**LTER Education Committee Conference Call**

**July 12, 2017**

**3:00-4:00 pm ET**

**MINUTES**

1. Attendance

Jill Haukos (KNZ) – Co-Chair, Caitlin Potter (CDR) – Co-Chair, Guest: Dan Duggan (Critical Noelia Baez (LUQ), Alan Berkowitz (BES), Marty Downs (NCO), Kara Haas (KBS), Sarah Hanks (KBS), Steven McGee (LUQ), Amanda Morrison (ARC) Sam Norlin (NCO), Kari O’Connell (AND), Cari Paulenich (CCE)

1. Approve June minutes

Minutes were approved.

1. New Business
   1. Network Communication Office – Marty Downs
2. Downs submitted a supplement to NSF to potentially fund seven people from each LTER site to attend the 2018 All Scientists Meeting (ASM). The meeting will be at the Asilomar California Coast at Pacific Grove, CA the third week of September, 2018.
3. The next NSF mini-symposium is scheduled Spring 2018.
4. Upcoming efforts:
   * + Future stories from the LTER that came out of the Science Council meeting
     + Working on the NCO web site
     + Funding of one more synthesis working group
   1. Network Updates
      1. Executive Board(EB) Updates - Kari O’Connell

* The Environmental Data Initiative (EDI) –has a broader mission than just LTER data management. The data access policy has changed.
  + Data sets with a specific policy – users must acknowledge the original source of the data
  + EDI has a place on the EB
* The NCO is now a voting member of the EB – this allows the NCO to better determine the needs of the Network and how to improve their response to those needs.
* Information Management and Education and Outreach are still members of the EB
  1. Professional Development: Critical Zone Observatory – Dan Duggan - More info here: http://criticalzone.org/national/
* Duggan defined a Critical Zone as: the top of the vegetation to the bottom of the groundwater. The program looks at life and documents the process processes as they occur down through the soil column.
* There are 10 active zone sites scattered across North America (including LUQ) that are each very different from one another, including the “Intensely Managed Landscapes” (IML) that are across 3 midwest states.
* CZO offers an educational resources database.
* Provides information on how to be scientifically accurate. Is accessible to students of different grade levels.
* CZO has a nascent review process for potential educational resources. They are coming up with an evaluation rubric.
* Some observatories have educators, some do not – but all have some kind of educational program.
  1. NCO Web Site Update
* The LTER web site address is: LTERnet.edu
* Phase I site development includes:
  + Manage existing gallery and intranet site.
  + Move from Drupal to WordPress
  + Launch in early to mid-fall. Considering:
    - Architechture
    - Design
  + Goal = make content easier to find and update and allow individual sites and ed-reps to edit remotely
  + Align content; make it clear and modern
  + Search engine friendly
  + Accessible for those with disabilities
  + Information architecture:
    - Visually appealing
    - Correct
    - Tag new stories to the appropriate sites – indicate the theme and whether it’s education-related
    - Make new stories from the newsletter available on the respective sites’ web page
    - Stories on research can then have links to new data that supports the research
  + Audience =
    - Teachers
    - Public
    - University faculty
    - Informal educators
    - Colleagues
    - Extension
  + Maps and photographs – make sure they’re visually appealing
  + Data Categories – how to tag information:
    - Site
    - Type of info: data management, education
  1. Site Updates
* Kara Haas (KBS) introduced Sarah Hanks as a new education employee who will be filling in for Julie Doll
* Alan Berkowitz (BES) reported that he had a NSF education grant integrating chemistry and earth science recommended for funding.
  1. Working Group Updates
     1. Professional Development – monthly topics for call

Nothing to report.

* + 1. Ecological Data Literacy – Stephen McGee

Nothing to report.

* + 1. Next Generation Science Standards – Steven McGee

Nothing to report.

* + 1. Children’s Book Series – Alex Rose

Nothing to report.

* + 1. Higher Education – Alan Berkowitz
       1. REU Cross-Site Initiative – organizing a ZOOM meeting for those interested in this initiative on Friday, July 14, 2017
    2. Citizen Science – Elena Sparrow

Nothing to report.

1. EOC Meeting Schedule
   1. August 2, 2017
   2. September 6, 2017
   3. October 4, 2017
   4. November 1, 2017
   5. December 6, 2017