

Scott Collins, Professor and Principal Investigator, Sevilleta LTER
Department of Biology, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Margaret O'Brien and Don Henshaw, IMC Co-Chairs
c/o Margaret O'Brien
Marine Science Institute, UCSB
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-6150

Dear Scott,

We are writing to request that the Executive Board and LTER Network Office consider developing a FY 2012-2013 compensation package for the LTER Site Information Managers (IMs) who are willing to serve as LTER Information Management Committee (IMC) Co-Chairs. In the last three years, the LTER Network's Information Management Committee (IMC) has seen dramatic increases in the quantity and intensity of activities by individual site IMs to support the network, particularly support of PASTA and associated NIS modules. Collectively, these activities are crucial to ensuring NIS usability and for development of Network standards. In addition, sites have been working in smaller groups to use IM-specific supplements to build standard tools for sites that can be shared across the network.

Co-chair responsibilities have seen a dramatic increase in support of these activities since the adoption of the LNO Operational Plan and the passage of the Strategic and Implementation Plan (SIP). Necessary and highly collaborative efforts among IMC members have required strong leadership from IMExec, particularly the IMC co-Chairs. Currently, IMC Co-chairs are currently devoting at least 20% FTE each year on Network activities and cross-site coordination. Moreover, recent additional scrutiny of LTER data and its availability suggests that the current workload for IMC Co-chairs will further increase as we assure that solutions are found and implemented.

IM Exec has proactively developed goals and plans to address shortcomings of data availability for NISAC review. These plans will require targeted engagement from all sites and additional communication between the IMC and various network committees (e.g., NISAC, LNO, EB). These tasks will logically fall to the IMC Co-chairs. To compensate for this increased effort, this request is for one month's compensation to the site of each IMC co-chair at his/her appropriate rate starting October 1, 2012. Thank you for bringing this request to the EB for consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Margaret O'Brien and Don Henshaw, IMC Co-chairs