

LTER Communication Committee call

January 20, 2017 - 2:00-3:30pm

Attendees: Jonathan Walsh, Clarisse Hart, Marty Downs, Lina DiGregorio, Julie Doll, Sarah Garlick, Peter Groffman, Charley Driscoll

Agenda

1. Updates from Marty Downs at the NCO.
2. Shaping committee priorities for 2017
 - a. Engaging others within LTER to form a community of practice for communication
 - b. Proposals to Science Council 2017
 - c. Key roles/criteria for site communicators (not something mandated – just, what works at existing sites?)
3. Content for 2016 committee annual report
4. New business

Notes

NCO report-out

- Mini-symposium ([link to information](#)) theme “Drought, fire, rising seas: discovering the nature of ecosystem change.” In the morning, 5 research posters (geared towards a wide audience at NSF - beyond ecology) will be on display with the Schoolyard book series. Media and agency folks are also invited; there is currently a list of about 30 agency invitees, drawn from folks at COMPASS and the Science Policy Exchange.
Marty welcomes additional ideas.
- LTER Website(s): Still resolving how to handle the personnel database and sites database. NCO inherited ~15 websites (intranet, ASM websites, etc.)
- SciComm training: 13 people signed up (a variety of LTER roles, from a variety of sites), but didn’t attend last week. Many people had requested to audit. In the long run, a monthly drop-in discussion (more along the lines of a community of practice, as this group has discussed) might work better. There is a form on the NCO website and in the newsletter to gather a list of folks who would be interested in such a practice. There may be two lists - a two-way list-serv for discussion, and a one-way contact list for the NCO to reach out. Sarah said it would be nice to have a community of communication practitioners from sites to discuss issues with; might be harder to do this with PIs. Lina suggested we begin with this committee - using a few minutes on each call to discuss a communications question.

Committee Priorities for 2017

- Marty said she sees a parallel between this group’s function and the function of the Education & Outreach Committee and the IM Committee.

- A past function of the committee (5-7 years ago) was contributing to the website, and to connect it to the strategic plan.
- The group agreed our main function is an advisory role to the NCO (rather than being a committee that creates a lot of products). When Marty sends requests for feedback to the group, it's important that everyone respond.
- Marty noted that the quarterly meeting schedule makes the pace of work slower. Perhaps these quarterly meetings can be our official meetings, but we can meet more regularly on particular issues.
- Science Council: **A new working group led by Clarisse & Marty will draft a document of Communication site rep 'guidelines' similar to the Edu & IM guidelines, for circulation at Science Council.** Sarah is at Hubbard Brook (where Science Council will be) and may be able to lead a report-out for Communication during the EB meeting, to introduce the guidelines and to ask for help with a survey (which we drafted last year) about site-level Communication roles.

Committee Annual Report

- The NCO will request each LTER committee to provide an annual report, and also report out on the committee surveys.

New Business

- Marty will send the full LTER mini-symposium agenda to the group, and **would like ideas on how to promote it.**
- March 28: Peter is running a meeting on LTER-NEON synergies. It's a science meeting but will likely have communication implications.
- The first round of LTER synthesis working groups have all met once. The second round working groups are starting to schedule now. Another call for proposals will go out soon, with a deadline in October.
- LNCO is starting to think about the All Scientists' Meeting, which NSF says will remain on a 3-year cycle. The committee could have a role in planning workshops and activities for this. There was a lot of good feedback in 2015 on the Alan Alda Center training; perhaps in 2018 there could be more time for them.
- HFR, HBR, and the Science Policy Exchange will be hosting a booth at the AAAS meeting in Boston, which will be focused on our LTER connection.