Theme will be “disturbance” with a focus on the use and value of long-term data for studying this.
 - Steering committee includes Frank Davis, Gary Lovett and Evelyn Gaiser. Michael Nelson was going to be on the committee but he cannot do it. Frank will ask Bill McDowell to replace him.
 - Frank will convene of a conference call of the Steering Committee to address:
 - Lightning round of site presentation?
 - Breakout group discussions driven by specific questions?
 - Who should the second person be?
 - Should we come up with a list of specific products:
 - Papers
 - Ideas for synthesis working groups
 - Cross-site proposals, e.g., Macrosystems
 - Should we have a keynote or plenary?
 - Should we have some special events for new sites:

5. Update on Environmental Data Initiative (EDI):
 - The meeting of to discuss the “lay of the landscape” for a broader vision for EDI has been scheduled for mid-April 2017 at Santa Barbara. This will include representatives from EDI, LTER, DataOne, and others.
 - Are our LTER Information Managers (IM) happy?:
 - There is some confusion in the community about just what EDI will do and if/how LTER IM needs will be met.
 - Most immediate concern is for the IMs to have an annual meeting. In 2017, this will most likely take place at the ESIP meeting in IU Bloomington, Indiana in July.

6. Are there governance tasks that can be passed from the EB to the LTER National Communications Office (LNCO)? These tasks include many of things listed on our “items for discussion at our next meeting” that we never get to. There is agreement that the LNCO should take the lead on these and bring suggestions to the EB for discussion and voting as needed.
 - By-laws
 - Committees
 - National Advisory Committee
 - New site orientation
 - Institution contributions
 - ILTER
 - An integrated supplement plan
 - Diversity statements

7. Items for discussion at future meetings:
 - Planning for discussion with NSF about expectations for LTER renewal proposals
 - Mini-symposium
 - 2017 Science Council Meeting
 - Update on Environmental Data Initiative
 - Committee survey
 - Workshop on synergies between LTER and NEON