

LSSC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 19th August 2008, 2.00– 4.00pm
Teleconference

PRESENT:	Megan Balks	University of Waikato (LSSC Chairperson)
	Vonda Cummings	NIWA
	Ian Hogg	University of Waikato
	Clive Howard-Williams	NIWA
	Shulamit Gordon	Antarctica New Zealand

Actions from LSSC Meeting

LSSCer	Action Item	Status
Shul	Can Hallett soil probes and AWS be linked? When will Hallett next be visited to download these?	From March 08 Mtng
	AWS calibrations need to be sorted. Need to keep calibrations for the future. Same person to retrieve data. Consistency with AWS set up and download. Need to check this with Wisconsin, LTER, USDA and NIWA.	From March 08 Mtng
	Beardmore AWS? Is there one? Where would we put it? Talk with Nancy Bertler and Wisconsin contacts.	From March 08 Mtng
	Advertise the potential for an AWS project if someone finds a suitable student to do this. Could try Nancy's group too. Good for science update and the LGP list.	From March 08 Mtng
	Literature summary for Granite Harbour for marine and terrestrial	From March 08 Mtng
	Review work on sites somewhere between Hallett and Adare for marine? Or between Hallett and MZS.	From March 08 Mtng
	Send out information about links with AAD.	From March 08 Mtng
	Ant NZ to keep in touch with NSF programme managers re Beardmore support.	
	Circulate to the LSSC the Beardmore expressions of interest.	
	Circulate to the LSSC the estimates given to Erik on LGP needs at Beardmore.	
	Shul to look into efficiencies of using the proximity of the Pole Traverse route to the Beardmore as an option to reduce logistical costs.	
	Follow up on unified proposal for Beardmore. What science and specific locations? Any collaborations with the US?	
	Follow up with US scientists who had wanted to go to the Beardmore in the Transantarctic Mountains workshop?	

	Find out from LGPers about southern sites other than the Beardmore that they would like to go to.	
	Re-visit long-term plans with Erik.	
	Review of sites further south than the Beardmore.	
	Add Wayne Pollard's details onto the LGP email list.	
	Re SCAR Biology Symposium: Let EBA committee know of the desire for an LGP-related workshop and to have an LGP-related session. This can be passed on to the conference organisers.	
	Send LGP email list information about the SCAR Biology symposium and ask people to present gradient work under Work Package 4.	
	Flag the need for an LGP workshop at the 2009 Ant NZ conference on systems thinking as well as general LGP	
	Chase up others who might want to contribute to this Special Edition including the Italian terrestrial researchers, and the Gradients Workshop participants.	
	Start asking for sponsorship of the LGP Special Edition.	
	Write up a summary about this special edition that can be circulated.	
	Set next LSSC meeting in March 2009.	
All	Identify current collaboration with UK researchers and others working on the Antarctic Peninsula.	
	Contact collaborators/contacts about contributing to the Special Edition.	
Ian	Look into funds available for Canadian collaborations.	
Mark	To see the extent to which PLOS take review articles.	From March 08 Mtng
	Look at BMC to see if there is a relevant journal for LGP.	From March 08 Mtng
	Follow up with looking into further links between LTER and Jenny.	From March 08 Mtng
Clive	Send copy of Earth and Ocean Sciences (EOS) round the LSSC to see if this was an appropriate publication for an LGP article	From March 08 Mtng
	Write a letter of thanks and congratulations to Lou on behalf of the LGP community for LGP support.	From March 08 Mtng
	Write to Warwick Vincent re scientist exchanges with Canada.	
	Circulate to LSSC copy of letter to Ant NZ re Darwin support	
	Send Shul Canadian contact details	
Jenny	Organise a NZ LGP terrestrial meeting	In progress
	Ask at Terrestrial meeting about interest in the Beardmore or sites further south.	

Vonda	Organise a NZ LGP marine meeting (Shul happy to help)	In progress
	Ask at the Marine meeting about future LGP marine sites and the use of the HMNZS Canterbury.	
	See if the Italian marine researchers and the NZ IPY-CAML voyage team are interested in contributing to the Special Edition.	
Megan	Look into funds available for German and other European collaborations.	

