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## IM-Exec Meeting Notes, 24 January 2012

### In Attendance

Don Henshaw (AND) and Margaret O'Brien(SBC) (IMC Co-Chairs), Emery Boose (HFR - LTER EB Representative), Dan Bahauddin (CDR), Sven Bohm (KBS) John Chamblee (CWT), Jason Downing (BNZ), James Brunt (LNO CIO), Yang Xia (LNO IM)

### Topics:

1. EB report from Emery
2. Scheduling IMExec vtcs for Feb-March
3. EML metrics update (Margaret)
4. Water coolers for Feb 6-7
5. IMExec spring meeting
6. Response to NSF recommendations and 30 year review (per Scott)

### 1. EB Report (Emery Boose)

The EB had a meeting since last IM-Exec. Nearly the entire meeting was devoted to the 30 year review & NSF response. NSF Program Officers Matt Kane and Saran Twombly were on call and the EB asked several questions about them.

The initial questions were about procedure and how the review was developed and conducted. The charge for the review was developed by the BIO Directorate's Advisory Committee. They met twice last year, once last summer when they received the report, and also just before Christmas. The written NSF response is addressed to LTER PIs and the LTER has not been asked to take any formal action. There were questions about how we might respond to inaccuracies, so the BIO front office set up an email address (INSERT HERE) for LTER responses. The working group will read any messages received and other directorates will be invited to view the responses as well. The NSF will respond, as needed.

The general view at the EB is that the Network needs to fast-track a "one-stop shopping" portal for all LNO data and there may be some money available for this. According to Saran Twombly, data management is becoming a prominent issue at NSF.

Other topics that came up in the EB meeting included the RFP for Legacy Data, which is still underway, discussion of the ASM and the search for plenary speakers, the fact that the LTER Bioscience articles will be published in April 2012, and a discussion of synthesis and training proposals, all of which are expected to be funded because an Executive Branch decision regarding ARRA funding made more money available than originally planned. It is likely that

ARRA funding will have to be spent out ahead of the original deadline. More information on this is forthcoming. Don: Saran said we were to prioritize data efforts within current budgets for our local site databases....but there might be additional funds for centralized data management for the network.

The EB report update included a detailed discussion of the overall viewpoints represented by the NSF Response to the Thirty Year Review and a brief discussion of the NSF Legacy Data proposal. We learned that the EB was crafting a response and that the IMC would need to respond as well.

## **2. Scheduling February and March IM Exec VTC**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 9 to allow for ongoing discussion of the Thirty Year Review response by the IMC. The March meeting remained TBD.

## **3. EML Metrics (Margaret O'Brien)**

The upcoming analysis will require a view of the whole network. The next set of target documents will include an excel spreadsheet and a draft of the final written report. There will be a summary of the outputs built from all datasets currently in metacat.

Some of the items that will need to be included in the report were developed in a conversation at NISAC. These items include a starting point for what PASTA will be able to accept, as well as the number of actual links to data entities within current EML documents in the summary,. At present, there are 43% EML documents visible to PASTA, but less than 17% have in-line links to documented data. There are many reasons for this, but the issues need to be addressed.

The report will be sent out over the weekend and the workshop will be the first week in March in Santa Barbara -- March 6 and 7. The attendance list is not yet set.. In general, there is a lot of action on the metrics front, with several workshops this year.

## **4. Water Coolers (Sven Bohm)**

Several topics were suggested for Water Coolers. Sven will update the page with the new ideas and set the schedule.

- Proposal Writing – a “post-game analysis”.
- Data Versioning
- Data package analysis
- Metacat database analysis.
- Data model comparison.

## **5. IM Exec Spring Meeting**

The meeting will be from April 3-4. The agenda was tabled for a later meeting, but there was general agreement we should invite Saran Twombly to attend via either VTC or in person. Margaret O'Brien agreed to contact her. Other agenda items up for discussion were leadership transitions and the fact that the meeting booking system doesn't seem fully operational.

## **6. Response to NSF recommendations and 30 year review (per Scott)**

After a lengthy discussion about needed elements for a response, it was decided that the IMC would develop an additional response that addresses IM specific concerns – especially areas related to centralized vs. site-level solutions. The initial writing team volunteers were John Chamblee, Corinna Gries, and Emery Boose. Margaret O'Brien, Don Henshaw, John Porter, and Wade Sheldon were also invited to review and comment. Chamblee volunteered to do the first draft and it was agreed that we would ask the EB if they wanted to coordinate their response with

ours.

### **Other News -- ASM**

As of this meeting, no dates have been firmly set for the ASM and no call for papers and posters issues. We are pursuing the idea of a shared IM cabin again.

### **Other News – Additional Working Group Proposals**

The workflow workshop that Corinna's leading will meet in the first week of February. We should be aware that there were several funded groups in the recent round of cross-site proposals. One will include Plot data for trees and herbaceous forms. Emery and Don are going. The SiteDB project was also funded and this group will be working on taking ClimDB metadata and structuring it within EML. This will be an iterative development process. Finally, Mark Harmon turned in a Working Group Proposal for VegDB to handle herbaceous plant data.

#### Meeting Notes [2]

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