

**Quarterly Notes for the Science Coordinating Committee
Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study
October 10, 2016**

(Note: At the July meeting, the SCC agreed to meet monthly in order to provide timely coordination of research activities. To contain the reporting burden, the SCC will provide composite notes of the meetings at each quarter)

Notes below include two meetings:

SCC Meeting August 1, 2016

In attendance (via teleconference): John Battles, Pam Templer, Anthea Lavallee, Ivan Fernandez, Lynn Christenson, Gary Lovett

Not present: John Campbell and Melany Fisk

SCC Meeting September 28, 2016

In attendance: John Battles (phone), Pam Templer, Anthea Lavallee, Ivan Fernandez (phone), Lynn Christenson, Gary Lovett, John Campbell, Lindsey Rustad, Chris Woodall

Not present: Melany Fisk, Lynn Christenson

1. The following scientists were added to the COS by unanimous vote of the SCC:

Ms. Sarah Garlick

Director of Science Policy and Outreach, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation

Dr. Jenny Talbot

Assistant Professor of Microbial Ecology at Boston University

Dr. Joseph Staples

Lecturer in Environmental Science, University of Southern Maine

2. Two at large seats on the SCC expire in April 2017: Lynn Christenson and John Battles. John Campbell in his role as USFS representative will oversee the election process. As in the last SCC election, voting will again be done online via Survey Monkey. Expect the call for nominations in January 2017.

3. The SCC agreed to offer a standing invite to the USFS leadership (Lindsey Rustad and Chris Woodall) and LTER leadership (Peter Groffman) to participate on the SCC as *ex officio* members. Note that the USFS is formally represented by a voting member (John Campbell) as is the LTER (Gary Lovett). The decision was an effort to maximize communication among all elements of the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study.

4. The SCC continued the discussion of the evolution of the Hubbard Brook Cooperator's Meeting. The response to the change in format which featured variable length talks with longer breaks and occasional discussion periods was positive. In particular we thank Scott Bailey for taking on the complicated planning task and timing all the talks during the 2016 meeting. This format will be retained for 2017. The SCC noted that the success of the Cooperator's

Meeting poses logistical challenges. We had over 200 participants this year — a number which taxes USFS facilities and limits our flexibility in scheduling. To accommodate the larger meeting while keeping it as affordable and inclusive as possible, several recommendations were discussed:

- Set an earlier deadline for registration. Include an early-bird discount. The earlier deadline will help with food planning.
- The goal is to have the schedule finalized and shared a month before the meeting. To achieve this goal, abstract submission deadlines will be firm.
- Given our size and diversity, we are considering having name tags. The goal is to make the meeting as inclusive as possible and name tags will help visitors and new members participate and get to know everyone.
- In an effort to reduce the burden on USFS, we discussed recruiting students (including graduate students) to help with set up and logistics.
- To quicken the lunch line, SCC is considering replacing the buffet with bagged lunches. Cost is an issue.
- We decided against live-streaming future meetings.
- SCC Co-Chairs agreed to oversee the organization of the meeting in an effort to minimize the burden on the person who volunteers to make the cooperator meeting schedule.
- Need to consider capping enrollment if demand continues to grow.

5. SCC discussed the state of collaboration and communication at Hubbard Brook. The goal is to foster an intellectually dynamic and inclusive community of scientists. SCC agreed to draft guiding principles based on long-standing practice at Hubbard Brook. Drafts will be shared at future COS for comment/revision.

6. Upcoming Meetings

January 3-4, 2017 at the Cary Institute

Tentative topics

Synthesis of N dynamics in foliage

Retrospective of LTER proposal writing process

Initiative one of the five LTER proposal synthesis activities

April 5, 2017 COS at Cary Institute

Tentative topic: Measuring and managing for resilience in forest ecosystems

July 14, 2017 COS at Hubbard Brook

July 12-13, 2017: Annual Cooperator's Meeting