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

Topics
1. EB Report
2. Data Synthesis Project
3. ClimDB Oversight Group
4. SensorNIS Workshop
5. IMC Meeting

1. EB Report

EB conference call on Aug 1.

Report from NSF. Saran Twombly will be the new LTER program officer. The LTER 30-year review report is expected shortly. No news on the BIO AD position. NSF is processing LTER supplements now. Sites can expect full funding if they have not been asked for a revised budget.

Upcoming meetings. EB meeting / mini-symposium (NSF) = Feb 29 – Mar 1, 2012. Science Council (Andrews) = May 14-18, 2012. ASM (Estes Park) = Sep 10-14, 2012. The theme for the mini-symposium and science council meeting will be sustainability research.

ASM steering committee. The goal is have 25 members with good representation of the LTER community. So far IM volunteers include Kristen and Jonathan. Need one more IM volunteer. Co-chairs to include Bob Waide.

National Advisory Board. Susan Stafford declined the chair position and it was offered to Tony Janetos (Univ. of Maryland).

Synthesis data pilot project. The ad hoc committee provided ideas and the UNM purchasing department created a draft RFP. Peter Groffman (committee chair) circulated this draft to committee members and the three pilot sites for comment. Next steps include revision of the current draft and final review by the EB. The RFP will go out next fall. Meanwhile Scott will meet with Liz and Saran at NSF.

LTER network website. Revision of the network website is a task assigned in the communication plan. The EB reviewed an early draft. LNO will hire a web designer for the graphics piece.

LNO milestones and SIP. Some LNO milestones were developed before the SIP. Earlier this year the EB asked that the two be brought into alignment. Bob & Scott are working on this now.

Key findings narratives. No consensus yet on what to do with them. Bullets are complete. Complete narratives from 15 sites, partial narratives from 3 sites, nothing from 7 sites. Primary audience is congressional staff and journalists. Strongly encouraged by NSF program officers.

All-Scientists Meeting. Bob will send out an announcement soon. Past ASMs have often included an EB meeting before the ASM and a SC meeting (or dinner) during the ASM. Leave time in the schedule for spontaneous meetings. The ASM has shrunk from 5 days to 3 days in recent years. Expand to 4 days If possible.

2. Data Synthesis Project

LNO is revising the pilot project RFP, mainly based on Don & Margaret's comments. Some of these comments were more relevant to the larger project. Next step is review by the EB. Instructions to contractor still not clear enough. At this point no definite contractors have been identified.

SGS inventory did not provide enough information for a contractor to assess the work required. Some prioritization by the site may be required. Sites may need to develop their own legend or narrative to document their inventories. But there may also be some standard measures (e.g. file size).

Many sites do not know much about this project. We need a clearer idea of the EML standard to work toward. Great variability in datasets. Include site PI and site IM as part of the contractor evaluation process. Many of these tasks are open-ended and contractors may need to stop their work at a certain point.

3. ClimDB Oversight Group

Recent interest in ClimDB data from Bruce Hayden (climate committee), Julia Jones (hydrology working group), Lindsay Rusted (USFS), and others. Fred Swanson suggested an oversight group for ClimDB. Possible extensions of the project to stream chemistry, vegetation, etc in the USFS. An effort underway to make USFS experimental sites more of a network.

Climate committee should drive ClimDB, at least on the LTER side. Many remaining issues for how to integrate ClimDB into the NIS. USFS sites tend to fall behind in data submissions because of lack of IM support. An opportunity this year to revisit ClimDB flags, etc.

4. SensorNIS Workshop

Lots of interest from LTER. Don has been tasked with developing an agenda for demos. Plans include a committee of five to help organize the workshop and possibly a committee of three to help with LTER-related planning.

Week of Oct 24 at Hubbard Brook. 2.5 days.

5. IMC Meeting

Nominations for IM-Exec (Corinna, Suzanne) and NISAC (Karen). Don asked for clarification on IM-Exec nominations and made slight changes to the ToR on this point. Candidate statements could be collected and posted with the candidate names the week before the meeting. The ToR not yet officially adopted but IM-Exec is making a good faith effort to conform to its requirements.

Don will send out a nomination request and site byte request shortly. Site byte questions: How did sites use their 2010 supplements? Do sites include non-LTER data? The IM website includes a place for site bytes to be posted. IM-Exec should take the lead!

Two major breakout sessions: (1) EML congruency (Margaret), (2) Value-added databases (Don). Four potential topics for each breakout group. Need to identify group leaders well before the meeting. Send ideas to Don & Margaret.

EML metrics working group could help with the first session. Margaret is also a member of the NIS tiger team. The list of requirements for the congruency checker from the last IMC meeting has been extended. What is the policy for releasing report results? There will be a temptation to use these reports in site reviews.

A short description of breakout groups might be sent to IMs before the meeting. Also post on website with the agenda. Encourage maximum participation. Not everyone is engaged in these issues.

Don will organize 45-mnute call to NSF (Nancy, Saran, Matt, and/or Peter) during the meeting.

Identify workshop & buyout proposals for next year. Proposals due Nov 1. Ask active workgroups for short (5-min, 1-2 slides) summaries of recent activities and future plans. Let workgroup leaders know this ahead of time.

Workgroups that should report: controlled vocabulary, Drupal, web services, GIS, units. Other workgroups: governance (business meeting), EML metrics (breakout session), IM website (done), EML best practices (done). The ToR specifies that disbanding WGs should submit a final report. Maybe a story for Databits and/or the LTER newsletter?

Include discussion of NIS tiger teams.

Workflow workshop. Planned for fall 2011 or winter 2012. Provide a quick update in the morning. Funding available for two production workshops, two training workshops, and two buy-outs for 2012. This will be an opportunity to align upcoming workshops with NIS requirements. James (and Mark, etc as needed) can review this aspect of the proposals.

Current controlled vocabulary list is close to finished but has some limitations. At what point will there be a final list? Need more time for discussion at the meeting or in another VTC.

Any interest in recording the upcoming IMC meeting? LNO could record the main sessions (and selected breakouts) with media recorders if desired.

Meeting logistics. Meal times need to be fixed a few days before the meeting.

Upcoming IM-Exec VTCs. See message from Sven to sign up. Wait until after election to determine Oct and Nov dates.

SBC field trip. Transportation from airport until 2 pm. Store luggage at UCSB. Return to hotel around 5 pm with luggage. Add details for late arrivals.

First night on the beach. No work scheduled.

Issue a call for demos on the second night. Add place on website for demo information.

Meeting Notes [2]

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