

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

Attending: Frank Davis, Marty Downs, Charles Driscoll, Anne Giblin, Mike Goosef, Peter Groffman, Sally Hollbrook, Sherri Johnson, Kari O’Connell, Steven Pennings, Dan Reed, Eric Seabloom, Wade Sheldon,

Items discussed

1. Approval of notes from last meeting.
2. Getting organized for a discussion with NSF about expectations for renewal of LTER proposals:
 - Frank Davis talked with Alan Tessier and he emphasized that NSF cannot have very specific discussions of specific sites. So the challenge for us is to discuss the issues that concern us in a more general way.
 - A general approach is for us to express “consternation” about a variety of issues; increasing numbers of sites on probation and terminated, changes in the renewal request for proposals.
 - Groffman has drafted a list of questions that we will send to NSF before the meeting. He will revise based on input from the Executive Board (EB) and then send to the site principal investigators (PIs) for input.
 - Davis will look at the strategic plan that we prepared several years ago (at NSF’s request) and see if the new guidance that we have received from NSF about LTER governance is consistent with that.
 - Davis will work with NSF to set up the meeting, which will be some type of web-based event.
3. Update in Environmental Data Initiative:
 - EDI is having first their first all hands meeting for planning.
 - The focus of this meeting is on what technology is needed, what components of the current LTER system and approach should be maintained, what should be changed.
 - Looking at a strategy for engaging other groups.
 - Finalizing personnel needs; programmer, coordinator
4. Minisymposium planning
 - Downs and Davis have been working closely with the NSF LTER working group, looking at March 21, at NSF.
 - Topic: Vulnerability and resilience in a changing environment
 - NSF would like to hear from a wide range of sites
 - Preference for five 20 minute (not 10 minute) talks, likely followed by a panel discussion..
 - Likely we will have a reception afterwards.
 - Downs will send around a draft document with proposed speakers and topics for comment.
 - We will work very hard to get senior NSF leadership to come.
5. Planning for 2017 Science Council Meeting
 - Will be hosted by Hubbard Brook, tentative dates of May 15 – 19.
 - Need a pick a theme. Disturbance would be appropriate for Hubbard Brook.

- It would be nice to get more postdocs and grad students involved to carry synthesis projects forward. Should we emphasize early career scientists to be the 2nd participant? Or do we need a third person?
- Need a steering committee; maybe someone from Hubbard Brook, someone from Konza?

6. Items for discussion at future meetings:

- Request from publications committee
- Planning for discussion with NSF about expectations for LTER renewal proposals
- Socio-ecological research in urban LTER sites
- Mini-symposium
- By-laws
- National Advisory Committee
- Environmental Data Initiative
- New site orientation
- Institution contributions
- ILTER
- An integrated supplement plan
- Diversity statements