

4 May 2009

Minutes of the Executive Committee of COMPRES from meeting on May 1, 2009

Attending: Williams, Bass, Tyburczy, Weidner, Duffy, and Liebermann

Absent: Agee

1. Minutes/notes for the ExComm meeting of April 17, 2009.

Approved for installation on website.

2. Review and decisions on equipment requests from the COMPRES-supported beamlines at the NSLS and ALS

This item was tabled until next meeting on May 8 to allow time for members of the Facilities Committee to offer comments on requests.

3. New members of the Advisory Council.

Following a straw ballot among 15 nominees and discussion at the ExComm meeting on May 1, 2009, invitations were extended to Peter Heaney from Pennsylvania State University and Peter Olson from the Johns Hopkins University to serve three-year terms from 2009 to 2012.

4. Discussions of topics for visits by Quentin Williams and Bob Liebermann to DC and Arlington on April 27-28

a. EAR at NSF--meet with Bob Detrick and David Lambert, plus brief meetings with Robin Reichlin, Russ Kelz and Barbara Ransom.

Important information garnered:

Detrick very aware of COMPRES; will attend the Bretton Woods meeting and make some remarks. Offered comments on outline for Tempe report.

Lambert informs us that equipment upgrade monies will be in the form of a supplement to the COMPRES Cooperative Agreement for Year #3 and NOT tagged as ARRA funds.

Tempe report and other COMPRES items will serve as valuable input for several planned activities/programs, including a strategic plan for EAR, a new BROES report by the National Research Council of the NAS, and a new Directorate-wide initiative on "The Dynamic Earth."

In addition to higher rates of success for pending Major Research Infrastructure [MRI] proposals, there will be two RFPs for additional MRIs in 2009, most likely in May and in November with \$200M in funding available in each competition. By Congressional mandate, a 30% match is required by the proposing institutions. If more than one institution is involved in a MRI, the equipment can be eventually located at a national laboratory.

Note, by the policy of the National Science Board, NO matching funds are required for proposals to the Instrumentation and Facilities program in EAR, but matching funds are "allowed." So we are back to the "old days" when relatively generous institutions can influence the review of their proposals by offering

matching funds; not clear that there are any such generous institutions left these days.

b. IRIS HQ--meet with David Simpson.

Useful visit, but no business items.

c. DOE-BES--meet with Nick Woodward and colleagues [Helen Kerch and Pedro Montano]

A very profitable meeting, as it provided an opportunity to both thank the DOE for providing the excellent synchrotron and neutron facilities, but also to showcase the science achievements of the COMPRES users, from both the Earth sciences and materials science.

Kerch and Montano encouraged COMPRES to explore possible funding from the DOE program on Small Business Innovative Research [SBIR].

Both Kerch and Montano encouraged more users at SNAP and other neutron sources.

Montano inquired about plans for constructing beamlines at the NSLS II to fill up the 52 slots remaining after the Project Beamlines were constructed. Liebermann indicated some confusion/frustration among potential communities as a consequence of the lack to date of a long-range strategic science plan for the NSLS II.

d. Geophysical Lab--meet with Bob Hazen and colleagues (Yingwei Fei and Ron Cohen) to learn about "Deep Carbon Observatory."

Hazen or an alternate to give a keynote talk at Bretton Woods.

Pending proposal with Sloan Foundation for \$4M in funding over the next 3 years.

COMPRES can offer advice, communication devices, and help in organizing a workshop focused on new technical challenges in pursuing this deep carbon initiative.

5. Logistics for interviews of candidates for president of COMPRES on May 5, 2009.
Liebermann, Sharp, and Tyburczy to be recused.

6. Next meeting of ExComm

Tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 8 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM [East Coast time].

Please note that Williams and Liebermann [and perhaps also Tyburczy] will be at the APS for the HiPreSS Workshop on May 8.

We will schedule this meeting an hour LATER to accommodate their schedules.

Major agenda item: See #2 above.

Review and decisions on equipment upgrade requests from the operators of beamlines at the ALS and the NSLS.

