

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Ecological Observatories (COREO)  
October 20, 2004, Bonneville, Washington**

**TENTATIVE – TO BE APPROVED AT NEXT MEETING**

**Participants**

Regional Participants: Michael Allen (CALEON), Jill Baron (ROMEO), John Blair (CENTRUS), Barbara Bond (PNWREO), Dave Breshears (SWEON), Sydonia Bret-Harte (HLEO), Todd Crowl (IRON), Francisco Dallmeier (MAREO), Candy Feller (NEONEON), Debbie Finch (SWEON), David Foster (NEEON), Andrew Fountain (AREO), Jim Fourquerean (NEONEON), Robert Gardner (MAREO), Jim Gosz (SWEON), Mark Harmon (PNWREO), Ross Hinkle (SEEON), John Hobbie (HLEO), Laura Huenneke (IRON), Ken Kaneshiro (PNEON), Alan Knapp (CENTRUS), Jo-Ann Leong (PNEON), Art McKee (ROMEO), Patrick Mulholland (SAPOZEON), Knute Nadelhoffer (GLACEO), Eric Nagy (MAREO), Phil Robertson (GLACEO), Rebecca Sharitz (SEEON), Robert Twilley (LMEON), Maria Vernet (AREO), Jeff Welker (HLEO), Jake Weltzin (SAPOZEON)

Known regions not represented: None

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Blood (NSF), Carol Brewer (NCC), Jerry Franklin (NCC), Bruce Hayden (NCC), James MacMahon (NCC), William Michener (NCC)

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by temporary chair Phil Robertson.
2. **Creation of organization.** Robertson reminded the group of the prior evening's vote to organize as an independent entity and entertained motions for reconsideration of that motion. None received. The motion stands as approved unanimously the prior evening (having been made by Barbara Bond, seconded by Bob Gardner):

**Motion:** That we declare ourselves an independent consortium of regional observatories to serve as an advisory body for the design of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON).

3. **Governance.** Robertson proposed an initial governance structure comprised of the following elements:

1. Chair and Chair-elect.

The chair for a given meeting is elected at the prior meeting to serve as chair-elect until the meeting for which they were elected chair, at which time they become active chair until the initiation of the following meeting. This ensures that except when meetings are in progress there is both an active chair and a chair-elect.

The chair-elect will be elected towards the end of future meetings after the date of the subsequent meeting is specified to ensure that candidates can be present for that meeting.

The active chair is responsible for presiding at the meeting, for preparing and distributing the tentative minutes from the meeting at which they presided, for ensuring that tasks assigned to committees or members get done prior to the subsequent meeting, for serving as liaison to the senior management team of the national NEON effort, and for working with the chair-elect to prepare the agenda for the subsequent meeting.

The chair-elect is responsible for making meeting preparations for the meeting at which they will preside, and together with the active chair is responsible for preparing the agenda for that meeting.

2. Secretary

A secretary will be elected at the beginning of each meeting to take notes that will be used by the chair to prepare the minutes.

3. Committees

There are no standing committees. Ad hoc committees will be appointed during meetings as needed to further specific tasks.

4. Parliamentary procedure

Parliamentary procedures will follow Roberts Rules of Order.

5. Representation and voting

Decisions will be made based on equal regional representation (1 vote per region).

**Motion:** Mark Harmon moved, seconded by Mike Allen, that we adopt the governance structure proposed above. Following brief additional discussion the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **4. Elections**

Secretary. Robertson proposed that Jo-Ann Leong's offer to be secretary for this meeting be accepted and there was unanimous consent.

Chair-elect. Nominations were accepted from the floor for Chair-elect. Dave Breashears was nominated, a motion was made (Jim Gosz), seconded (Art McKee) and passed unanimously that nominations be closed, and Breashears was then elected by unanimous consent.

#### **5. Proposed Agenda**

Robertson proposed an agenda for the remainder of the meeting, and following discussion and an addition the following was accepted for discussion and possible action:

1. The specific vision / role for the organization
2. A minimum model for regional expectations
3. Development of a proposal to NSF for funding consortium activities
4. Follow-on tasks such as the creation of a regional bylaw template

#### **6. Vision / Role of Consortium**

Mark Harmon initiated discussion of the role of the Consortium. Extensive discussion produced the following initial draft:

Role of the Consortium

1. NEON implementation activities
2. Outreach knowledge and research information to educational, resource management, and policy making communities, general public, and other scientists.
3. Recruitment within region
4. Coordination within regions
5. Promotion of long-term advisory capacity
6. Build political support
7. Operate and maintain regional infrastructure
8. Promote region-specific science

