

## **Ridge 2000 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes** **St. Louis, MO** **October 3, 2009**

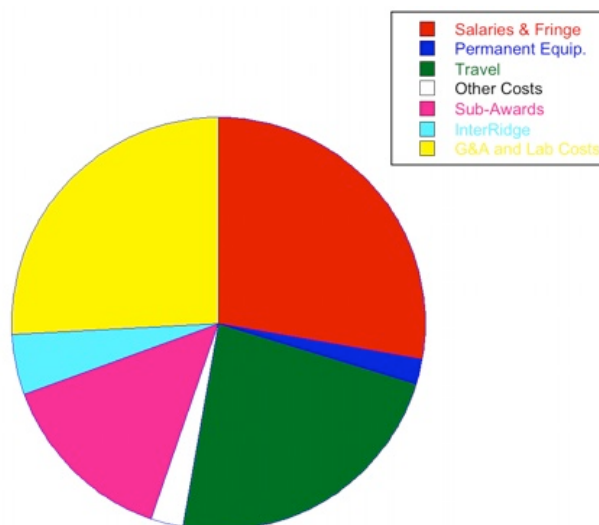
Attending: Milene Cormier, Vicki Ferrini, Dan Fornari, Dennis Geist, Kathy Gillis, Deb Kelley, Bill Lavelle, Laurent Montesi, Ken Rubin, Spahr Webb, Costa Vetriani, Rick Carlson, Barbara Ransom, Ajit Subramanian, Liz Goehring, Breea Govenaar, and Janet Moore.

Not attending: Stacy Kim, Jeff Seewald

### **Ridge 2000 Program Office summary (D. Fornari)**

*A general discussion was presented that focused on the main R2K Office activities and program oversight for the year, in order to provide the StCom, which has many new members, with an overview of the Office functions. The bullets below provide the main points that were presented.*

- The R2K Office and ExCom played a significant role in helping to facilitate the organization of the 2009 Northeast Lau Response Cruise (NELRC), in collaboration with the MARGINS office and the designated PIs (J. Resing and R. Embley). The cruise report and summary are available on both the Lau ISS and TCS web pages of the R2K website:  
<http://www.ridge2000.org/science/tcs/index.php>
- At the request of NSF, a R2K Data Compliance Plan was drafted by the R2K Office with input from the StCom and MGDS staff, and vetted by NSF in March 2009. The Plan was sent to the science community and resulted in many data submissions to the R2K Data Portal and Shore-Based Analysis Plans, which were received before April 7 R2K proposal deadline.
- There was discussion about ramping up the Integration and Synthesis Oversight Committees (ISOCs), including discussions about new ISOCs on modeling (with Lavelle and Montesi) and TCS (with Rubin and Cowen).
- The R2K website was revised and reorganized by the R2K Office staff and implemented by the MGDS/Data Portal staff at Lamont. The R2K Office now manages the website with some technical assistance from the R2K Data Portal.
- The R2K Office budget expenditures were projected to be close to those estimated in the Office proposal. Pie charts were presented to show the major budget categories, with salaries, fringe benefits and overhead expenses amounting to approximately half of the budget. Travel for R2K community meetings, including the St. Louis Workshop, represent about one-quarter of the budget, with smaller amounts for support of the US InterRidge membership and subcontracts to LDEO for the R2K Data Portal technical assistance and to Penn State Univ. for modest support for Liz Goehring's education and outreach activities related to FLEXE/GLOBE. The R2K Office submitted its first annual report to NSF, which was accepted. The FY 2010 funding is approximately the same, with a slightly higher overall travel budget.
- The R2K Office sponsored a special session at the 2008 AGU Fall Meeting, and will sponsor special sessions at the 2009 Fall AGU meeting and the 2010 Ocean Sciences meeting.



FY2009 R2K Budget - Actual - \$517,900

### **Discussion about R2K meetings in 2010 and beyond (StCom members)**

*This summary relates to a broad range of topics related to how to plan for 2010 R2K science meetings and the program advisory committee structure.*