1. Apologies and confirmation of agenda

- Apologies from Jenny Webster-brown and Mark Stevens (Ian Hogg sitting in for Mark Stevens)
- Added agenda items:
 - Date for the next LSSC meeting
 - SCAR Biology Symposium

2. Action Items from March 2008 Minutes

- Shulamit to complete a task on all Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) that Ant NZ has anything to do with. AWS actions will be covered in this.
- All actions regarding the dissemination of information to the LGP community completed.
- Actions still to be completed are re-listed in the action table.
- Literature reviews on future LGP sites still to be undertaken – with a priority on potential southern sites.
- Vonda has kept in touch with the NIWA oceanographers. We can keep in touch about data that they collect that can be valuable to the LGP.
- Soils collected from the Darwin in 07/08 by Jackie Aislabie K123 have been used for soil characterisation and microbial analysis.

3. Report on SCAR OSC St Petersburg

- Shulamit presented the LGP poster on the last day of the conference. Poster A4s and LGP stickers were displayed at all terrestrial and marine sessions and 250 of each were taken over the course of the meeting.
- A few contact made with new scientists on the LGP.
- Dean presented a talk on integrative research programmes using the LGP as an example.
- Vonda presented a talk about LGP at the EBA workshop.
- Good to hear about Arctic climate change at this meeting too.
- Clive has Canadian contacts to add to LGP email list.

Action: Clive to send Shul Canadian contact details.

Action: Shul to add Wayne Pollard's details onto the LGP email list.

4. Reports from any other conferences/meetings?

- **Antarctic Gradients Workshop**
 - Invited workshop for 16 marine and terrestrial researchers working in Victoria Land and the Peninsula.
 - Very positive feeling from this meeting that gradient research will be very useful especially with the predicted differences in climate change of the 2 regions.
 - Working on a review document on the use of gradients in Antarctic research – hopefully this will lead to more collaborations and the use of the LGP concept in other parts of Antarctic.
 - The workshop helped people have a better understanding of what data exist.
- **Canadian Circumpolar Biology Network:** Ian Hogg has been invited to speak about the LGP at this meeting as they are interested in applying the LGP framework concept in the Arctic.
- **SCAR Biology Conference:**
 - Do we want to promote an LGP workshop or a dedicated LGP session here?
 - LGP talks will fall under work package 4 so we can ask people to present their LGP talks under this heading.
 - Possibly LGP will fall within workshops that have been proposed by the EBA committee.

Action: Shul to let EBA committee know of the desire for an LGP-related workshop and to have an LGP-related session. This can be passed on to the conference organisers.

Action: Shul to send LGP email list information about the SCAR Biology symposium and ask people to present gradient work under Work Package 4.

5. Upcoming 08/09 Season

- An Initial Environmental Assessment has been submitted to MFAT to cover Ant NZ's activities at both the LGP sites this season.
- **Granite Harbour:** 3 event being supported over November and part of December at a single camp. Vonda Cummings, Ken Ryan, and Mary Sewell.
- **Darwin Glacier region:** 6 NZ events will be supported over January in this region. Principal Investigators are: Allan Green x 2, Craig Marshall, Brian Sorrell, Bryan Storey, Carol Smith. Ant NZ will be supporting 1 US event in this area for work on the Byrd Glacier.

6. Planning/direction for LGP marine and terrestrial meetings

- Jenny has organised a meeting for the LGP terrestrial researchers in Christchurch on 9 and 10 September, and Vonda has organised a meeting for the LGP marine participants in Wellington to present their results and discuss future plans and possibilities.
- For the future, we want to keep in mind how we can link these two groups. This could be the topic of an LGP workshop at the 2009 Antarctica New Zealand conference – Systems Thinking on general ecological principles – across marine and terrestrial boundaries – so we get both groups together understanding what each group is doing and interacting together.

Action: Shul to flag the need for an LGP workshop at the 2009 Ant NZ conference on systems thinking as well as general LGP.

7. 5 Year Plan (science and logistics)

