

**All-PI Winter 2006 Coweeta Meeting, 5-6 January
Coweeta Conference Center, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory**

Attending

Dean Anderson	Barry Clinton	Brian Kloeppe	Scott Pearson
Fred Benfield	Kitty Elliott	Jennifer Knoepp	Cathy Pringle
Paul Bolstad	Ted Gragson	David Leigh	Kitti Reynolds
Mark Bradford	Ron Hendrick	Lee Ogden	Mark Scott
Jim Clark			Jim Vose
			Dave Wear

General Comments

There was a good turnout for the meeting, good food and good cheer. The main topic was the discussion about getting the forecasting portion of the project going. Following are meeting highlights.

The energy and effort that went into preparing for the NSF Mid-Term Review in June 2005 has paid off. As noted by Henry Gholz in his cover letter to the review, “The review team was clearly very impressed by both the continued on-site, as well as the increasingly off-site and regional, productivity and impact of CWT research.” That said the report does provide several points to be addressed between now and the renewal that must be submitted February 1, 2008 – just over 2 years away. In practical terms, this means that what we do (and don’t do) from here forward will have a determining effect on what the Coweeta LTER looks like by the time of our renewal. The decisions we make at this point in the project are decisions we will have to live with for better or for worse.

Henry closes his letter by stating that “Coweeta is clearly an important member of the LTER network, unique with its focus on integrating regional social processes with the long historical excellence of collaborative, basic hydrological and ecological research.” The clear implication is that Coweeta holds a leadership position within the network, “unique with its focus...”, and we want to continue to build on this advantage in order to meet the stated expectation that the “impact...should only increase.”

An important step toward demonstrating continued progress in anticipation of the renewal was the presentation by Jim Vose on behalf of Wayne Swank of the outline for the WS7 synthesis volume titled *Recovery of Ecosystem Structure and Function from Commercial Clearcutting in the Southern Appalachians*. The book outline contains 16 chapters of which Wayne has 10 completed first drafts and 5 partially completed drafts. The 16th chapter is the conclusion that has yet to be written. Wayne’s plan is to finish the book prospectus and submit it to Oxford Press by January 31, 2006.

Much of the meeting was taken up with discussion about the steps necessary to initiate and carry out the forecasting effort – Initiative 3 in the current proposal. Some progress was made last year in thinking through the carbon component of a forecast model in anticipation of hiring a post-doc who could develop the model within a hierarchical Bayesian framework. We were not successful in hiring a post-doc last year, but this remains the preferred strategy. Jim Clark is interviewing

another candidate the end of January. Because it is now time to develop the forecasting dimension to the Coweeta LTER in anticipation of the renewal, several alternatives were discussed in the eventuality that the interview at the end of January does not lead to a hire.

Irrespective of who might provide the relevant expertise to assist in developing the forecasting model, a decision was reached as to what the next steps are to be taken. Three modules will be developed by working groups organized at the meeting: A carbon module (J. Clark), a total suspended sediment module (D. Leigh), and a social forces module (T. Gragson). Each module will not only discuss the purpose and intent of the module, but also the specific datasets (on hand or to be obtained) needed to operationalize the module. A framework/prospectus will then be developed to present the logic, rationale and approach to be followed in developing the overall forecasting effort. The development of this prospectus will culminate in the Summer Coweeta meeting.

The Summer Coweeta meeting was scheduled for June 27-29 (Tuesday-Thursday) and will tentatively consist of a 1-day workshop and 1-2 days of presentations. The workshop would provide the opportunity to finalize the forecasting prospectus and begin working through the details of the actual development of the model. The presentations would serve to bring everyone up to date both on the research that has been carried out in the last two years (that attention on the Mid-Term Review has forced to take second place) as well as the specifics for implementing the forecasting module.

Miscellaneous Reports

- Brian Kloeppe discussed the importance of acknowledging NSF funding to the Coweeta LTER in publications. The support for research that flows from NSF to the Coweeta LTER comes in many direct and indirect forms that can easily be overlooked or taken for granted: vehicles and the fuel they use, storage and sample sorting space in the wet lab, T-1 access, meeting space in the conference center, and the bed you sleep in while staying at the residence. Please see the following web link for the suggested format for the acknowledgment and the appropriate NSF award number:

<http://coweeta.ecology.uga.edu/webdocs/1/pubscriter.html>

Without this or a similar citation in papers, your publications cannot be included in the Coweeta LTER annual reports to NSF.

- When publications are available, please forward a PDF of the publication to Kathy Flowers or Brian Kloeppe to insure they are included in the Coweeta USFS Annual Attainment Report. The publications will then be forwarded to Renee' Baughens for inclusion in the online citation and publication archive on the Coweeta LTER website.
- The LTER Network All Scientists Meeting will be held September 20-23, 2006 in Estes Park, Colorado. (The travel days are September 19 and 24.) There is a call for workshops that is open until February 15, 2006. For details go to the following website:

<http://www.lternet.edu/asm/2006/>

Some funding will be available for each site from the LTER Network Office to help cover travel to the meeting, but no details on this will be available for several months.

- The NSF Mid-Term Site review notes that the Coweeta data policy does not conform to the LTER Network Data Policy. Data should be accessible two years after data collection has ended rather than three years that we have used up to now. In the case of long-term data sets, only the last two years of data may be kept private. In addition, our current metadata is uneven in quality. We are on notice that we need to improve our “adherence to network-wide policies” and our compliance will be evaluated at renewal since Henry’s letter and the review are provided to the renewal panel. Take time to verify the quality of any metadata you have submitted and the submission of data by the date originally promised. Barrie Collins will also be auditing the Coweeta data holdings over the next several weeks and will contact you with requests for metadata and data as needed.
- A preliminary discussion may be held at the Summer Coweeta meeting about the topic and purpose of the renewal in 2008. In anticipation of this, a link to several ongoing and relevant efforts will be provided (e.g., Ecological Grand Challenges, NEON, LTER Planning Grant) to help frame our ideas in light of “big questions.” In addition, participants will be asked to provide a list of one sentence titles for topics of interest to them.