

**ESSC Meeting, May 8-9, 2008  
Boulder, CO**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **\*\*\*Action Items**

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Boulder, CO**

**Present: Kaye Shedlock, Anne Meltzer, Goran Ekstrom, Anne Trehu, Jim Davis, Pricilla Grew, Mike Williams, Bill Holt, Chris LeBoeuf**

**Randy Keller and Terry Plank joined by telecom for part of Friday's meeting.**

### **Thursday May 8**

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#### **1. Discussion of EarthScope science goals and building the EarthScope community – Short-term and Long-term:**

Each member of the ESSC summarized what were, in their view, the primary challenges facing EarthScope as it moves from the facilities construction to the operations and maintenance phase. A general consensus emerged that EarthScope will be defined by the work that comes out as EarthScope "products." It needs to make results based on EarthScope program funding or on data acquired by EarthScope broadly available in a form that is of most use to the research and education communities. This includes publicizing publications via the newsletter and web site, developing tools for general use to visualize data and models derived from the data, and developing teaching tools based on EarthScope data. EarthScope needs to identify and broaden its constituency. An analogy was made to the IPY (international polar year), which made individuals feel that their work as part of a larger whole. There was some discussion about whether an EarthScope "implementation plan" should be developed, similar to the implementation plan developed for E&O. Several ESSC members pointed out the difficulty of doing this given the investigator-driven nature of EarthScope research. There was also discussion of the possibility of using EarthScope as a concept to revitalize basic Earth Science courses at the undergraduate level.

#### **2. Discussion of EarthScope communications:**

##### **2.1 Newsletter:**

The ESSC recommended staying with a 4-page quarterly newsletter that is an outgrowth of the current onSite newsletter. OnSite was originally designed as an outreach tools to inform landowners of EarthScope developments and was produced by IRIS and UNAVCO. The transition to a newsletter designed for a broader audience and edited by ESNO with major contributions from IRIS and UNAVCO (including production of the newsletter for FY09 by

IRIS) has begun. The Winter 08 issue highlighted SAFOD. For the June 08 issue, space allocated to facilities updates will be decreased to a single page and the science content will be expanded to include a few short "science updates" in addition to a "science highlight" on the SNEP experiment with an introduction to the flexible arrays in the "letter" from ESNO. The June issue will also contain short feature on ESNO workshops. In general, use of web links will increase. We also discussed how to expand the mailing list (UNAVCO and IRIS currently mail the newsletter only to landowners).

*\*\*\*ESNO will get NSF's science mailing list. This list will be reviewed and used as a starting point. List will be expanded via web sign-in.*

## **2.2 Web site:**

(Brian Blackman, EarthScope web manager, was not able to attend; Adrian Borsa and Mike Jackson discussed UNAVCO's contribution to the web site)

Discussion began with a status report on the EarthScope Portal project at UCSD. The portal is now undergoing alpha-testing by members of the Portal development team. The next step is beta-testing by a selected group of scientists.

The Google-based tool for viewing the SAFOD core and requesting/viewing requests was also presented. This was developed by Brian in consultation with Steve Hickman.

ESSC members discussed the need to have access to EarthScope results ASAP and the need for an interim means to do this as the portal is developed. This can be as simple a web page containing links to "resources and data products," some of which will be developed by ESNO and the facilities; others will be developed by individual researchers.

There was some discussion about whether

*\*\*\*ESNO will implement a web page on "Resources and Data Products" that will contain slide and poster templates and links to EarthScope data products and related on line databases. The initial version of this page should be on the web site by the end of June.*

## **Speaker series:**

Speaker series is underway with a cohort of 5 "EarthScope Speakers" who cover a wide range of EarthScope science. A call for applications was sent out in winter 08 via several email list-servers, flyers at fall AGU, and ads in EOS, GSA Today and Geotimes. Most applicants learned of the program via email or flyers. The 5 speakers have been asked to continue through the 08-09 academic year, at which time speakers will rotate with academic calendar. ESSC suggested posting talks on the web site.

*\*\*\*A second call for applications will go out in early fall to fill the spring 09 schedule. ESNO will contact speakers for permission to post talks on the web. Speaker itineraries will also be posted.*

## **3. ESNO update:**

ESNO staffing level was summarized (Director at 0.35 fte; E&O Manager at 0.35 fte; staff scientist at 0.35 fte; postdoc at 0.5 fte; office manager at 0.3 fte). In general, the director and staff scientist are concerned primarily with science planning and development of EarthScope science products whereas the E&O manager and postdoc focus on outreach. However, these boundaries are informal and flexible, with the director and staff scientist providing scientific review of outreach products. Travel to workshops and meetings is shared among the 4 science staff. Several ESSC members expressed concern that the ESNO was understaffed given the scope of the job that needs to be done.

#### **4. Facility transition to Operations and Maintenance (O&M):**

Discussion of SAFOD sample policy. Need to inform the ES community about the policy via the listserv, with a link to the full policy on the web. Need to ensure that all 98 PIs who have requested samples are notified. Criteria for selection need to be very clear.

*\*\*\* Shedlock (or someone else???) will prepare letter to the community, which will be distributed via the listserv.*

#### **5. EarthScope funding and advocacy/next ESSC meeting:**

New leadership at GEO and EAR. There will also be new leadership on a national level in January. EarthScope needs to be proactive about letting new people know what we are doing. Suggestion was made to have fall meeting at NSF and to invite new NSF officials to address the meeting.

*\*\*\*Shedlock will investigate room availability at NSF.*

*\*\*\*LeBoeuf will set up doodle for scheduling fall meeting and monthly conference call.*

#### **6, EarthScope Proposal Guidelines:**

Any changes for FY10 need to be passed on to NSF by the end of October.

