

**NSCN SSG Teleconference  
March 23, 2009**

*SSG Members on Call:* Rich Birdsey, Ron Follett, Mark Johnson, Randy Kolka, Johannes Lehmann, Bob McKane, Mac Post, Chris Swanston, Margaret Torn, Sue Trumbore, Eric Vance

1) Scientific Steering Group Membership

There are currently 19 people on the SSG. Sue is leaving the country soon and may not continue as an SSG member. Two people are interested and have been nominated: Stephen Ogle (CSU-NREL) and Marc Kramer (UC Santa Cruz). Recently, Jen recommended one more: Greg Lawrence (USGS).

Comments on whether there should be a maximum number of steering group members:

- Depends on whether more people would make it cumbersome.
- Nobody ever makes it to all of the calls anyway, so more is probably okay. People rotate on and off anyway.
- Criteria for numbers of SSG members? Best to have wide representation of backgrounds and organizations.
- Proposed new members would add different specialties and viewpoints.

There is currently no formal nominating process. Comments on whether an informal process is sufficient or if a formal process is necessary:

- A more formal approach might be better to deliberately add people based on strengths.
- Put something on password-protected part of the NSCN website. Maybe have 1-2 times/year to gain nominations.
- Also have to have something on NSCN website to make process transparent.
- Can't vote on this today-- better after reading bios because not everyone knows the nominees. Have people who are nominating explain why they are recommending them (which isn't necessarily in the CV)
- Nomination process could be self nomination process – include that as option
- A few standard Qs: what they bring to the steering group, plus CV

*Decision:* Folks who've made nominations should make short explanation of why this person is being nominated to the SSG and request a CV (format to be determined). The nomination rationales and CVs will be sent out to the SSG with a web-based poll to ask whether we need more discussion. If no more discussion is needed, a poll to vote on the nominees will be sent out.

Comments on whether SSG members should put together short bios for the NSCN, which would be posted online.

- Pretty wide agreement to do this.
- Also include interests or how they'd like to contribute to the group
- 10 recent or representative pubs
- Will be required for new SSG members (during nomination process)

SSG members are on three year terms, staggered. No term limits.

2) Ongoing Proposal Efforts

AFRI REE-Net (Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Research, Education, and Extension Network)

- AFRI is competitive grants program for USDA
- Max funding: \$50k/yr up to 4 years
- Successful pre-proposal – Full proposal deadline coming soon (on or near April 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Names on pre-proposal: Julie Jastow, Randy Kolka, Johannes Lehmann, Mark Waldrop, Chris Swanston

- Objectives of proposal were very similar to the Network goals from charter.
- Asked for funding for: partial support for a full-time network coordinator, workshops, student travel, professional website development, and seed money for database development
- Not everyone that was on the pre-proposal is going to be able to spend much time on the full proposal – Does anyone have interest/time? **[who volunteered?]**

#### NSF Research Coordinated Networks (RCN)

- At the NACP meeting, Chris asked for university folks to write NSF RCN proposal- people are working on that **[who?]**
- Isn't due until mid summer
- They will probably use some text for charter

As these proposals are put together, Chris will send them out to the SSG, including deadlines for providing comments.

### 3) Database Progress

Current effort is largely being led by Kris Johnson (USGS- postdoc with Jen) and Deb Agarwal (LBL)

- Idea is that NSCN would create a database structure that others would use.
- Looking at what the structure might look like
- Ideas from Deb's work on datacube with Microsoft
- Microsoft is somewhat interested, **need to put together better proposal/idea for them**
- **Marc Kramer is interested in joining the effort using data from the Hawaiian sequence he works on with Chadwick/Vitousek**
- **Comment: Need to publicize the structure once it's out there (e.g. to other international efforts)**

### 4) General Network Issues, Questions, and Suggestions

NACP SSG meeting update from Margaret

- Discussion about what it would take to get continental datasets
- For soils- NSCN is trying to do that, but need money
- Product would be a geospatially referenced grid, continuous coverage.... Value for each 10x10 km area
- Some interest from agencies in what NSCN is trying to do. Margaret is going to follow up