

**ESIP Federation  
Executive Committee  
October 12, 2006**

**Participants: Jeff Arnfield; Howard Burrows; Bruce Caron; Danny Hardin; Chuck Hutchinson; Tamara Ledley; Chris Lenhardt; Carol Meyer; Jami Montgomery; Rob Raskin; Dick Wertz**

I. Adoption of Minutes

Tamara Ledley made a motion to adopt the minutes as drafted. Bruce Caron seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Review of Procedures for Policy and Position Statements

Carol Meyer provided an overview of the procedures document. The document was edited to pull out the procedures, leaving behind the overview. It was noted that only 2 sets of comments were received, with one set providing only non-substantive wording changes.

The Executive Committee noted that the Assembly would not be required to approve the procedures, but will be briefed about the new procedures at the next Assembly meeting. There was little discussion on the draft with Howard Burrows noting that adopting such a set of procedures is a big departure for a data science group.

Tamara Ledley made a motion to adopt the procedures as drafted. Jami Montgomery seconded the motion. The motion carried, with only one vote in opposition.

III. Electronic Geophysical Year Declaration

Carol Meyer presented the Electronic Geophysical Year Declaration to the Committee, noting that an in-depth discussion had taken place during a previous telecon.

Howard Burrows spoke about the Declaration limiting what commercial partners might be able to do. Others noted that they did not view the Declaration as hostile to commercial interests. Jeff Arnfield noted that Article 2 of the Declaration spoke about respecting intellectual property rights, implicitly embracing the notion that commercial interests have a role to play.

Dick Wertz suggested that the letter of endorsement for the Declaration could contain a statement noting that the Executive Committee understands that commercial interests are compatible with the intent of the Declaration.

Tamara Ledley made a motion to endorse the Declaration, with a statement about partner commercial interests being compatible with the Declaration. Chris Lenhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. STRATEGIC PARTNER AFFAIRS

- Unsolicited proposal sent to NASA Earth Data Systems and Applied Sciences Divisions for continuation funding for the Federation. Emphasis on issue area

working group development, Earth Information Exchange implementation and maintenance of Secretariat support services.

- Working with NASA and EPA to develop a framework for Federal/ ESIP collaboration in advancing the air quality and water resources working groups and USGEO near-term opportunities.
- Working with EPA on the development of a funding structure for a Strategic Partnership arrangement.
- Working with NOAA and NASA on the sharing of ESG portal technology to advance the development of the NIDIS (National Integrated Drought Information System) portal.
- Working with USGS and the ESIP Water Management Working Group on joint technical assistance effort in the Shenandoah River Basin. USGS will be invited to send observers to the Winter Meeting. Outreach to USGS policy level being planned.

#### B. FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS

- The NASA Applied Sciences Division has proposed that all Decisions 04/ROSES065-Decisions awardees be invited to become members of the Federation. Invitations to apply for membership are being prepared. 15-20 new members projected.
- The EPA has funded 17 internal GEOSS air and water projects which would fit in nicely in our issue area working group activities. 15 new members projected when EPA becomes a Strategic Partner.
- USGS has several science groups (hydrology, geography, etc.) that are now working with the ESIP Water Resources Working Group that fit our membership requirements. 5 new members projected.

#### C. EARTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- First prototype portlet based upon NASA Earth Science Gateway technology is operational and available for use by the Air Quality Working Group. The portlet will be housed on a server located at George Mason University and linked to the new ESIP website. A Water Resources portlet will be developed as soon as the Air Quality prototype has been fully tested.
- Phase I of the new ESIP website should be operational by the end of October. Website will serve as a gateway to the Federation's EIE portal and its issue area portlets.
- Working with Geospatial One Stop to link new issue area portlets to the ESIP Community within GOS as the portlets come online.
- Next EIE Portal Working Group meeting will be held on November 13th at the University of Maryland.

#### D. ISSUE AREA WORKING GROUPS

- Issue area working group chair/technology committee meeting planned for November 13 at the University of Maryland to identify topics for web services chaining (and other technology) demonstrations for the Winter Meeting. Aim is to focus the issue area working groups on priority topics and highlight the unique collaborative IT technology development capability of the ESIP network.
- Water Management Working Group working with a 15 county planning committee in the Shenandoah River Basin to develop decision making tools for local elected officials. Ideal testbed for the ESIP issue area working group approach.

Opportunity to coordinate the delivery of NASA, NOAA, EPA and USGS technical assistance resources to a real set of end users.

- NIDIS Steering Committee (drought portal; primarily NOAA based) has been invited to operate as a de facto ESIP issue area working group for content development purposes. Is working with USGS technology development group to develop a demonstration for the Winter Meeting that would allow the fusing of information from a number of existing, pre-selected drought portals in a Google mapping environment.

#### E. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

- Chuck Hutchinson, Tom Yunck, John Towshend and Dick Wertz have been invited to represent the ESIP Federation at a meeting in Beijing, China to explore opportunities for collaboration between Chinese and American scientists involved in the use of Earth observation information for Earth science purposes. The ESIP delegation will meet with top remote sensing scientists and information technology specialists from all over China at Beijing Normal University on October 23-35, 2006 to brief them on the purposes and organizational structure of the Federation of Earth Science Information Partners and to discuss the possibility of establishing a similar community-of-practice in China that the US federation can work with on a long-term basis. The delegation also expects to meet with Chinese Minister of Science Xu to exchange views on our common interest in bringing Earth observation resources to bear on our planet's serious environmental problems.

#### F. Winter Meeting Update

- Winter meeting agenda development well underway. The meeting will feature the matching of Federation partner technologies with needs by the issue area working groups. Speaker invitations have been issued. The meeting website will go live by October 20.

#### IV. Other Business

- a. Next week, an electronic vote on the Membership Working Group Recommendations will be put forward. The required 60-days have passed.
- b. The ESIP Federation has a new Products and Services Chair, Jeff Arnfield of NOAA/NCDC. ([jeff.arnfield@noaa.gov](mailto:jeff.arnfield@noaa.gov)) His chairmanship will also be presented on the ballot with the membership working group recommendations.
- c. The Executive Committee's next telecon will be November 9, 2006.