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# IM Exec VTC 2010-12-08

Thu, 12/02/2010 - 4:42pm — [mobrien](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 -- 10:00-12:00 MST

## Participants

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

Ex officio: James Brunt, Yang Xia

## Topics

1. EB Report
2. IM-Exec Winter Meeting
3. IMC Meeting Survey
4. Proposal Review Process
5. VTC Schedules

## 1. EB Report

NSF update (Nancy Huntly). NSF is still on a continuing resolution (i.e. 90% of last year's budget). This may impact 2011 supplements. All NSF proposals now require a data management plan. LTER proposals can just refer to the LTER Network data policy.

NSF mini-symposium. Plans are moving ahead. Scheduled for Wednesday, 2 March 2011 at NSF. EB meeting will be Tuesday through Thursday noon.

SIP. Final version has been submitted to NSF. This version can be distributed. Phil, Bob, and Scott are traveling to NSF next week to discuss.

Legacy data prospectus. Phil, Bob, and James met with Tony Beasley and Bob Tawa at NEON, who suggested a pilot project and greater site involvement than in NSF's preferred management plan. Phil and Bob will discuss next steps with Liz Blood.

Transformative science highlights. Bullets are being edited now. Instructions will be forthcoming for half-page project descriptions.

Three new committees:

1. Communications Committee (targeted standing). To replace the ad hoc committee (Karen and Jonathan were members). Nominations requested.

2. Network Coordination Committee (targeted standing). Coordinate with other observatory

networks (NEON, etc). To be formed. Nominations requested.

3. Synthesis Data Committee (ad hoc). Essentially the Data Council proposed by the Legacy Data Committee. Not soliciting new members at this point. Members of the original Legacy Data Committee will be invited to continue on this committee.

Need to coordinate data efforts. Which data will fall under the purview of the Synthesis Data Committee? How about data arising from science workshops (whose proposals are reviewed by the EB)?

LNO biannual site survey. Required by bylaws. To appear soon. Mentioned often in LNO operational plan.

Site characteristics table. Assembled by LNO from SiteDB and All-Site Bibliography. Data will need to be checked (probably by us).

De-risking LTER renewal proposals. Half-day workshop for lead PIs only scheduled after SC meeting next spring. An opportunity for informal exchange of information, e.g. how to run a site review or science symposium. This level of communication was provided earlier by coordinating committee meetings. Phil has requested proposal and site reviews, etc to be archived on a secure site (as PDF files) in order to help sites navigate the proposal writing process more successfully.

S2I2 (scientific software innovation institute). New program at NSF's office of cyberinfrastructure. Large and long-term funding. NSF is looking for input for the RFP. See recent email from James.

For additional details, see EB minutes distributed by Phil yesterday. Approved EB minutes are posted on LTER Network website.

## **2. IM-Exec Winter Meeting**

Meeting in Washington to coincide with the NSF mini-symposium and EB meeting may not be practical. Too many time conflicts for Corinna.

Default is to meet at LNO. Availability of LNO staff is an advantage (but need to check their schedules).

Another possibility would be to meet in conjunction with NISAC (perhaps 1 day overlap). NISAC normally meets at LNO in March. Need to plan agenda carefully.

Ask Sven to set up Doodle for February and March (by week). Tues-Wed or Wed-Thurs meeting.

## **3. IMC Meeting Survey**

See compilation of survey results posted by Don on IM website. Don will move to meeting area.

Summary of responses: Everyone liked meeting at an LTER site. Mostly happy with current rotation. Some would prefer meeting with a different professional group. Most liked the third half-day. Keep at least one work day evening open. A little more free time. Too much overlap in breakout group topics. Ability to move around more would be appreciated. Many comments on the election process (to be handled by governance WG). Most liked meeting with NSF and LTER chair. Field trip was appreciated. Most prefer an anonymous survey.

How to get our business done during EIMC meetings?

#### 4. Proposal Review Process

Issues include timing and conflict of interest (actual or perceived). This is a new process for us. IM-Exec had only a couple of weeks to review proposals and provide feedback. Proposal writers did not have much time to make revisions.

LNO is flexible about setting deadlines. For example, Nov 1 deadline for submitting proposals to IM-Exec, mid-December deadline for submitting revised proposals to LNO. Or initial deadline could be two weeks after IMC meeting.

Recommend posting proposals two weeks before IM-Exec review to get comments from entire IMC. The review process should be discussed further at the next IMC meeting.

There was additional discussion of the current proposals. James will forward some of the proposals to NISAC for further comment. Decisions will be announced shortly.

Spatial data (GIS and remote sensing) present a special challenge. Applications are closely tied to research and education. For the most part LTER spatial data are managed by GIS and remote sensing experts, not by information managers. In addition to better tools for using spatial data, we need guidelines for how to manage spatial data. Also need more clarity for how spatial data will be incorporated into the NIS.

LNO is developing an online proposal submission and review system. Available next year.

Maybe invite NISAC IM co-chair to participate in IM-Exec review of proposals next year. Err on side of inclusion. Invite NISAC IM co-chair to join IM-Exec VTCS quarterly. No current liaison to NISAC on IM-Exec.

#### 5. VTC Schedules

Invite Nancy Huntly to the next IM-Exec VTC in January.

Need to improve the VTC scheduling process. Dates should be run by James Williams. Maybe post Suzanne's protocol.

Ontology water cooler may need to be rescheduled for February. Mark may be able to fill in for January.

#### Meeting Notes <sup>[2]</sup>

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