

Group 1 Members

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2. Tuck Hines, SERC; marine population and community ecology
3. Mark Luckenbach, VIMS; marine population and community ecology
4. William McShea, CRC; wildlife ecology
5. Steve Monfort, CRC; wildlife health and physiology
6. Mike Reiter, Delaware State University: interdisciplinary resource management
7. Dave Smith, UVa: marine ecology

Potential Organizational Models for MAREO

1. Platform to collect and transfer information:
NEON mouthpiece and data collector
2. Consortium of institutions
3. Manager of unidirectional networked sites,
directing implementation of NEON projects
within the region
4. Manager of bidirectional networked sites,
directing both national and regional projects
within the region

Platform to collect and transfer information: NEON mouthpiece and data collector

- Periodic meetings, an annual forum, members are individuals
- MAREO doesn't manage or direct: platform for two-way information transfer
- MAREO could act like a scientific advisory group, acting like a society
 - Membership and authority derived from membership in the group
 - Paid staff do the dirty work and answer to the board, while scientists do the communicating
- Pros
 - Little work for everyone, easy to set up and maintain, avoid duplication of what NEON is planning to do anyway (directing questions, managing funds, etc.: don't need MAREO infrastructure to manage it), democratic and flexible: individuals matter, can still have a strong organizational structure: bylaws, elected board, etc., allow the scientists to focus on the science
- Cons
 - Hard to make decisions that matter, MAREO has little influence or input on infrastructure or its use, what's the benefit to the individuals?, volunteer driven: minimal buy-in across region, doesn't facilitate the regional or cross-cutting issues or topics: national dominates

Consortium of Institutions

- Institutions only are members, representatives are institution heads
- Pros
 - Institution buy-in of members guaranteed
- Cons
 - Why should individuals participate? Where's the synergy?
 - More value for larger entities than smaller ones
- Institution bought in, but how about the ones who will do the work?

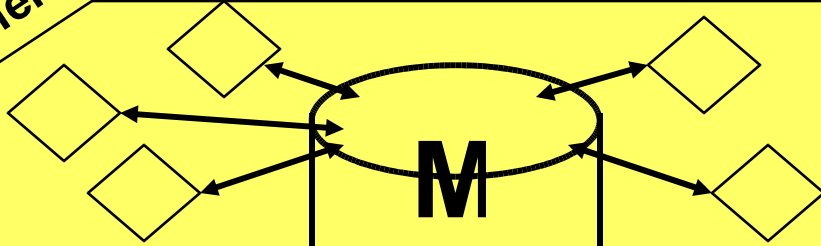
Manager of unidirectional networked sites, directing implementation of NEON projects within the region

- Decide where NEON things are done, gets funds from NEON to implement it
- Multiple classes of members, different for large and small institutions, or individuals and institutions
 - Some “security council” members (observatories?) that hold the bulk of the influence and funding, but another tier for other institutions?
 - Categories: academic institutions, large research, small research, MSUs?, government agencies, NGOs, individuals
 - Needs to be a formula for participation and input (What can each contribute? Keeping from getting too lopsided)
 - Members active relative to their best contributions
- Elected board with requirements for diverse representation of institutions and facilities
 - MAREO decides where to implement national objectives
- Pros
 - Have a role for places and people, more flexibility than either people only or places only, likely to reach most groups and objectives, strong regional group can control influence of national agencies on agenda
- Cons
 - National question is it: why put in time and effort for national issues I might not be interested in? (What’s in it for me?), must guarantee 30 year site life to be a member?, smaller places get left out?

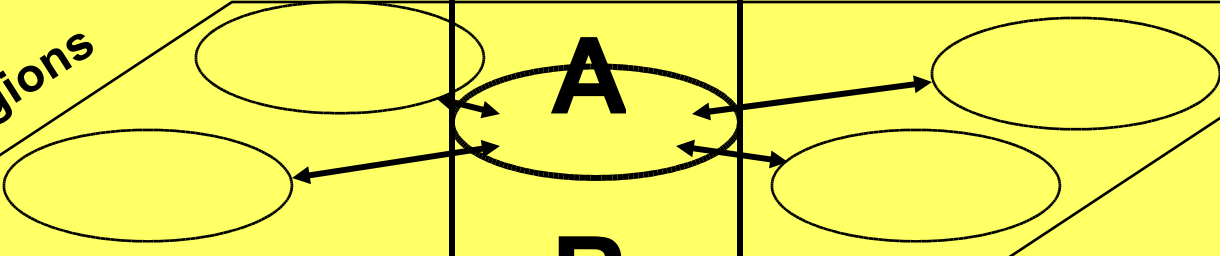
Manager of bidirectional networked sites, directing both national and regional projects within the region