- There was discussion about whether having one large meeting or a few smaller meetings would be most advantageous to achieve R2K program goals.
- Discussions from the St. Louis Workshop resulted in ideas about fostering smaller meetings (e.g., chemists, biologists and microbiologists; EPR-ISS group). The idea of smaller meetings was supported by the StCom
- There was a desire to keep options open for both ISS-specific and non-ISS specific R2K meetings, however, because of the I&S phase of the program and the need to integrate both across disciplines and across ISSs there was a suggestion that purely ISS centric meetings should not be a focus.
- Some smaller meetings could be organized at other larger meetings, like AGU or INVEST meeting, which could also engage researchers who are not traditionally part of the R2K community
- There was discussion about limiting R2K funds to support R2K goal-oriented meetings and to explore other sources of funds for meetings that include larger or wider community participation, such as AGU Chapman conferences, for which there are other NSF funds available.
- An important component of the StCom meeting discussion focused on whether we should allocate part (40-50%) of the R2K travel budget (~\$145k in FY2010) for a certain number of small meetings and advertise to the R2K community that requests for proposals for small meeting topics would be entertained and supported via the office funding. However, there was general agreement that having a large meeting was beneficial to stimulating many PIs and entraining new ones to work on I&S activities to accomplish program goals.
- Smaller meetings should focus on scientific accomplishments and key problems that can be addressed by R2K research and where the R2K Program can capitalize the most. Products of

small group meetings may include white papers, scientific papers, as well as high-quality articles for general science magazines (e.g., *Scientific American*).

- The StCom agreed that a group of committee members would draft guidelines for proposal submissions over the next month or so. However, it would be clear that the running of the workshop and the accomplishment of the goals would rest with the proposer(s), with selection of the awards and oversight by the StCom or ExCom.
- If interest by the proposer is focused on public outreach (i.e., a meeting with a science writer) or meeting with collaborators, a supplement could be requested by PIs to NSF via the normal annual R2K grant process.
- Format for small meeting / working group proposal requests could be similar to those organized by NCEAS (<http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/rfp/wg>) or NESCENT (<http://www.nescent.org/science/workinggroup.php>).

### **R2K NSF budget discussion and FY2009 Proposals (D. Fornari, B. Ransom, R. Carlson)**

- A list of funded R2K awards from the April 7 proposal deadline was provided by NSF and will be posted on the R2K website, similar to what has been done in previous years.
- R2K proposal project summaries were submitted by most PIs to the R2K office for information purposes and were posted on the website within 2 weeks of the April 7 deadline.
- A question was raised regarding the relative contribution of various agencies' funding of the 2009 NELRC response cruise. NSF indicated that approximately half was paid by NSF and half by NOAA.
- Approximately \$2.6 million was funded via the R2K program for research in FY2009. About half of the total R2K funding went to support previously funded programs, notably those related to recently collected geophysical data in the Lau Basin and Endeavour Segment of the Juan de Fuca Ridge. It is expected that as much as ~\$3.5 million could be available for FY2010 R2K research.
- NSF program managers voiced the expectation that PIs involved in R2K research would be compliant with data policies by January 1, 2010 leaving time for investigators to take advantage of recently released data submitted to the Data Portal in formulating their proposals for the April 2010 deadline.

### **Teleconferencing options for StCom meetings (StCom members)**

- There was discussion regarding the usefulness of having more frequent meetings by better teleconference means or in smaller groups, but the members agreed that we should still try to meet physically once per year, perhaps in conjunction with other major meetings or R2K meetings, as was done in St. Louis.
- Fornari apologized for the poor Skype performance experienced with some of the past StCom teleconferences. It was very variable and eventually not used except for small group conferences or between StCom members involved in the Workshop planning.
- WebEx, ReadyTalk, AdobeConnect are all recommended for conference call capability and sharing files. The R2K Office will review current options and present several options to the StCom to try. It will then decide on a web conference program and use it for future StCom conference call meetings. The Office will try to limit teleconference agendas to a one or two topics to facilitate the discussion.
- Planning for regularly scheduled meetings (every month or two) were discussed, but members felt it was generally better to meet when a topic needs to be addressed.

### **StCom membership rotations (StCom members)**

- Cindy Van Dover stepped down from the StCom to focus on other responsibilities. StCom members made two nominations, both of whom submitted letters of interest and CVs.
- Costa Vetriani will also rotate off the StCom, which suggests a second biologist or specifically a microbiologist should also be considered.
- StCom decided to separate the discussion about a replacement for Van Dover from the discussion about a replacement for Vetriani. After deliberation, Tim Shank (WHOI) was selected as macrofaunal biologist (unanimous support, with Fornari recused from the discussion and voting). A list of names was then suggested to request letters and CVs for a microbiologist.
- StCom decided that it was not necessary to expand the membership, although additional participation from Ad Hoc members may be useful in future depending on the specific topic or effort.

