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[Home](#) > [IM Exec](#) > IM Exec VTC 2012-03-21

# IM Exec VTC 2012-03-21

Thu, 03/08/2012 - 4:38pm — [mobrien](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

**March 21, 2012, 10 am MDT**

## Participants

Members: Don Henshaw (Co-Chair), Margaret O'Brien (Co-Chair), Sven Bohm, Emery Boose (EB Rep), John Chamblee, Jason Downing

Ex Officio: James Brunt (LNO CIO), Yang Xia (LNO IM)

## Topics

1. Note taker: are we up to date?
2. EB report (Emery) - NSF response from EB
3. White paper organization
4. Water cooler topic April -> summer
5. IMExec April meeting
  - 5.1 data perception issues
  - 5.2 Saran is planning to attend on Wednesday - Issues that Saran has raised for discussion:
    - 5.2.1 Workload for site information managers (NSF has gotten some conflicting input on this issue)
    - 5.2.2 Extent to which handling data other than LTER core data occupies your time (again, conflicting input)
    - 5.2.3 Utility of the Network Information System
  - 5.3 Agenda development, see topics on that meeting page: [http://im.lternet.edu/news/committees/im\\_exec/notes/2012\\_04\\_3](http://im.lternet.edu/news/committees/im_exec/notes/2012_04_3) <sup>[2]</sup>

## 1. Note Taking

Don noted we are behind on note taking. John has notes from 1/24 meeting and is taking notes today. Those notes will be up by week's end. Margaret has notes from 2/9 meeting.

## 2. EB Report (Emery Boose)

### 2A. Discussions the NSF Staff and Program Officers

The annual meeting of the LTER Executive Board took place over 2.5 days around March 1 and 2 at the National Science Foundation. The meeting included a half day mini-symposium, and EB members spent the first half day meeting with congressional staffers from the individual states of represented sites. EB members also spent time and with NSF program officers and staffers. Specific meetings included time with the LTER Working Group of 10 program officers (names not listed), with BIO Deputy Assistant Director Joanne Roskowski, and with members of the National Advisory Board for LTER.

In these discussions, two themes emerged through entire meeting:

- a. The 30 year review of the NSF and subsequent response was a major discussion topic. In these discussions there was a general sense that the report was more retrospective and conservative than past decadal reviews. The EB was encouraged to submit a formal response. The response that the IMC submitted was appreciatively noted by the EB. It was noted that

several members of the review committee were very active with regard to the question of IT and that an IT virtual working group may be assembled at some point in the future. The National Advisory Board added its view to the available comments concerning LTER's role as leader in the "network of networks" that includes NEON and other observatories. The Advisory Board was encouraging of such a role.

b. A more frequently recurring theme was the perception that LTER data are not generally available. Since the LTER program has been in place for 30 years and is designed to collect long-term data, the sense is that it should not be so hard to obtain LTER data. This problem must be addressed quickly and while there is agreement that NIS will solve the data availability problem, the timeline for its deployment is too far in the future to address the current perception, so the solution must be to upgrade the LTER Metacat interface to enhance accessibility. This will require a collaborative effort between LNO and the sites. At present, nothing is known about the status of supplements, though REU supplements are likely.

Macrosystems proposals were also discussed. It is worth noting that many macro-systems researchers are attracted to LTER because of perceived benefits in data availability. Discussions are ongoing concerning how macrosystems proposals might include LTER sites and compensate them to help meet long-term data management needs associated with the projects.

## **2B. LNO News**

A Presidential order will require LTER's ARRA funding to be spent sooner than expected – in four years instead of five years. LNO will restructure work priorities and budgets accordingly. This revision may include support for more participants in the ASM.

Dates are set for the LNO site visit. The visit will occur on May 30, May 31, June 1st. The current LNO award ends three years from next month. As of now, it appears that the renewal bid will be, for the first time, an open competition. Discussions are underway about ways to support LNO.

This will be a typical mid-term review in most ways, but will also be a combined review related to the ARRA funding. There is a release of PASTA scheduled ahead of the review and some sites may want to submit data in support of a PASTA demonstration. This is something the IM-Exec and the IMC might consider. In addition, IM-Exec, the ECC Working Group, and the LNO will develop a minimum standard of congruency for data that are ready to be ingested into PASTA and that will not cause a failure of the Congruency Checker.

The LNO-led Legacy data project is moving forward. The RFP has been revised with feedback from the three volunteer sites (BNZ, CWT, and SGS). These revisions have been submitted to the NSF and LNO is currently awaiting further comment and approval.

## **3. White Paper Organization**

The White Paper was tabled for discussion at the end of the IM-Exec meeting in Albuquerque.

## **4. Water Cooler Topics**

The following topics were suggested prior to the meeting. Further discussion was tabled until the meeting in Albuquerque.

- April GeoNIS update
- May ASM Workshop ideas?
- June
- July
- August LNO update

## **5. IM-Exec Agenda for the April Meeting**

There was a wide ranging discussion of topics related to the April agenda. The agenda was revised several times and the finalized agenda is available at the following URL:

[http://im.lternet.edu/news/committees/im\\_exec/notes/2012\\_04\\_3](http://im.lternet.edu/news/committees/im_exec/notes/2012_04_3) <sup>[2]</sup>

One of the primary drivers for re-organizing the agenda was the need to make sure we provided ample time on Wednesday to address topics of interest to Saran Twombly to provide an easy way to bring members of the LTER Working Group in on a VTC in the morning.

In terms of action items before the meeting, it was agreed that each working group liaison should provide a paragraph summarizing their working group's activities on the April meeting website prior to the meeting. It was also agreed that John would provide a Winter Meeting report draft prior to the meeting in order to facilitate the compilation of the annual report by the Co-Chairs. It was agreed that we would make some effort before the meeting to pull together the activities that the IMC has been involved with in terms of NIS development and other activities supported by NSF supplements and ARRA funds. We also will pull together documents, to be collated together on Tuesday, that begin to show current and previous ways that the IMC is addressing data accessibility and to explain LTER workloads, the role core data management, and the place of the NIS within the network. Finally, Margaret agreed to contact Dr. Twombly and forward her the agenda and see if she wished to provide any additional feedback on the topics she wanted to address during her visit.

#### Meeting Notes <sup>[3]</sup>

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