

**Session Title:** Concurrent Session 2A – Future Workshops

**Moderator:** John McLaughlin

**Note taker:** Lexie Brown

**General Notes:**

- John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Formats for future connectivity (beyond workshop and teleconferencing)?
  - Steve Bishop: Regional/geographic clusters of users could meet on a regular basis
    - Those groups would set their own agendas for regional meetings
    - Shorter travel, more frequent meetings
    - Manjit Goldberg: Each region could have a lead in charge of organizing meetings
  - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Need support for regional clusters? Or let them form on their own? Any resource needed?
    - Rob Morris: We aren't close enough to any other institution to make it worth our while to travel
      - Worried about isolated spheres
  - Elizabeth Ban: Would be useful to meet in groups with other institutions that use the sphere similarly to my institution and/or topical issues
    - Rob Morris: Space/Planetarium institutions could meet together
  - Rob Morris: Virtual forums for collaboration might work better for topical gathering because institutions might be far apart
    - Might be a different person from same institution attending different topical meetings (based on role in their institution)
  - Dia Hitt: Breaking out between education people and tech people
    - Not always the case at every institution (sometimes one person does it all)
    - Twitter, Facebook, Email groups to facilitate these groups communicating
      - Susan Pion: Facebook or Linked In would be great because you could regularly checking with people without having to be present simultaneously
  - Abbey Spargo: Google docs group to share documents, best practices
  - Rob Morris: More time at these workshops for these various groups to meet in a smaller format, in addition to network-wide sessions
    - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Whole days dedicated to different topical foci
  - Heather: Helpful to see different panels that showcase people's strengths so I can then follow up with those people after the panel (increased networking)
  - Lot of support for topical breakout, both during in-person workshop and virtual forums

- Issues: May want to go to more than one that occurs simultaneously; also a problem for institutions that only have one person representing them
      - Rob Morris: Mitigate by minimizing number of sessions occurring concurrently
      - Heather Barnes: Create a buddy system (especially for institutions with only representative) to report back and share to others not in that session
    - Leon Geschwind: Topical discussions on tech issues as well
  - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): How to divide breakout groups concurrently (i.e. education-oriented vs. tech-oriented)?
    - Elizabeth Ban: Education vs. tech works well generally, but there will always be conflict
    - Abbey Spargo: Build time into agenda for people to vote on top 2 breakouts (after they are all done) and then repeat those two on the last day
      - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): We had two wildcard breakout sessions at previous workshop and we got negative feedback about that, but covering some topics again in more detail may be more popular
    - Steve Bishop: Recordings will be distributed?
      - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Detailed notes available but not videos for each breakout. Could plan to video everything for future workshops if demand is present
    - Kate Haley-Goldman: Conflict is inherent, but don't want to segment too much between education and tech
      - Don't want to lose the cross-pollination between two groups
    - Rob Morris: Treat this as a training session – repeat breakouts so that two groups of participants can swap and everyone gets the same sessions
    - Steve Bishop: At ASTC, lunches set up as small group meetings (topics by table) – we could do this as well
      - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): This could act as “structured” networking time that is not required – do you like structure or unstructured?
        - Both! Both in same conference (some lunches unstructured and some structured)
  - Pat Hamilton: Other professional conferences that SOS could piggyback onto: ASTC, AZA, AGU, AAAS, NMEA, Planetarium Association (IPS), NAAEE
    - Institutions that are already attending these conferences could meet face-to-face on certain topics
    - Gary Randolph: NSTA (NOAA had SOS at NSTA last year) – institutions could get teachers at conference from their area to watch their presentations on the sphere at the conference
    - Heather Barnes: IAAPA (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions)
    - Pat Hamilton: We should query community to see who will be attending

