**IMEXEC Meeting Notes**
**2019-04-17**

**Attending**:

- Stevan Earl (co-chair; rapporteur)
- Suzanne Remillard (co-chair)
- Dan Bahauddin (EB representative)
- Jason Downing
- Tim Whiteaker
- Renee Brown
- Marty Downs (NCO representative)
- Kristin Vanderbilt (EDI representative)

**Executive Board report (Dan)**

There was more discussion of this year's SC meeting. LTER will ask for an update from NSF. The standing committees (Namely IMC and education), EDI, and NCO will give updates.

Lightning talks will highlight synthetic concepts. Each site had been asked to select a few topics from a list, and almost all will be presenting their first choice.

The PI meeting will talk about conceptual models, how midterm reviews have changed, budgeting issues, and the needs of new sites. None of these were discussed at this meeting in detail.

There was a continuation of the discussion over concerns of site conceptual models and their effect on renewals. BES was again brought up as an example. Their initial model was criticized, so they looked to what other sites were using, and worked with one in place at several (reworked for urban systems). The review committee found this to be too general, though some reviewers suggested that it was a direct response to NSF's prior criticism. The committee recommended funding, but NSF cited the conceptual model as the reason for termination.

Does this have implications for other sites using this model? Should there be a white paper on conceptual models within the network? Would these be seen as the network trying to write its own rules?

The 2020 SC will be at CAP in May. The meetings are expensive (80-90k), and should be justifiable. It is important to show that working groups and products come out of them. There is some evidence that NSF doesn't like the meetings or the governance structure of the network, but the NCO RFP included a requirement for funding the SC meeting.

There was a brief discussion of mid-scale research grants from NSF, and whether sites should coordinate for proposals. There was a suggestion that a group form to explore this.

Last SC meeting before the in-person SC meeting.

**Environmental Data Initiative update (Kristin)**

EDI fellowship program is in full swing. There are nine fellows, most are at biological stations but Stace has one at Woods Hole. Training for the fellows will be the first week of June, and will focus on AssemblyLine.

Hack-a-thon focused on data viz scheduled for the second week of June in ABQ.

Kristin attended Research Data Alliance meeting.

Mark and Duane continue to work on the EML pipe metadata editor.

EDI is working on several ESIP sessions, including: (1) code repository, (2) common EML profiles. There may be others as well.

The semantic working group had a meeting this past Monday. Looking to evaluate resources and how to gauge relevance of controlled vocabularies.

**Working Group Updates (Tim)**

*Semantics*

At the 2019-04-15 zoom meeting, Margaret introduced a spreadsheet in which WG members can provide guidance on using semantic annotation for people, location, time, habitat, taxonomy, and more. Attendees were encouraged to leave notes on ontologies they have used. Ontologies could be applied to a set of EDI datasets to test their merit. There was also discussion on the need for best practices, with examples including how and where to deal with taxonomic information, and how to deal with spatial information in terms of granularity and site types.

*ClimDB*

This WG was the primary topic of a 2019-04-08 VWC. Plans for archiving existing data with EDI and porting to CSV files mapping to CUAHSI ODM were reiterated. GCE Toolbox will be extended to support and test workflows related to this ClimDB initiative. The ODM version of the data is a Level One dataset in Margaret's terminology, similar to datasets ported to EcocomDP.

*Core Metabase*

Still hashing out the first version. 30 issues in the SQL repo. BLE used the current version to export EML. It passed ECC but BLE hasn't officially submitted the data package yet. Tim will submit ESIP LTER-Core-Metabase session.

*Zotero*

Editing BP doc since the JavaScript Search Client now has some features that depend on how you populate items in Zotero. You can use tags to categorize your items, for example with tags like LTER-Funded (funded by your site) and LTER-Enabled (not funded by your site, but uses your data). You can also supply data links in the form of DOIs by placing each DOI (with https://doi.org/ in front of it) on its own line in the **Extra** field in Zotero, as in:
> https://doi.org/10.18739/A2GX44T8M
> https://doi.org/10.18739/A2MP4VN1H

This Live Demo ([https://ble-lter.github.io/Zotero-JavaScript-Search-Client/complete.html](https://ble-lter.github.io/Zotero-JavaScript-Search-Client/complete.html)) doesn't include data links because BLE doesn't have data archived yet.


*DataBits*

Draft issue sent to authors for final review.

**VWC** - ideas for May 20th VWC (rescheduled in light of Science Council)

Suzanne raised that one potential topic concerns spatial data as a colleague at AND has moved all of the Andrews data to a GIS data portal, and that is how AND will share their spatial data. Would be a good water cooler topic.

For the 20th, we will consider breakout group topics for annual meeting.

**Annual Meeting**

We made a tentative list of attendees who we recommend be funded by EDI.

We will tentatively plan on an NCO update in a water cooler in advance of the meeting rather than at the meeting itself. If Julien attends and we have the NCO update during the meeting, the update would focus on synthesis-related activities. Marty is not planning to attend at this time.

Marty suggests we should review the IM related tasks from the ASM, and see if there is anything that is worth picking up again at this meeting.

We will start a new tab in the planning worksheet with a list of topics to discuss with the IMC.

Dan and Tim will coordinate a meeting-night dinner.

**Today's action items:**

- Marty will coordinate with Corinna to provide instructions for the IMC regarding registering and making travel arrangements.
- Renee will send a list of questions to Megan regarding ESIP logistics such as schedule of breaks.
- ALL will coordinate a list of potential breakout group topics to be considered during a virtual water cooler, this to be on a new tab of the meeting logistics planning sheet that Suzanne will start.
- Renee will send an informative email regarding social events and other meeting logistics. Tim will draft the social aspect. This will serve as a general reminder, and provide some new and some of the same information to be included in the email from Marty and Corinna.
- Suzanne will coordinate with Jonathan Burnett (GIS) about a water cooler in June.
- ALL will review content of IMC website reflected in Google Doc.

**Action items from March 20, 2019:**

- Suzanne will reach out to find potential leader for ClimHydroDB 2.0 VWC on April 8th
- Everyone should review the meetings ideas spreadsheet and begin to sort between ESIP sessions and one day IMC meeting topics.
- Suzanne will clean up notes for IMEXEC review and then post to the IMC Website.