

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

Charlottesville, Virginia

1985 February 08

To: Coordinating Committee
From: Paul Sebring
Subject: Notes from CC Meeting, 1985 February 08

Participants

NRAO-CV Hvatum (Chan), Balister, Benson, Burns, Cotton, D'Addario,
Griffin, Porter, Romney, Sebring, Thompson

-NM Clark, Horne, Napier, Walker

Haystack Rogers

Caltech Ewing, Pearson, Seling

1. Action List, update of 85 Feb 1.

1.1 Project Book Update. The old date of 84 Dec 1 was met by most, but not all. What with the decisions reached at Socorro, however, there is a new deadline of Feb 21 to make the Book current.

Kellermann said we frequently get requests to find out what's going on in the Project, and suggests that having hard copies of the Book to send out would be a good and painless means of responding to such requests. Larry responded that authors should be careful not to write their material with such use in mind. The Book is meant to be an up-to-date technical description of the Project and all its subsystems, not a progress report.

1.2 Spec monitor data base. Barry said he still does not know what this item means. Romney said the next item - Spec M/C/Corr interfaces - covers much the same area. In the end, it was decided that those involved, Jon and Hein would collaborate in redefining a single item which all would understand.

1.3 A/E Contract. Porter gleefully reported that the contract is in final form and is being prepared for mailing.

1.4 Spec M/C/Corr language & OS. Barry is busy on this, and points out that, at the Socorro meeting, we set a new deadline of March 15 for this item. Larry verifies this in his summary writeup.

1.5 In response to Hein's question as to further action items requiring discussion, Peter said there are many items concerning the first antenna and Station that need to be on the list, with completion dates. Hein suggested he give these to me. Peter said he is waiting for my questions.

2. Latest Budget Scenario.

Hein reviewed the background of NSF's Feb. 5 request for yet another budget scenario, this time with the antenna funding schedule rigidly fixed to that given in the antenna contract, which was set when the 86 budget level was \$15.5 million, although now the NSF-requested bottom line for 86 is \$11.5 million. Obviously, under such a scenario, there would be serious setbacks in other parts of the Project, but these must be accepted for the moment, until a firm bottom line is approved in Washington.

At Hein's request, I have prepared such a budget plan, together with a two-page narrative outlining the program under such a budget, with emphasis on events in 85. A second note enumerates the principal deferments made necessary, together with the losses in early ability to check out and utilize the first few antennas. When Dr. Vanden Bout returns to NRAO Feb. 12, he and Hein will review all this, prepare a cover letter, and submit the package to NSF. Meanwhile, I hope to take into account comments from members of this Committee concerning the draft.

It seems clear from the NSF letter requesting this new budget that, once funding amounts are approved, it will be possible to reprogram budget details so as to put the Project back into better balance.

Bill Horne pointed out that, under the contract plan, we need not authorize all of the work on the three antennas started in 86 out of 86 funds, since some phases of the work (e.g., installation of #s 3 & 4) cannot be started in 86, because the hardware cannot be ready. I wish I'd thought of that myself!

Alan Rogers says we need fund only half of a full prototype DRS and DPS in 85, if we really need to go this route. He will provide figures for this.

3. Socorro Meeting - loose ends.

Larry reports receiving reports from all but Marty and Carl (whose is due in today). He plans to compile all of these Group reports into a single VLBA memo.

He points out also that his summary writeup, already issued, contains some new items for the Action List.

On Specifications: Larry is setting up a sub-directory in the VLBA area for specs, giving their current status, and including text insofar as possible, although no figures can be included. In general, hard copies of specs won't be distributed automatically, but Carolyn has masters; copies may be ordered from her.

The Monitoring and Control Bus spec is now official. The spec on data transmission error rates is nearly final, and will be discussed with A. Rogers.