*\*\*\*Include this in fall meeting agenda, and include current RFP in pre-meeting materials.*

#### **7. Update from the Education and Outreach Subcommittee:**

Grew presented a progress report on the EEOSC accomplishments in following the EarthScope Education and Outreach Implementation Plan. In March 2007 the EEOSC approved a workplan of selected activities from the Implementation Plan for focus in 2007-2008. Grew reported on the activities including the Speaker Series, outreach publications, and training workshops. The ESSC complimented the EEOSC on their progress and said that this is a good example of the benefits of working within the framework of a detailed Implementation Plan. The EEOSC will meet May 18 in Corvallis and transition to new membership with Jim Davis as the new Chair.

## **8. Role of the Thematic Working Groups:**

Populating the thematic working groups is almost complete. This meeting provided an opportunity to better define their role. Much of the work of these groups will be focused on their web sites. Suggestion was made that TWGs should be open to all interested parties with two co-chairs appointed to act as "blog managers." A suggestion was also made to invite some TWG chairs to the fall meeting. Biennial workshop in 2009 will include meeting time for TWGs followed by reports to the community on TWG objectives.

## **Friday May 9**

### **9. Cyberinfrastructure:**

Alpha-testing of portal is underway. Discussion among the EarthScope Cyberinfrastructure Subcommittee (ECISC) have also begun and the ECISC is thinking about data products. Included in these discussions are discussions of a common format for tomography volumes. ESSC reiterated the need to get some sort of data products on line ASAP – "we can't wait for the perfect tool." ECISC chair requested suggestions for products from ESSC. ESSC also discussed the need to coordinate EarthScope CI efforts with other geoinformatics efforts, like GEON. It was pointed out that there already are documents outlining data products needs for USArray and PBO. These need to be summarized and updated. There is an urgent need to set up a data products "clearinghouse" ASAP. EarthScope-funded investigators may need prodding to get their results on the database.

It was suggested that liaisons from USArray, PBO, ESNO (and SAFOD?) be included in ECISC discussions. A data products workshop, organized by ECISC with ESNO help, will probably be planned for 2009. In addition, the ESNO will be represented at an IRIS DMS standing committee meeting focused on IRIS data products in fall 2008.

*\*\*\*Trehu and Davis will summarize existing USArray and PBO data products reports. This will provide a basis for further planning and discussions of data products with the facilities.*

*\*\*\*ESNO will launch a "Resources" page by the end of June along with a letter soliciting feedback and contributions. This page will have links to presentation templates, logos, background slides, and derived data products (either locally installed or through links to other sites).*

### **8bis. Thematic Working Groups (cont.):**

It was suggested that a primary task be to generate a 1-page summary each year summarizing progress towards the overarching science goals of the TWG. They should also recommend topics for thematic workshops and special sessions at national meetings. There was also discussion of overlap among TWGs; individuals can participate in several groups.

Note: I am not sure whether we reached a consensus on a detailed process to move this forward. My understanding is that we decided on an open structure, in which there are two co-chairs for each TWG but anyone can join in the discussions. Are there any specific actions for these co-chairs prior to the 2009 workshops (e.g. a 2008 status report)? One possible way of jump-starting this might be to finalize naming co-chairs this summer and then put out a general call to the community to submit their views on the major unanswered science questions, challenges, and important recent results for each theme. The co-chairs could be tasked with summarizing this material to generate the 2008 status reports. Should we discuss this during the June conference call?

#### **10. EarthScope publications list:**

Need comprehensive list of references to papers using EarthScope data. Have facilities staff search literature for keywords to develop initial list. ESNO will maintain the list based on contributions from researchers, with period additions from database searches.

Identify and publicize relevant papers at national and international meetings.

*\*ESNO will request initial list from facilities and review it. This list should be posted on the web site.*

#### **11. Collaboration with IRIS, UNAVCO and SAFOD science communities:**

There is a lot of overlap with these communities. Are informal contacts enough or should there be ex-officio members of the ESSC from the steering committees of these groups? General conclusion was that formal ex-officio members were not needed. Minutes of meetings should be shared between groups and members of other groups should be invited to ESSC meetings as appropriate.

#### **12. Update on 2009 National Meeting:**

Meeting will be in Boise, ID on May 13-15, 2009, with pre-meeting mini-workshops and field trips prior to the meeting. Program committee has had a conference call to develop a meeting outline. Session convenors will be identified and will refine the session themes and invite speakers. One afternoon will be devoted to TWG discussions, followed the next morning by TVF discussions in a plenary session the following day. IRIS will take care of logistics. Linn (IRIS) and Trehu have visited the conference site.

*\*\*\*Planning committee should schedule conference call by end of June to flesh out meeting outline with specific themes and suggested session convenors. This plan can be discussed during July ESSC conference call.*

#### **Other meetings:**

IGC08: No formal EarthScope presence. Will publicize EarthScope-related presentations.

GSA08: 2 EarthScope-related sessions. Abstract deadline June 3. Room has been reserved through GSA for an informal reception/town hall meeting.

AGU\_fall08: Deadline for proposing sessions is June 13. Need several EarthScope-themed sessions. Investigate options for holding a reception offsite.

See EEOSC minutes for a list of additional meetings.

Booths: EarthScope booth will be flanked by IRIS and UNAVCO booths at both meetings. Will recruit EarthScope-funded scientists to staff booths. Booth can serve as a outlet for detailed analysis of EarthScope visualizations that are not adequately displayed in talks and posters. Offer scientists this platform for showing off their data access and display tools.

\*\*\* *LeBouef to investigate off-site options at AGU.*

\*\*\* *Grew/Davis/Lillie to circulate EEOSC minutes ESSC.*