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# IM Exec VTC 2009-12-03

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**3 December 2009, 1100 -1200 MST**

## Participants

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

Ex officio: James Brunt (LNO)

Guests: Peter McCartney (NSF), Bob Waide (LNO)

## Topics

1. 2010 Supplements
2. LNO Operational Plan
3. Business Items

### 1. 2010 Supplements

Include some language in RFP to encourage IM-related activities. Supplements should align with NSF investment in LNO and NIS development. Include milestones for NSF to gauge progress. Describe milestones in language that scientists can understand.

Develop EML metrics and improve EML quality at each site. This coordination of effort in supplements will be new. Enable data harvesting in Pasta, etc. NSF cannot fund 26 separate data management operations. There is already a trend toward standards and common solutions in LTER. Maximize and leverage the investment in CI at LNO.

Many sites have not used "Other" funds for IM in the past. Will this be a continuing source of funding? A dedicated fraction for IM is not likely to be institutionalized. But take advantage of the opportunity to define milestones. It's hard to argue with success.

### 2. LNO Operational Plan

LNO submitted a renewal proposal in March 2008. Working with the EB and NSF, LNO asked for 50% more than the operational budget (though NSF lacked funding even for the standard 15% cost of living increment). The LNO site review team in fall 2008 (lead by Evelyn Gaiser) recommended full funding.

With the new administration, the NSF budget increased and ARRA funding became available. NSF asked for a second proposal to address the decadal plan and the NIS, including the 15% increase and modified for the 5-year term required for ARRA. Two proposals (core and ARRA)

were submitted. Some of Duane's time was included in Bill Michener's grants to cover the interim gap in funding.

The second cooperative agreement funded by ARRA has strings attached, including quarterly reports via the university and site visits in years 2, 3, and 4. LNO is required to work with the EB to develop an operational plan that will detail how funding will be used. The EB wanted an operational plan for both cooperative agreements (core and ARRA) and created subcommittees to work with LNO. NSF has encouraged external reviewers, esp. for the technical sections.

The timeline has been truncated in various ways. The larger plan (6 years, 17 activities) will need to be redacted for NSF (5 years, 10 activities). The plan needs to be reviewed by the EB, IMC, NISAC, and external reviewers. Then it will need to be revised for the EB and again for NSF.

The current plan is a long document by necessity. More review time would have been desirable. The plan needs to go to external reviewers by mid-December. The reviewers will meet with LNO, the EB subcommittee, and NISAC chairs in January.

There is probably enough funding to run both activities (core and ARRA) for 6 years. How to deal with the loss of ARRA funding after that? The 15% operational increase is included in the ARRA funding and will also disappear.

The new IM position at LNO will continue beyond this funding cycle. Other positions will disappear once the NIS is operational. LNO will move into a new phase when the NIS is ready and will reevaluate personnel needs at that point.

The Science Council initiatives for synthesis are also moving forward (\$5-8M each). If funded this would change the playing field. It will also raise IM-related issues.

The NIS portion of the operational plan is more detailed than other sections and requires more technical comments. Much of this material is new to the IMC. Note the role of the IMC in feedback and review items.

Inigo is currently funded by USGS / NBII. Bill Michener is PI on the grant but no longer in the LNO office. Duane has 4 months to go on an external grant and will then return to LNO.

Some activities in the plan appear to depend on policies not yet established. E.g. how to go from unflagged to flagged data. The section on EcoTrends was written by Deb Peters and revised by LNO.

IMs should send comments to Corinna, who will collate them for the EB.

NSF will use the plan to evaluate LNO. There may be opportunities to revise the plan as time goes by (a living document). But hopefully the basic plan is sound.

Send follow-up questions to Bob or James.

### **3. Business Items**

IM VTCs next week. Don and Margaret will lead discussion. James or Mark will be available but will not participate unless asked. Perhaps include LNO for final segments. Ask IMs to focus on certain parts of the plan (it's a long document). Identify a few items beforehand to get discussion started.

What is the source of ideas for the IM production workshops? The plan currently specifies that proposals be submitted to NISAC. But NISAC is already over-tasked. Perhaps IM-Exec?

Send comments to Don and Margaret, identifying areas ripe for discussion. Don and Margaret will send an announcement to IMC. How will plan affect site IMs?

In the current plan, integration of network databases into the NIS includes USGS data. Are we duplicating other efforts? It might be better to link to other primary sources.

IM-Exec winter meeting. Sven will set up Doodle for month of February. Two-day meeting at LNO.

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

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