#### **7. Model Observatory Elements**

A discussion of the common minimum expectations for regional members of the consortium was discussed and developed. There was general agreement that regional members of the organization have at a minimum:

1. Open science meetings that are
  - Institutionally diverse (size, mission),
  - Disciplinarily diverse,
  - Accessible (location, time, cost),
  - Visible (widely promoted and advertised amongst scientists and educators working within the region), and
  - Diverse with respect to participants (gender, ethnicity, academic age).
2. A catalog of strengths within the region:
  - people
  - institutions / partnerships
  - infrastructure resources
  - field stations
  - networks
  - available lands
  - museums & collections
  - databases in IM infrastructure

- field sites
- instrumentation centers
- on-going experiments
- remote sensing imagery

3. A web presence;
4. A defined geographic extent; and
5. A governance structure initiated with leadership identified

## 8. Proposal Development for Consortium Support

Todd Crowl has offered to author a proposal to NSF for support of the Consortium activities. Feedback from NSF indicates that a grant in the range of \$200k might be entertained. (NB Liz Blood left the room for this part of the meeting). Discussion ensued on the major elements of such a grant; needs identified in earlier breakout groups had identified 4 potential needs: a) within-region meetings, b) consortium meetings, c) regional web site development, and d) a regional coordinator at the national office. Subsequent discussion eliminated (c) and (d) from consideration. Considerable discussion ensued on the need and timing for subsequent consortium meetings, with particular respect to the timing of the science committee meetings in January, March, and June 2005.

**Motion:** Mike Allen moved, seconded by Jim Gosz, that we seek funding for a consortium meeting in February 2005. Discussion followed, after which the motion was unanimously adopted.

Subsequent discussion identified the Midwest as the preferred location. The exact timing and location is to be worked out by the chair and chair-elect and is dependent on a successful proposal to NSF for funding. The need for a June meeting was further discussed.

**Motion:** Jake Weltzin moved, seconded by Jo-Ann Leong, that we seek funding for a second consortium meeting in June 2005. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Further discussion centered on the potential funding and allocation of regional meetings. It was decided by group consensus that each region would be eligible to ask for \$2,000 to \$6,000, with an additional \$6,000 available to support travel costs for the 4 regions with widely dispersed participants (HLEO, PNEON, NEONEON, and AREO). Groups are expected to find matching funds for their meetings, and are asked to avoid requesting the top-level amount if at all possible.

An additional expense discussed by the group was secretarial support at Utah State for handling the invoices and travel arrangements.

Information required by Crowl from each region ASAP is:

- a. a tentative agenda for a regional meeting (example agendas are available from sites that have already had open meetings, including MAREO ([www.mareo.org](http://www.mareo.org)), IRON ([www.usu.edu/iron](http://www.usu.edu/iron)), and GLACEO ([www.glaceo.org](http://www.glaceo.org))).
- b. a budget detailing meeting and (if requested) travel costs
- c. the amount of match to be provided
- d. number of previous meetings
- e. web site if exists now
- f. expected product of the meeting (e.g. resource lists, interested people, report)
- g. the amount of match already spent
- h. a description of diversity recruitment efforts (gender, ethnic)

## 9. Name of Organization

It was noted that we don't presently have a name for the organization, and a motion was offered to provide one.

**Motion:** Knute Nadelhoffer moved, seconded by Laura Huenneke, that we name the organization Consortium of Regional Ecological Observatories (COREO). Following discussion the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

## **10. Post-meeting Tasks**

1. Mark Harmon agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to work the Vision discussion into an edited, adoptable statement for the next meeting. Committee will be comprised of Harmon (chair), Mike Allen, and Jake Weltzin.
2. Jake Weltzin agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to work the common minimum model into an adoptable statement for the next meeting. Committee will be comprised of Weltzin (chair), Jill Baron, and Jeff Welker.
3. Becky Sharitz agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to develop and distribute a regional bylaws template. Committee will be comprised of Sharitz, Jim MacMahon, and Bob Gardner.

## **11. Information items.**

1. MAREO is hosting a regional infrastructure database registry; regions may direct contributors to this url to catalog regional facilities: [www.mareo.org/local/neon\\_surv\\_04/NEON\\_Participant\\_Survey.html](http://www.mareo.org/local/neon_surv_04/NEON_Participant_Survey.html)
2. Neon PowerPoint presentations shown at the meeting will be available at [www.neoninc.org](http://www.neoninc.org) web site for use by regions for presentations

**12. Adjournment.** There being no further business, following closing remarks by Bruce Hayden and Jerry Franklin, and following expressions of thanks to the NCC for their efforts on our behalf (Jim Gosz) and to the meeting staff (Jerry Franklin), Robertson adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Leong and Phil Robertson

October 22, 2004