- Nature conservancy approach: national and regional offices that handle both national and regional issues collectively
- Multiple classes of members, different for large and small institutions, or individuals and institutions
 - Some “security council” members (observatories?) that hold the bulk of the influence and funding, but another tier for other institutions?
 - Categories: academic institutions, large research, small research, MSUs?, government agencies, NGOs, individuals
 - Needs to be a formula for participation and input (What can each contribute? Keeping from getting too lopsided)
 - Members active relative to their best contributions
- Elected board with requirements for diverse representation of institutions and facilities
 - MAREO provides linkages and facilitation for national objectives, but also decides on regional topics as well
- Pros
 - Have a role for places and people, more flexibility than either people only or places only, likely to reach most groups and objectives, strong regional group can control influence of national agencies on agenda, regional topics covered
- Cons
 - Must guarantee 30 year site life to be a member?, smaller places get left out?, Must have a regional decision-making structure for regional topics

NEON National Themes

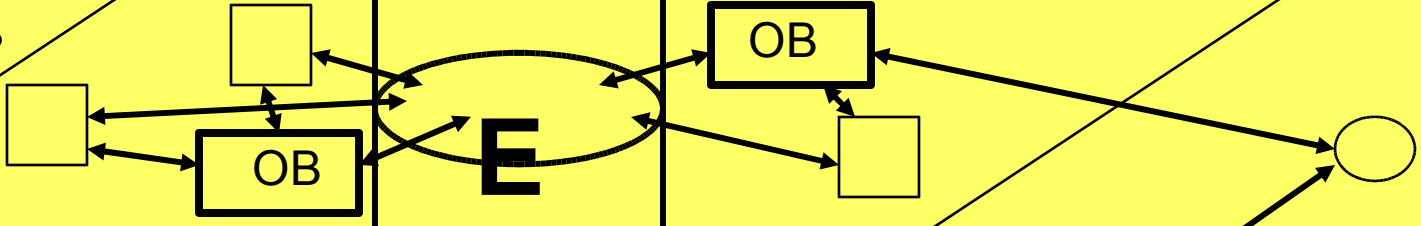


Other Regions

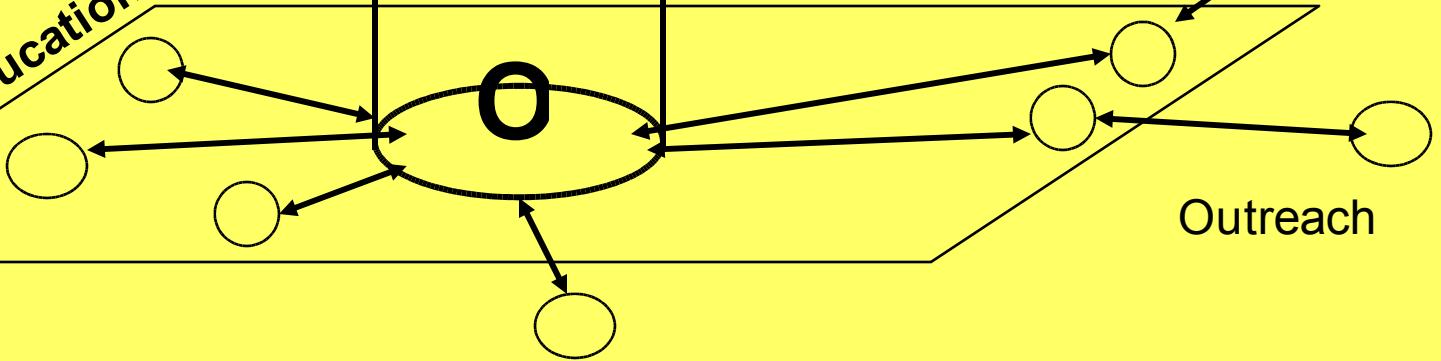


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Institutions



Individuals/Education



Other Key Issues

- If NEON controls money and questions, then regional groups are communications vehicle
 - State and federal government relationship: regional groups will have their own interests that need to be considered in order to get buy-in
- Will a Sweetbriar ever be able to compete with a UVa in this structure?
 - There are research-based funds available, but they will still have to compete with the larger entities through NEON or MAREO
 - Build an egalitarian forum and elected board for decision-making, formulaic to assure diverse representation
- How to coordinate different kinds of institutions to best meet objectives?
- Operating principle: continue to provide a forum for scientific input even if only institutions are members
 - Institutions probably responsible for infrastructure upkeep, but users are individuals and agencies: must be access to MAREO (and NEON) for individuals
- There is a continuing role for a regional organization after NEON Inc. is formed