



SAON Board meeting 15th December 2020
16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT / 15-16:30 UTC

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda

Sandy Starkweather (Chair) welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2 and the list of documents is found in Appendix 3.

2. The role of the National SAON Committees

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretariat) made reference to the External Review of SAON from 2016, which had found that “The National SAON Coordination Committees are viewed as a key component of the SAON organizational structure, but in general, are not functioning well”. The conclusion was that “The National SAON Coordinating Committees are viewed as a vital foundational component of the work of SAON. It is seen as critical that these Committees be established – or enhanced - in all SAON Member countries as soon as possible. Guidelines, mandates and terms of reference should be developed for these Committees”. In order to inspire a discussion about this, countries where national structures exist, had been asked to share their experience.

Roberto Delgado (USA) presented experiences from US Arctic Observing Network (US-AON), which had been established in agreement with the US Arctic Research Plan (2017-2022). It is organised around certain disciplines: glaciers, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and others, while the term ‘environmental intelligence’ has been used to seek to organise these under a common umbrella. This has been divided into Arctic observing systems, data, and modelling. The US-AON coordinating committee is closely linked to the US Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) and implemented through their collaboration teams. Terms of Reference are currently being developed for the US-AON. They will 1) provide processes for realizing US AON Vision and Goals, and criteria for membership to the US AON Board, and 2) include US AON structure and governance, roles and responsibilities, relationships, and means for tasking, reporting, and review. Current US AON Board activities include contributing to the next IARPC Arctic Research Plan; it will have four priority areas: Community resilience and health, Arctic systems interactions, sustainable economies and livelihoods, and risk mitigation. There are also a series of foundational activities, including co-production of knowledge and indigenous research, education, data management, technology, and monitoring, observing, modelling and prediction. Roberto Delgado finally noted that US-AON as a national coordinating body is interested to promoting and implementing the ROADS process and mentioned specifically an NSF funded project on marine and coastal food security, run by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA.

3. Committees

3a ADC

Peter Pulsifer (ADC chair) reported on the series of workshops under the heading “Polar to Global Online Interoperability”. A workshop was held 5th November and the topics were federated search and semantics, as well as the analysis of polar data policies - the next will be held end January. Plans are under development for the ADC annual meeting; topics will be visioning for the ADC, relationship with ROADS and connection with other bodies, like AOS. He also informed about the work to map the “polar data ecosystem”, including interest from Canada in the context of emergency response related to Arctic Council work. He finally informed about ADC connections to the global initiative ‘Data Together’¹; the initiative works on the same topics as ADC, including indigenous knowledge, citizen science, semantics and federated search.

3b CON

Lisa Loseto (CON chair) reported on the workshop on CON in the ongoing series of governance review workshops. The agenda had three components: A) Review of the mandate of CON, B) Existing CON membership, and C) Reporting structure of CON. She emphasized that one of the important outcomes had been the emphasis on national SAON structures; having those in place and a representative from them at the CON will establish the networking that is necessary to fulfil the goals and mandate of CON.

Mikko Strahlendorff (vice-Chair) reported from a meeting that he had had with EuroARGO and that they were interested in presenting their work to CON.

4 SAON Governance review

Jan Rene Larsen explained that the most important topics identified at the CON governance workshops had been the national SAON organisations and the relationship between SAON and the Arctic Council Working Groups; he proposed that the next governance workshop should be on national SAON organisations.

Sandy reminded the Board that the two first workshops had had ‘champions’ that had led the effort to organise and lead the workshop, and that this role should also be defined for subsequent workshops.

Mikko Strahlendorff believed that participants to the Arctic Science Ministerial (like Arctic Council SAOs) would be relevant to invite, since the topic could also be of relevance to these.

5 Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)

Tetsuo Sueyoshi (Japan) explained about the work to prepare the Joint Statement for ASM3. The first version was about to be circulated and would as one of the themes have “Observe: Observing networks; data-sharing – towards implementation”. In the draft, there would be statements about supporting the

¹ <https://www.go-fair.org/2020/03/30/data-together-statement/>

ROADS process, the SAON Secretariat and about expanding the ROADS effort so that it reflects indigenous perspectives.

Sandy Starkweather believed that the formulations were active and useful and also reflected well the formulations that had been drafted as an outcome of the Arctic Observing Summit. With regards to the support for the SAON Secretariat, she noted the letter that had been sent out asking for direct financial support for the Secretariat, but also believed that the contributions to the Committees should be seen as in-kind contributions to SAON work.

Mikko Strahlendorff added that it would be relevant to see recommendations on establishing national SAON organisations.

Larry Hinzman (USA) encouraged Board members, once the Joint Statement was released, to contact their national delegation to the ASM3 and propose endorsement of these statements so that they would remain in their text.

6 Invitation to Tender: “ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions”

Jan Rene Larsen briefly explained about the call for funding by the European Space Agency (ESA). Helen Joseph had prepared a draft concept paper on how SAON could potentially be engaged and it proposed that the engagement should be under two of the three described themes: *Interdisciplinary Networking Actions* and *Local Communities Co-design Actions*. The funding should support the development of the *Advisory Panel* of the ROADS process and in particular secure the engagement of indigenous participants. The application was submitted 4th December.

