

BEST-BSIERP Science Advisory Board teleconference

Thursday 1 October 2009, 1000-1200 Alaska time

In attendance: Mike Sigler, Carin Ashjian, Rodger Harvey, Mike Lomas, Jeff Napp, Phyllis Stabeno, Tom Van Pelt, Francis Wiese, and Bill Wiseman.

Agenda:

1. Cruise planning (15 minutes)
2. PI meeting (45 minutes)
 - a. Organize "small" group meetings (3) for Wednesday morning of the PI meeting (need facilitator; draft agenda: 1) nominate discussion topics, 2) prioritize discussion topics, 3) begin discussion; don't forget the stop sign after two hours)
 - b. Synthesis meeting approach (on Thursday afternoon) (45 minutes)
 - c. Meso-scale talks at PI meeting.
3. Synthesis meetings in 2010-2012 (presentation of program results) (15 minutes)
Strawman synthesis approach (item 2b.)
 1. Papers form pyramid, with project-level papers at the base, an overall synthesis at the peak, and meso-scale papers in between
 2. Structure synthesis around hypotheses (rather than trophic levels)
 3. Small groups build pieces using concept mapping
 4. Open door for participants with clear expectations (time commitment)
 5. Track manuscripts at project, meso-scale, and overall synthesis levels - red, yellow, green light
 6. Concrete outcome from this PI meeting (organization of intermediate level papers from meso-scale talks; plan for 3rd PI meeting)

Meeting notes:

1. Cruise planning

Current status of 2010 spring and summer cruise scheduling: the *Thompson* has our cruises on its schedule, for 7 May through 12 June (spring cruise) and 15 June through 14 July (summer).

Two serious problems with those dates: (1) the spring cruise has almost no calendar overlap with previous two field seasons, severely compromising the original study design; the (2) with only two days between cruises, it will be very difficult for PI's to staff full scientific crews for both cruises.

There was some hope that UNOLS may be able to shift the spring schedule earlier by up to two weeks, meaning the spring cruise could begin ca. 25-28 April.

Carin is leading the effort to communicate our needs and priorities with UNOLS and ship superintendents. Bill noted that Renee Crain is informed and will be working the issue from her end.

UNOLS meets on 13-14 October, so we should have an answer by the time cruise planning meeting is held at the PI meeting in Girdwood.

The group also noted that it would be good to consider trimming a couple of days off the front end of the summer cruise IF those days could be used to extend the spring cruise.

2. PI meeting

2a. Organize "small" group meetings for Wednesday morning of the PI meeting:

Phyllis, Rodger, and Mike Sigler "volunteered" to facilitate the three groups. Following the summary Tuesday talks, they'll come up with a list of issues, data gaps, etc. that might need to be addressed in small groups. They'll present these lists at the outset of small group meetings as a starting point for discussion to get things moving quickly. The session should focus on cross-cutting issues; more detailed issues can be targeted at the second phase (post-stop sign) of small group meetings, after the break, when new groups can form as needed.

On Thursday morning, we'll add in 15 minutes for Sigler and Rodger to circle back to previous day's discussions, reporting any key points from each group that might be shared in plenary. Sigler pointed out that the small group meetings are intended as an opportunity for communication among the groups, so clear "outcomes" are not expected and may not occur, but we want to have a chance to report any that do emerge.

We discussed the reporting: the SAB needs to make a clear statement at the Tuesday morning intro, telling PIs that we'll expect a brief report of the activity and outcomes of each of the breakout groups. The SAB will list the breakouts sessions, and will ask each group to self-organize note-takers and one individual responsible to deliver small group meeting notes to Tom within a reasonable timeframe.

2b. Synthesis meeting approach (on Thursday afternoon)

Sigler presented a strawman approach for synthesis, and the SAB discussed the strawman:

Strawman synthesis approach

1. Papers form pyramid, with project-level papers at the base, an overall synthesis at the peak, and meso-scale papers in between. SAB concurred with this.
2. Structure synthesis around hypotheses (rather than trophic levels). SAB concurred on this, although Rodger and others pointed out that modeling projects are only loosely based on the project hypotheses so in some dimensions this structure may not be clearcut.
3. Small groups build pieces using concept mapping over the coming year to 1.5 years. SAB concurred with this. It was agreed that we can use the meso-scale talks as an avenue to steer teams toward meso-scale papers. Tom will send around an article describing concept mapping that may be a useful tool to help meso-scale teams communicate, and especially to help teams communicate across the project as we work towards overall synthesis. [Sigler and NPRB folks have followed up on this and we'll talk more about it at the SAB meeting in Girdwood.]
4. Open door for participants with clear expectations. SAB concurred that synthesis participation should be open door, but that expectations are difficult to define, as is authorship criteria. Agreed that each group will define their own synthesis approach and authorship, and acknowledged that there are different approaches in BEST and BSIERP. Noted that SAB positions on this topic need to be consistent with the Management Plan language. Agreed on a statement: "All BEST-BSIERP participants are welcome to join

synthesis process; however, to carry the process through to authorship will require a commitment of time and effort.”

5. Track manuscripts at project, meso-scale, and overall synthesis levels - red, yellow, green light. SAB concurred on this.

6. Concrete outcome from this PI meeting (organization of intermediate level papers from meso-scale talks; plan for 3rd PI meeting). SAB concurred. Also noted that “headlines” based on summary talks should again be used as a key outcome; SAB should promote and inform about this at the PI meeting introduction, to motivate the PIs, and to formalize the use of “headlines” and ensure better participation (last year we wound up asking for headlines after the PI meeting, and had to do a fair amount of cajoling to get them). This year’s headlines will be built from the meso-scale talks; they will be meso-scale headlines. Sigler suggested that the AMSS meeting would be used to provide a summary talk (Sigler and Harvey) which would update the community on BEST-BSIERP progress.

2c: Meso-scale talk “uptake” is going well. Some concerns yet to be resolved but PIs seem to be buying into the approach. Of the 17 talks, all except two have designated speakers.

3: postponed.

Other business:

Ocean Sciences Bering Sea Special Session (OSBSSS): Sigler and Rodger are encouraging abstract submissions; Rodger will send around a reminder. Rodger reported on his trip to Korea, where information about BEST-BSIERP was very well received, and he learned a bit of fresh info about the new Korean icebreaker.

Next meeting:

12 October, 6 pm – ?? Alaska time, at a Girdwood restaurant TBD