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Wed, 04/20/2011 - 12:22pm — [mobrien](#) ^[1]

Thursday, April 21, 2011 -- 9:00-11:00 MST

Participants

Members: Don Henshaw, Margaret O'Brien (co-chairs), Sven Bohm, Emery Boose, Corinna Gries, Suzanne Remillard

Topics

1. EB Report
2. Synthesis Data Committee
3. EIMC Meeting
4. Action Items

1. EB Report

30-Year Review Committee report to NSF. Very positive but only an oral report at this point. LTER might become an ecological data center (this suggestion needs clarification). Social science works better at some sites than at others and should not be forced. Suggestions on how to broaden LTER science questions.

Lead PI meeting after SC meeting (Friday morning). By invitation only. Intended to promote an exchange of ideas on management, proposals, site reviews, annual reports, etc. Items for discussion will include site websites. Phil will summarize results from recent reviews.

Science Council meeting agenda is posted. New LTER chair and EB members will rotate in at the meeting.

IM training proposal. EB was very positive. Phil suggested expanding for distribution as an online course (compare online course by Ted Gragson). Need to find out what kind of endorsement would be required to offer course credit. Start with the course as proposed (5 days in 2nd week of January). Many colleges have e-campus programs.

Macrosystems projects. Five were funded in last round: four are connected to LTER sites, one to NEON, as data repositories. Also Ultra and similar projects. We need to keep this on our radar and think about creative ways to handle such projects.

Remote sensing committee evaluated past activities and data holdings (esp. at LNO) and recommended that LNO should maintain a list of active links rather than archive data. This committee was reconstituted as an ad hoc committee to improve organization of GIS data.

Theresa and Jamie are members.

2. Synthesis Data Committee

NSF is requesting a central team for the legacy data project. NSF is asking us to look beyond site-based approaches. Maybe new projects (e.g. Ultra) could start with a more general solution. Local IMs will always be required, but central technicians might perform common tasks such as EML generation.

Does the EB understand these issues? We need closer cooperation between IMs and scientists and a clearer understanding of synthesis products. Start by getting key datasets into PASTA.

Congruency checker will be run in May or June. Report should be available for IMC meeting.

The committee white paper from last fall was well received by NSF. NSF would like to move ahead with a pilot project using a contractor model.

The committee is tasked with finding a consultant to write the RFI / RFP for the pilot project. No specific deadline but a short timeline. This is a complicated project. Consultant needs to be familiar with LTER, EML, etc.

How to identify the pilot sites? Ask for volunteers? SGS is definite, CWT is likely. There are some natural groupings of sites: grasslands, eastern forests, drupal, etc.

How to identify dataset priorities?

Will consultants help to fix problems with local IM systems (e.g. outdated code)? Or will the focus be on preparation of datasets for PASTA?

Will sites submit level-0 data to PASTA and then use workflows to derive level-2 data? Or will sites generate level-2 data first and then submit to PASTA? Some data processing could be generalized across the network (e.g. preparation of USGS gage data).

Sites are invested in the data acquisition and QA/QC systems they have developed. Will site scientists be willing to get their data directly from the NIS? Some sites already encourage this.

Common principles may emerge as sites are processed. At this point we lack the information needed for good synthesis product decisions. Accumulate knowledge about how sites do things and how to group sites with common approaches.

Maybe start with an upfront evaluation of all sites (by us or consultants)? Two or three sites may not provide a good measure of network needs. How much diversity is there? Are the basic processes similar? Do the differences result from different histories?

At some sites there may be resistance from researchers who are used to doing things in a certain way. The local IM does not bear responsibility for convincing site scientists. The directive will come from the EB to the lead PI. But support of the local IM will be necessary for the project to be successful.

What would you ask a consultant to do at your site?

3. EIMC Meeting

Birds of a Feather (BoF) sessions. Proposals are due on July 31 and will be reviewed by the

program committee. No submissions to date. Need to act soon. Don and Margaret will send out a call to the IMC. Keep in mind the overall theme of the meeting (synthesis data). Also poll IMC to see how many papers will be submitted (due May 27).

Tentative water cooler schedule: May = BoF sessions. June = ClimDB. July = controlled vocabulary. August = GIS. Schedule additional water coolers (e.g. LNO) as needed before IMC meeting.

4. Action Items

An update of remaining action items from the winter IM-Exec meeting:

- Create ClimDB working group (Don)
- Schedule IM-Exec VTCs for May - July (Sven)
- Solicit nominations for IM-Exec by August 1 (Don / Margaret)
- Contact NISAC regarding its schedule and membership (Suzanne)
- Solicit 2011 site bytes (Corinna)
- Remind WGs to create their terms of reference (liaisons)
- Complete IMC report to EB (Margaret)
- Announce draft agenda for IMC meeting (Don / Margaret)
- Contact NISAC on how to improve connections with IM-Exec (Don)

Notes:

This year the EB provided a template for committee reports. Include SIP references. Send comments to Margaret.

2011 IMC meeting template is already in place on the IM website. Corinna will complete setup.

NISAC co-chairs or IMs might be added to IM-Exec meeting announcements and join some IM-Exec VTCs.

Some preliminary ideas for IMC breakout groups and BoF sessions are posted on IMC meeting page.

Meeting Notes ^[2]

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