- Carrie McDougall: Issue is that only a small number of institutions attend each of these meetings and it is logistically difficult to plan
  - Pat: These conferences are an opportunity for institutions to meet if they are already there; don't need to be mediated by NOAA
  - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): How would we facilitate this?
    - Pat: Virtual platforms
    - Heather Barnes: Beth's Yahoo user group – just sharing who is going to what
    - Dan Pisut: Google calendar
    - Abbey Spargo: listserv email (or some other forum) to let people know to meet at a certain time and place if they will be attending conference
    - Brooke Hsu: Someone from your institution can act as “ambassador” for rest of people that can't go
- John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): How many workshops – when and where and who coordinates?
  - Coordinating committee/panel – workshop planning or an advisory role
  - Regional meetings
  - Topical meeting within existing workshops
  - Leon Geschwind: Regional meetings (sub-nodes) that meet once or twice a year and then one annual meeting (3 days)
    - Follow-up is all virtual
  - Length of annual meeting – 3 days?
    - Mostly yes
    - Steve Bishop: Special interest meetings preceding or following annual meeting (i.e. new installations, sphere production tutorial (hands-on techniques), any of the topics that were most popular in survey (docent training best practices, reaching out to formal education, etc.))
      - Many yeses to stay for an extended time
      - Don't need to be the same every year – could vote on them
  - Frequency of annual meeting – currently at every 18 months
    - Peter Leighton: Specified time of year allows better planning of travel in advance
    - Manjit Goldberg and Dia Hitt both agree
    - Annual meeting – lots of yes for meeting at the same time every year
      - Or every other year, switching off between spring and winter
    - Kate Haley Goldman: Does everyone keep up enough if meet every 18 months?
      - Would work if virtual communication was used and piggybacking on other conference
    - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): How about alternating spring and winter every 18 months?
      - Lots of yeses
      - Make sure to announce at the end of each meeting when the next one will be

- John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Location of 18-month meeting – currently move around country to minimize travel burden on any one group
  - Lots of people like moving around, like to see other institutions
  - Steve Bishop: Does NOAA need to have a presence at the location?
    - Carrie: No. Original requirement was just to be able to see two spheres at the location, but will get much harder in the future and will probably not require that in the future.
    - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Seeing other installations seemed to be more important early on in the network.
    - Rob Morris: Once a sphere moves in, other institutions become very interested, so it may become easier to see multiple installations.
    - Vote: Most people are lukewarm or not necessarily interested in seeing multiple installations (or take the cruise ship to see many!)
  - Middle of the week to allow travel on either side (Tuesday through Thursday)
    - Mostly agree that is a good schedule
    - Steve Bishop: I get more time in the office if I do conference on a weekend
- John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Who attends workshops (SOS institutions are primary audience) and who runs/plans the workshops?
  - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Previous workshops – have had multiple on-site hosts
  - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): Do we want to involve other people in planning (advisory or planning committee)?
    - Not a lot of interest from group
    - John McLaughlin (*Moderator*): workshops are changing, getting more complicated as network grows
    - Dia Hitt: People might be interested in being on planning committee if they don't have to do it all

**Recommendations to NOAA (Office of Education, Earth System Research Laboratory, National Visualization Laboratory):**

- **Regional/geographic clusters** of users could meet on a regular basis – would set their own agendas
  - Shorter, more frequent and less formal than annual meetings
- **Virtual forums** for collaboration around specific topics or uses of the sphere
  - Twitter, Facebook, Email groups to facilitate these groups or education/tech groups communicating
  - Google docs group to share documents, best practices
- More time at annual workshops for these various groups to meet in a smaller format, in addition to network-wide sessions

- Create a buddy system for breakout session (especially for institutions with only representative) to report back and share to others not in that session
- Could plan to video everything for future workshops if demand is present
- Lunch topic tables during annual meeting as “structured” networking time that is optional
- Conferences that SOS could piggyback onto: ASTC, AZA, AGU, AAAS, NMEA, Planetarium Association (IPS), NAAEE, NSTA, IAAPA
  - Listserv email (or some other forum) to let people know to meet at a certain time and place if they will be attending conference
  - Not necessarily led/organized by NOAA
- Regional meetings (sub-nodes) that meet once or twice a year and then one annual meeting (3 days)
  - Special interest meetings preceding or following annual meeting (i.e. new installations, sphere production tutorial (hands-on techniques), any of the topics that were most popular in survey (docent training best practices, reaching out to formal education, etc.))
    - Topics could change yearly
  - Like 18-month winter/spring schedule and like moving around geographically
  - Some (not everyone) interest in a planning/advisory committee

**Actions/Next Steps:**

<i>Action/Next Step</i>	<i>Responsible Network Member/Institution</i>

**Research Questions for Further Exploration:**