- Lou Sanson (CEO, Antarctica New Zealand attended this part of the meeting)
- Big picture of LGP is to go far South and far North. Would be good to have a champion for each site to help make it happen.
 - a. **Darwin:** Big push in the Darwin this season, then the terrestrial group take a year off for write-up.
 - b. **Granite Harbour:** Two seasons over the next 2 years for the marine group.
 - c. **Beardmore Glacier:**
 - US are supportive of the proposed US work in the Beardmore (has Ian Hogg as NZ collaborator), but with current financial issues, this work has been put on hold.
 - Ant NZ doing the costings of support in the Beardmore area.
 - Expressions of interest for work in the Beardmore were requested in April 2008.
 - If Beardmore is so critical, does Ant NZ put all its LGP support into the Beardmore and not support a marine component of LGP for those years? Need to consider this if we are to achieve this site.
 - Concentrated efforts of having several groups supported in the Beardmore will certainly maximise the benefits of the logistical support.
 - Ideally would like to work with the US in the Beardmore – maximise benefits for both programmes. Need to keep working on this connection.
 - Look into efficiencies of using the proximity of the Pole Traverse route to the Beardmore as an option to reduce logistical costs.
 - Do we need a unified proposal for Beardmore? What science and specific locations? Any collaborations with the US?
 - Do we need to follow up with US scientists who had wanted to go to the Beardmore in the Transantarctic Mountains workshop?
 - If the US decides not to go to Beardmore, and the point was to do this site jointly, should we be thinking of other southern sites that the LGP might prefer to visit? E.g. Shackleton Glacier? Keep the Pole traverse route in mind.

d. Others:

- Marine group to agree on where to go after Granite Harbour. Currently New Harbour is in the plan. Need to confirm this. There is interest in a marine site between MZS and Cape Hallett – to be looked into.
- Can marine LGPers do their work off an icebreaker? Not really, as the group conduct near-shore research and need sea ice, but others may be interested.
- Can also think of science uses off the HMNZ Canterbury which is ice strengthened – possibly for work around Cape Hallett and Cape Adare.

Action: Ant NZ to keep in touch with NSF programme managers re Beardmore support.

Action: Shul to circulate to the LSSC the Beardmore expressions of interest.

Action: Shul to circulate to the LSSC the estimates given to Erik on LGP needs at Beardmore.

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Action: Shul to find out from LGPers about southern sites other than the Beardmore that they would like to go to.

Action: Shul review of sites further south than the Beardmore.

Action: Shul to re-visit long-term plans with Erik.

Action: Jenny to ask at Terrestrial meeting about interest in the Beardmore or sites further south.

Action: Vonda to ask at the Marine meeting about future LGP marine sites and the use of the HMNZS Canterbury.

8. Update on future international collaborations

- Can we strengthen our links with the UK and others in terms of having some scientist exchanges between the Peninsula and the Ross Sea region?
- The Peninsula is so different from the Ross Sea region that it would be very beneficial to have such exchanges.
- Should we try and get national support for an international exchange programme with the UK?
- There is funding in the EU for this sort of thing and for other countries too.

Action: All to identify current collaboration with UK and other working in the Peninsula.

Action: Clive to write to Warwick Vincent re scientist exchanges with Canada.

Action: Ian to look into funds available for Canadian collaborations.

Action: Megan to look into funds available for German collaborations.

9. *Antarctic Science Special Edition II*

- Expressions of interest for this publication have come from:
 - Vonda Cummings
 - Jackie Aislabie
 - Jeb Barrett (US)
 - Berry Lyons (US)
 - Mark Stevens
 - Fiona Shanhun
 - Christine Elliott
 - Bryan Storey
 - Megan Balks
 - Jenny Webster-Brown
 - Ken Ryan
- Still need to chase up others who are likely to want to contribute to this edition.
- LSSC to be the guest editors of the edition as was done last year. This seemed to work well.
- Definitely want to encourage people doing gradient research out of the Ross Sea region to contribute to the Special Edition. This will be another step towards showing how the gradients concept can be used across Antarctica.
- Cost of the publication will be approximately NZ\$30,000 depending on how many pages (£50 per page). There is some money left over from the first special edition that can be put towards this cost.
- Shulamit will start looking at sponsorship as we did last time. Then we will need to divide up costs between the authors who are able to contribute.

Action: Shul to chase up others who might want to contribute to this Special Edition including the Italian terrestrial researchers, and the Gradients Workshop participants.

Action: Vonda to see if the Italian marine researchers and the NZ IPY-CAML voyage team are interested in contributing to the Special Edition.

Action: All to contact collaborators/contacts about contributing to the Special Edition.

Action: Shul to write up a summary about this special edition that can be circulated.

Action: Shul to start asking for sponsorship of the LGP Special Edition.

10. Other Items

- Next LSSC meeting to be set in March 2009 to have a debrief of the summer's activities and discuss a more concrete plan about the most southern site for the next bidding round which will be in August 2009.

Action: Shul to set next LSSC meeting in March 2009.