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20 September 2011 -- 10:00 AM Mountain

Participants

Members: Don Henshaw, Margaret O'Brien (co-chairs), Dan Bahauddin, Sven Bohm, Emery Boose, Corinna Gries, Suzanne Remillard
Ex officio: James Brunt, Yang Xia

Topics

1. EB Report
2. Data Access
3. IMC Meeting

1. EB Report

EB conference call on Sep 19.

National Climate Assessment. Required every four years by the Global Change Research Act of 1990. LTER is encouraged to participate in the next assessment. Deadlines in fall 2011 and winter 2012. Contact Nancy Grimm for more information.

Report from NSF (Saran). Deadline for LTER renewal proposals is 6 Feb 2012. Guidelines will be available later this fall. No substantial changes. Budgets will generally increase by 15 percent. IM details: Table of all online datasets with description of use by site and other investigators. Information management plan (up to 5 pages) describing data, metadata, dissemination, milestones, deliverables, and compliance with LTER network goals. URLs will be permitted in proposal text. More generally: proposals should emphasize conceptual framework for the work proposed and why new data is needed. NSF needs to be able to make the case that LTER provides a mechanism to answer questions that cannot be addressed by other programs.

NSF has received the LTER 30-year review report. Since the report was commissioned by the BIO advisory committee, it must be released by that committee, ideally in time to inform renewal proposals.

The Senate has granted NSF more authority to move funds, including from research to equipment. This may be in anticipation of NSF's need to remodel or move to a new building.

A new proposal cycle was announced for BIO last summer. There will be a single annual cycle, with pre-proposals due in January, full proposals due in August, and limits on the number of

simultaneous submissions to core BIO programs by the same PI. The new protocol is intended as an experiment and will run for at least 2 years. Many details are yet to be worked out.

BioScience LTER Issue. All manuscripts were favorably received and recently returned to authors. Reviews were thorough and comprehensive. Final revisions due in November.

Organizing Committees. Mini-symposium (chair = Dan Childers). Science council symposium (co-chairs = Karen McGlathery, Evelyn Gaiser). All-Scientists Meeting (co-chair = Bob Waide).

Pilot Project Update. Scott met with Saran, Nancy, and Liz at NSF. Liz is still interested in moving forward and funds remain in the 2012 budget. Next step is to get the three pilot sites to produce the necessary documents: data to be included, status of those data, and specific QA/QC measures to be addressed. The RFP is essentially ready to go. RFP will be out for about 1 month. A phone or video conference may be scheduled to field questions from vendors.

LINX Data and NIS. LINX was an inter-site nitrogen experiment that included a mix of LTER and other sites. Project data exist as a series of complex Excel spreadsheets and are not available online. Metadata are mostly in publications. This might be a good NIS pilot project. Possibly engage the contractor for the synthesis data project or ask NSF for more funds to complete. Need an estimate of what would be required.

Data Access Forms. The authors of a new ecological data catalog may decide not to include LTER data because of data access forms. Many LTER sites require users to complete a form before downloading data. Are these forms still necessary? In the past they were deployed (in part) because NSF required sites to track data users. However NSF may be willing to relax this requirement. NISAC will be asked to review this issue.

2. Data Access

At some sites, scientists want to know who is using their data. Data access forms also provide a place for users to indicate their acceptance of data access and use policies. However data access forms may not record the actual use of the data, since this may not be known ahead of time. In any case they rarely records publications. In the future permanent dataset identifiers may make it possible to locate publications that use a given dataset. Note that some information (number of downloads, IP address, etc) can be collected automatically without a data access form.

3. IMC Meeting

Send out an email reminder for last-minute details.

Optional field trip. SBC and MCR personnel will pick up people at the airport.

Dinner on the beach. Need a head count for the caterer. Need to arrange beverages.

Discussion with NSF. Scheduled for afternoon. Peter McCartney will attend in person. Saran Twombly will attend via VTC if possible. Use laptop and possibly Skype for the VTC. Check on projector availability.

Guests. Need to discuss our policy with the entire IMC: number of guests, advanced notice, justification. Maybe an issue for the governance working group.

Terms of reference. Discuss briefly and vote.

Working group reports. Focus on activities for coming year (5 minutes, 1-2 slides). Governance = Nicole. Network databases = Wade. Units = Linda. Controlled vocabulary = John. DEIMS = Kristin. GIS = Adam or Theresa.

No one has signed up yet for a demo or poster. Remove poster as an option.

Breakout sessions are only 90 minutes.

Breakout Session #1: Data package usability. See website for focus topics. Start with plenary session. Note that the NIS will reach production stage in two years, only two IMC meetings before then.

Breakout Session #2: Value added databases. See website for focus topics.

How to get ClimDB and similar databases in the NIS. What are the first steps for sites? Different strategies for packaging metadata. Include someone from the GIS group. Possible production workshop for next year.

Best practices for QA/QC flagging. Start with results from 2007 workshop. How to qualify values in real time. Compare CUAHSI data levels. Need to develop guidelines (e.g. how many values can be missing while the summary value is still good). Need to learn from other groups such as NWS and USGS.

EIMC plenary discussion on community standards and practices development. Moderated by Margaret. Bring good questions!

Elections. To date, two nominations for IM-Exec (2 slots) and one nomination for NISAC (1 slot).

Meeting Notes ^[2]

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