

**All-PI Winter 2004 Coweeta Meeting, 6-7 January**  
**Coweeta Conference Center, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory**

**Attending**

Paul Bolstad	Ted Gragson	Jennifer Knoepp	Mark Scott
Jim Clark	Bruce Haines	Dave Newman	Monica Turner
Barry Clinton	Gene Helfman	Scott Pearson	Jim Vose
Dave Coleman	Mark Hunter	Cathy Pringle	Dave Wear
Kitty Elliott	Ryan Kirk	Kitti Reynolds	Jack Webster
Ned Gardiner	Brian Kloeppe	Mark Riedel	

**General Comments**

There was a good turnout for the meeting, hearty snacks made available by Kathy Flowers and a deli lunch organized by Brian Kloeppe. There was ample opportunity for people to discuss and organize the details of the upcoming field season and plan for the visit of our External Advisory Board at the summer meeting. We also had a showing of *Waters of Coweeta*, an original Forest Service film from the 50s describing the first 20 years of research at Coweeta -- order your very own copy on DVD. Following are meeting highlights.

**External Advisory**

This summer we will have our first external advisory board visit. The objective is to have three to five scientists with the range of disciplines appropriate to evaluate the breadth of the Coweeta LTER research program. As in years past, we will charge them to review our progress and provide us with written scientific and organizational guidance in preparation for our mid-term NSF review that will probably take place summer 2005. As such, we will ask the external advisors to follow as closely as possible the NSF Guidelines for site reviews that state,

LTER site reviews are conducted to provide mid-term guidance and advice to sites, keeping in mind that sites will be starting the preparation of proposals for the renewal competition to be held two years from the time of the review. While the preferred organizational format follows the sections of the proposal, it is not intended to be a “cookie-cutter” template for material to be supplied to review team participants. There are five overall review criteria for evaluation of each proposal/program. The primary criterion will be scientific merit, which also has a component of network participation and synthesis activities (collectively these two essentially comprise NSF’s Review Criterion 1). Information management and technology, site management (including personnel, fiscal, collaborative, and logistical issues), and education/outreach are also important aspects of all LTER programs to be addressed in reviews, with the latter explicitly addressing NSF’s Review Criterion 2, or “Broader Impacts.” Each of these five criteria are evaluated with respect to quality, productivity and impact.

The 2004 All Summer Coweeta Meeting will be combined with the visit by our external advisory board to give us an opportunity to pull together the research initiatives and themes we outline in our 2002 proposal. The general plan to be refined over the next several months is to hold a 2-day meeting at Coweeta during the last two weeks of June. The tentative dates are:

June 22-23 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

June 23-24 (Wednesday-Thursday)

June 29-30 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

The organization of the meeting will be:

**Day 1, morning:** 3-5 synthetic talks 20-30 minutes in length that specifically address the purpose and accomplishments of Initiatives 1-3 (i.e., Characterization of the Socio-Natural Template; Ecosystem Responses to Variation in the Socio-Natural Template; and Forecasting Ecosystem Responses to Variation in the Socio-Natural Template).

**Day 1, afternoon:** visits to research sites in and beyond the Coweeta basin.

**Day 1, evening:** student poster session – PIs are strongly encouraged to strongly encourage their students to prepare posters for this occasion. Like last year, there will be a prize – additional research funding – for to the best poster.

**Day 2, morning:** students, PIs and Science Advisory group meet with individuals and the External Advisory board to answer questions.

**Day 2, afternoon:** External Advisory Board members spend the afternoon writing-up their comments before leaving.

It may be advisable to have the External Advisory board spend half a day in Athens as well, but this will be decided at a later date once their arrival-departure schedules are worked out. The following list of candidates was developed at the All PI meeting; numbers indicate preference among alternates:

1. Ottar Bjornstad (Penn State University)
2. Gary Lovett (Institute of Ecosystem Studies)
3. David Foster (Harvard Forest)
4. Tim Schowalter (Oregon State University)

1. Nancy Grimm (Arizona State University)
2. Margaret Palmer (University of Maryland)

1. Emilio Moran (Indiana University)
2. Charles Redman (Arizona State University)

1. Scott Collins (University of New Mexico)

1. A Forest Service person (e.g., Jim Sedell)

The final membership and dates for the summer meeting/external advisory board visit will be set based on willingness to serve and availability of potential board members. Alan Covich as the new director of The Institute of Ecology at UGA should be extended an invitation to attend as well. We may also want to invite Mark Bradford and Emily Bernhart as individuals who might be interested in ultimately joining the research group.

### **Science Advisory Meeting**

The Science Advisory Committee met Tuesday evening to discuss several issues that were reported the following day to the entire group. These include plans to instrument several weirs

in the Coweeta Basin so that data is uploaded to the GOES satellite and thus available in real-time. In addition, the possibility of instrumenting a transect from ridge to cove in WS14 to measure light, temperature and soil moisture will be explored. Finally, Mark Scott and Ned Gardiner have requested greater involvement in the Coweeta LTER. While they will not have co-PI status, they will be offered the opportunity to coordinate the Hazard Project and seek outside funding to expand the program.

### **Miscellaneous Reports**

- The efficiency of putting on line an interactive map displaying the location of all research sites within and beyond the Coweeta Basin will be explored. This would help determine the status of metadata and geographic coordinates for completed and ongoing research. It will be important in this effort to develop a “study plan” or “metadata sheet” for off-basin sites with a minimum set of information including: names of participating investigators, project name, brief description of project, location of activities (Lat/Lon), hypothesis, and measurements.
- Citations for published work should go on line as soon as received.
- Decision required on whether to discontinue email on Sparc (Botany no longer uses Squirrel mail, which Coweeta was testing).
- PIs would like to receive a message when their data is downloaded/used; it should also be logged in the web stats.
- An instrument will be prepared to elicit information from co-PIs for the NSF annual report.
- Dave Newman reported on some problems he ran into with the Upper Cullasaja Watershed Association while implementing a willingness-to-pay survey.
- Brian Kloepfel will distribute a list of CWT property to all co-PIs for updating the status of the inventory.
- Although nothing has changed yet, UGA may modify its insurance policy so that only UGA-employees may drive vehicles. This would affect use of the Coweeta four-wheel drive vehicles by PIs and students from Virginia Tech, Duke, Mars Hill, UNC Asheville, and U of Minnesota.
- There are a total of 8 different supplemental funding opportunities this year; the full list with details on submitting will be circulated.
- A small group met on Monday before the regular meeting to begin discussion of how to develop a forecasting framework. Additional information will be available by the summer meeting.