### **Education and Public Outreach report (L. Goehring, V. Ferrini, B. Govenar)**

- FLEXE is the main outreach effort, focused on K-12 community; a 4-year project, partnered with GLOBE
- AccessData team was organized by V. Ferrini to create a chapter in the online “Earth Exploration Toolbook”, which teaches students how to use GeoMapApp and learn about chemosynthetic ecosystems and hydrothermal vents on mid-ocean ridges
- The R2K Distinguished Lecturer Series (DLS) 2009 talks have been completed, and the announcements have been sent for DLS 2010 to 750 colleges and universities. The DLS online application is now part of the integrated R2K website and available to download and e-mail (or mail as a hard-copy) back to the R2K office.
- R2K Office has a few slides and tips to give to DLS speakers in order to help them prepare. Speakers are generally selected by the StCom based on their research experience and public speaking abilities. Over the past few years an effort has been made to select a few young scientists as part of the DLS, in order to showcase new research and young talent in the R2K Program (“Emerging Voices”).
- DLS talks could be made available online- either as ppt files, recorded lectures, or podcasts, starting with DLS 2010 speakers. The R2K office will explore this with the current slate of lecturers, as well as past speakers.
- R2K Data Portal Media Bank should be used as a repository for good images, schematics, & videos, which can be used for education and outreach at any level. Free software is available to help scientists edit videos, or MGDS can help scientists cut and downsize videos. Slides used for teaching could also be made available on Media Bank.
- StCom will remind PIs about submitting “best hits” video compilations that they have made from past cruises that have used Alvin or Jason 2, along with updating their shore-based analysis plans- and promote NSF Highlights as a venue for promoting their research
- It was mentioned that ASLO has good resources for disseminating science topics to K-12 and college students.

### **Update on the R2K Data Portal (V. Ferrini)**

- Most of the data that is ingested into the R2K Data Portal is summarized on the “News” page; also listed are the shore-based data analysis plans.

- StCom (with Ransom, Carlson, and Hall copied) will write a letter to WHOI requesting a seamless migration of data from NDSF and WHOI ships to MGDS, as this has been identified as being problematic recently.
- VentDB is being organized by M. Mottl and K. Lenhart, and they will work with the R2K Data Portal staff to share vocabularies and vent site locations to make sure vent fluid data are consistent

### **Other R2K business**

- As a member country of InterRidge (IR) the R2K office pays \$25K for annual dues, representing the US research community. At the IR annual StCom meeting in Paris in July, it was requested that a second US representative for InterRidge be present for the IR StCom meetings. It was noted that a biologist should be encouraged, as there is less biological expertise on IR StCom at the moment.
- A letter drafted by the R2K Chair (with input from the StCom) helped to influence the Canadian government in favor of approving the Toomey et al. seismic cruise to Endeavour. Anticipating that there may be more NGO opposition to research in the Endeavour MPA or other areas, a carefully worded and managed response needs to be drafted from the R2K Chair and StCom so that there is material ready, in case there are other occurrences.
- ISS ISOCs may have reached the end of their usefulness for the time being, but different ISOCs may be important to future activities; a “Modeling ISOC” does not appear to be necessary, however, a focus on using models in integration and synthesis of R2K research continues to be important.
- ISS Coordinators are still useful and should be contacted about their willingness to continue their role. The Office will contact the 3 coordinators – K. Bemis for Endeavour, S. White for EPR and J. Seewald for Lau.
- Only 74 days of Jason time were scheduled for 2010. There is concern about the low number of Jason ROV operational days from the NSF perspective but also recognition that there is an ebb and flow of demand, based on proposal pressure and scheduling
- It was noted that entraining early career scientists into R2K is important, and oceanographers will be in demand as more attention is being paid to the role of oceans in climate change and natural resources.
- To promote integration and synthesis and continue the momentum of the St. Louis Workshop, suggestions for an edited volume or collection of selected scientific papers were discussed in terms of audience (the scientific community, policy makers, or the general public) and participation (topics generated by the StCom or the scientific community at large, written by the StCom, scientists selected by the StCom, or generated from community based on topics selected by the StCom).
- To promote the R2K Program, ideas were discussed from stimulating the development of movies, books, and public scientific magazines that would generate broader interest and dissemination of R2K-related science. Many members of the StCom have access to both film footage and have contacts in print, radio, TV, and film media. Other ideas included inviting authors and journalists to participate on cruises and in workshops to write non-fiction books about the science, as well as the human-interest topics.
- Field schools were also discussed as an opportunity for training and networking for early-career and more experienced researchers in the Ridge 2000 and broader scientific community.