



Published on *LTER Information Management* (<http://im.lternet.edu>)

[Home](#) > [IM Exec](#) > IM Exec VTC 2010-06-09

IM Exec VTC 2010-06-09

Wed, 06/02/2010 - 2:05pm — [mobrien](#) ^[1]

9 June 2010, 1100 - 1300 Mountain Time

Participants

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

Ex officio: James Brunt, Yang Xia

Guests: Karen Baker, Nicole Kaplan

Topics

1. Science Council Meeting
2. EB Report
3. IMC Governance
4. IMC Meeting
5. Upcoming VTCs

1. Science Council Meeting

Evolving relationship with NEON. What is LTER's role? Originally no role, now a moving target. What is our role in data integration?

LTER legacy data prospectus. Don, Emery, James, Wade on committee. NSF not inclined to fund individual sites. Bob W. suggested funding for training at LNO. NSF is looking for alternative models. Legacy data not restricted to particular sites or datasets (all LTER sites). Possible integration with Forest Service and other sites.

Looking for new ideas on project management. New staff based at LNO would be an administrative challenge. The communication gap between scientists and IMs is still a challenge.

Legacy data to complement NEON science. But which data? How will it complement? How to ensure accountability? A management strategy is needed.

Some scientists question why we haven't made more progress in information management. But the idea of hiring an external firm to solve this problem is naïve. Significant time and effort are needed to bring new staff up to speed. Also significant PI time.

Lack of more general tools is frustrating. There is a potential to make such tools more widely available but it will take time.

2. EB Report

EB met for one day before SC meeting.

Bob W. reported on NIS development. NSF is not willing to fund three years of salary for Christine at New Mexico State. Need to rethink the situation now that Christine is moving on. Need to retain as much of Christine's knowledge as possible.

NSF update. 12 LTER renewal proposals. Climate research initiative may morph into CES (new directorate at NSF with more money than BIO).

30-year review is underway. Charge may be released soon.

LTER and NEON. How will they collaborate? Current thinking at NSF: NEON = machine, LTER = brain. LTER expected to take the lead on what to do with NEON data.

Transformative research projects. Todd wants at least 3 on each LTER website.

ISSE is not the integrator it was supposed to be. Sites should develop their own framework. Diagram is artificial in some cases.

LTER legacy data prospectus. Development of a white paper is current best strategy.

Lots of confusion surrounding EcoTrends. Is it a network project? Is it a finite project? NSF is looking for clarification.

Strategic implementation plan for SC meeting.

3. IMC Governance

Current plan calls for general discussion on first evening and round-robin discussion on first day.

See documents posted in IM website. Also NISAC discussions (Karen is a member).

"Terms of reference" worked on by Karen & Eda. Similar to by-laws. Document how we work and how we form committees. Legitimize our efforts and working groups.

Organizational diagrams indicate relations and dependencies. How do Pasta tiger teams fit in? In current diagram, IM-Exec has communications role while EB has decision-making role.

Breakout groups could be charged with writing terms of reference.

"Information ecosystem" implies dynamic nature and larger scale. "Information environment" emphasizes technical side.

Baker & Kaplan paper. Compare & contrast oceanographic & grassland efforts. Discovery, analysis (e.g. ClimDB), and integration systems.

Synthesis efforts vs. NIS modules. NIS migration from analysis system to integration system (Pasta). LTER NIS information environment: dataset aggregation, community level applications, Pasta information system.

Is EcoTrends an analysis system? Or an alternative integration system (to Pasta)?

What are the governance issues here? Will this lead to specific recommendations for IMC, IM-Exec, etc? 2005 document on creation of NIS modules. Just updating this document does not

address what scientists are thinking now.

What are the relationships among NISAC, IMC, and IM-Exec?

Example tasks: Recommendations for LTER network proposals and synthesis studies with IM requirements. Recommendations for incorporation into NIS (aggregated, derived, analysis systems, modules). Request for IMC task prioritization and related requests for LNO support funds. Need some mechanism for including IM requirements in network proposals.

Terms of reference are self-generated. Use this term for smaller scale relationships. Terms can be changed by group.

Does IMC wish to give IM-Exec authority to make decisions on business matters? Communicate and coordinate with LNO, EB, NISAC, and NSF? With the expectation that IM-Exec will provide feedback to IMC and request input on particular issues?

See template for terms of reference. NISAC will consider at future meeting.

July VTC will help to clarify issues for IMC members. Not all members will be present on first evening of the meeting.

Confusion over the roles of IMC and IM-Exec in preparation of LNO operational plan.

Clarify how much of the current diagram has been set out in existing bylaws.

How will breakout groups be organized? Groups might focus on different groups (IMC, IM-Exec, WG, etc). Or focus on terms of reference for IMC and IM-Exec only.

Last morning of meeting (Friday) is intended for future projects. Two 2-hour blocks.

What is most helpful? Diagrams help but need additional work and clarification. Most of us have some concept of information environment. Terms of reference provide a good starting point.

IM-Exec needs to touch base with other WG leaders before annual meeting.

Overview of all LTER committees is lacking. Get our own house in order first and then get feedback from EB, NISAC, etc.

4. IMC Meeting

No logistical issues at present. Annette & George to discuss financial issues. Meeting request form has been submitted. Round-robin vs. break-out discussions: most groups will likely opt for break-outs.

5. Upcoming VTCs

Sven will set up a Doodle for IM-Exec VTCs in July & August. Don & Margaret will contact leaders of IM VTCs for the rest of the summer.

Attachment	Size
TermsOfRef_GWGV1.doc ^[2]	33 KB
termsOfRef_IMCV1.doc ^[3]	41 KB

Attachment**Size**

gwgJune2010v3.ppt ^[4] 335 KB

Meeting Notes ^[5]

- Copyright © 2012 Long Term Ecological Research Network, Albuquerque, NM -

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Cooperative Agreement #DEB-0236154. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Please contact us with questions, comments, or for technical assistance regarding this web site.

Source URL: http://im.lternet.edu/news/committees/im_exec/notes/2010_06_09

Links:

[1] <http://im.lternet.edu/user/27>

[2] http://im.lternet.edu/sites/im.lternet.edu/files/TermsOfRef_GWGV1.doc

[3] http://im.lternet.edu/sites/im.lternet.edu/files/termsOfRef_IMCV1.doc

[4] <http://im.lternet.edu/sites/im.lternet.edu/files/gwgJune2010v3.ppt>

[5] <http://im.lternet.edu/taxonomy/term/3>