

IMEXEC Meeting, May 29, 2014:

Attending: John Chamblee, Emery Boose, Kristin Vanderbilt, Philip Tarrant, Jason Downing, James Brunt

Emery reported on the EB/SC Meeting at KNZ:

- 1) LTAR Long Term Agricultural Network is coming in to being. Will be funded with \$1 million a year per site. SGS and JRN are two of the sites. LTER will pursue connecting these sites with LTER Network.
- 2) NIS: Number of data package submissions is leveling off. Because of funding constraints Metacat will be deprecated in the near future. NIS is now a node in DataONE. DataONE does not accept user restrictions on data, so restricted data will not be pushed to DataONE.
- 3) New LTER Chair will be Peter Groffman. Scott will continue for one more year, until the EB meeting in 2015.
- 4) Site Reviews: There was concern about how they were handled in 2014. They will go back to the way it was before 2014, when review team was allowed to socialize with Site PIs. Site Reviews will be extended to 2.5 days, because they were thought to be too short this last year.
- 5) LNO recompetition:
 - a. McKnight Report content has not been revealed. NSF will issue separate RFPs for a communication office and a data center. Both will be service-oriented. LTER National Office (Communications Center) will be responsible for communication, education outreach, and support for meetings and scientific synthesis.
 - b. Data Center: LTER will partner with other entities so Center has multiple sources of funding.
 - c. LNO will receive bridge funding from NSF.
 - d. Communications Office RFP will come out in Fall 2014. Awards will be made by September 2015.
 - e. Data Center RFP will be available later.
 - f. Saran will hold a conference call with eight potential collaborators to discuss Data Center. These are academic groups, not commercial operations. One is CZO.
 - g. Saran doesn't see any augmentation of LTER funds through 2016.
 - h. It seems likely that LNO will be doing logistics and communication into early 2016. Current LNO will do IM longer than that. James Brunt anticipates deprecation of Metacat by end of 2014.
 - i. LNO expects to compete for both RFPs in collaboration with EB.
 - j. LNO submitting a supplement proposal for ASM2015. ASM will be Aug 30 – September 4, 2015.
- 6) Emery made recommendations to Saran that seemed to resonate with her
 - a. Site level IM will always be important to LTER. Cannot replace LTER system with centralized data center alone. Emphasized that LTER and NEON are very different organizations.
 - b. PASTA may be way ahead of the curve. Other competing data centers may not have all the functionality of PASTA.

- c. Whoever runs Data Center needs to understand ecological data.

IM Meeting Planning:

Topics for meeting discussion:

- 1) VTCs at the beginning of May were very different. One group wanted to be outward looking and focused on LTER position with other entities and strategic planning. The other group wanted to focus on LTER-centric working groups. How to balance the wishes of these two groups?
- 2) In light of the news about LNO, the IMC needs to plan for a Data Center and a different LNO. One topic for the meeting could be how IMC may need to reenvision their role in the Data Center since it will be serving several groups. We may need to think about adopting different standards, for instance. With level of uncertainty so high about the future LNO, it will be hard to make decisions but we could discuss.
- 3) A scenario could be envisioned in which sites no longer maintain a public information management system. Local systems could be redundant with data center. Still need a system to interact with PASTA at the site, though – a mechanism to generate EML.
- 4) Schedule meeting in such a way that business is done in the morning so those who want to attend the Drupal workshop in the afternoon may do so. Call with Saran will be in the morning. Breakouts will be provided for those who don't go to the workshop.
- 5) Elections: Put in call for nominations in the morning. Balloting starts after lunch. Ballot boxes will be in breakout rooms. Or Survey Monkey ballot. Announce the election via email.
- 6) Thursday wrap up: Conduct meeting survey and talk about where next meeting will be.
- 7) Do we want to have a VTC in June to talk about what breakout sessions they want and more about the planning session? VTC is normally the first week in June. Let's push it back until 9th so we can talk to Saran between now and then. 16th for VTC is planned.