7 SAON presence at

Sandy Starkweather reported from the Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting 19th November, where she had prepared a video-presentation on the ROADS process. There were positive responses from Finland and Iceland, while replies from Kingdom of Denmark were mixed; KooD was complimentary about the Arctic Data Committee but questioned if SAON should undertake strategic work along the lines of the ROADS process. The feedback could inform the agenda for an anticipated upcoming governance workshop on the relationship with the Arctic Council Working Groups.

8 Any other business

Rodica Nitu (WMO) reported that there will be a dialogue with the SAON chairmanship in the beginning of January as a part of the WMO commitment to engage the national meteorological and hydrological communities in the implementation of the ROADS process. A meeting will be held in the beginning of January to discuss specific activities that will become Terms of Reference for national focal points that will hopefully be active in the national SAON structures.

Appendix 1. Agenda

SAON Board meeting 15th December 2020
16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT / 15-16:30 UTC
Teleconference

Draft agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda. Review of actions from Board meeting 11th November (5 min)
[Please note that the session will be recorded. The recording will not be shared, but only used for the preparation of minutes. Sandy Starkweather]
2. The role of the National SAON Committees (45 min) *[Selected Board members have been invited to present their experiences. The National Committees are asked about their thoughts for supporting the ROADS process nationally]*
3. Committees (10 min)
 - a. ADC [Peter Pulsifer]
 - b. CON [Lisa Loseto]
[The SAON CON Governance Review Workshop was held 30th November]
4. SAON Governance review
[Two workshops have been held: One on the ROADS Advisory Panel and one on SAON CON Governance. Candidates for the next two are National SAON Organisations and SAON and the Arctic Council Working Groups]
5. Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3)
 - a. Input to ASM3 statement on national structures [Tetsuo Sueyoshi]
 - b. Contacting national representatives *[National Board members are encouraged to contact their ASM3 delegation and propose that this text is introduced under theme 1 (Observing networks; Data sharing - towards implementation): Our nation supports the efforts of SAON (Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks) in establishing a Pan-Arctic observing network with accompanying data management system and encourages the Third Arctic Science Ministerial to endorse and promote implementation of the ROADS process. Larry Hinzman]*
6. Invitation to Tender: “ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions” (15 min) [Jan Rene Larsen]
7. SAON presence at (10 min)
 - a. *[A summary from the meetings since the latest Board meeting, including*
 - a. Arctic Council: Senior Arctic Officials meeting 19th November
 - b. ASM3 webinars: Indigenous Peoples' Participation in the ASM3 Process - Contributions to Arctic Science and Research (3rd December)]
 - b. ASM3 webinars: Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3): Theme 1, Observe: Observing networks; Data sharing - towards implementation (20th January 2021)
 - c. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS): Arctic Regional Process. 16-17 March 2021: Online consultation on draft action plan

- d. ASSW 2021 20-26 March
[*Science Symposium moved online. It has been decided not to have a Board meeting in the context of ASSW.*
Theme "Observing the Arctic" - selection of sessions:
- Advancing SAON's Roadmap etc. through Regional and Global capabilities
- Observing for Action: Outcomes of the 5th Arctic Observing Summit and Advances in Coordinated Observations]
 - e. Arctic Circle Japan Forum. 7-10 May 2020, Tokyo, Japan
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/japan>
 - f. 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial. 8-9 May 2021, Tokyo, Japan <https://asm3.org/>
 - g. Arctic Meteorological Summit 2021. 19th May 2021
 - h. International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X): 15-19 June 2021, Arkhangelsk, Russia. <https://icass.uni.edu/>
 - i. Arctic Circle 2021 Assembly. 14-17 October 2020 <http://www.arcticcircle.org/>
 - j. Svalbard Science Conference 2021
 - k. Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (*postponed*)
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/berlin/announcement>
8. Any other business (10 min)
- a. ROADS brochure
 - b. WMO Focal Points
 - c. Requests to SAON for Letters of Support
 - d. GEO Indigenous Summit 9th December
<http://www.earthobservations.org/indigenoussummit2020.php>
 - e. EU-PolarNet2: Public consultation on co-creating research projects with Indigenous rights holders in Arctic research: <https://www.polarresearch.at/collection-of-insights-and-experiences/>
9. Next telephone conference: 13th January 16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT / 15-16:30 UTC
[*Is this too early?*]

Appendix 2. List of participants

Affiliation	Name	Institution and address	Phone	e-mail
Countries				
Chair	Sandy Starkweather	NOAA Climate Program Office US Arctic Observing Network (US AON) Boulder, CO	+1 303.497.5247	sandy.starkweather@noaa.gov
Vice-Chair	Mikko Strahlendorff	Finnish Meteorological Institute P.O. Box 503 FI-00101 Helsinki Finland		Mikko.Strahlendorff@pc.fmi.fi
Canada	Helen Joseph	Helen C Joseph HCJ Consulting 21241 Seventeenth Road Dalkeith, Ontario		helen@hcjconsulting.ca
Canada	Lisa Loseto	Freshwater Institute 501 University Cres. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N6		Lisa.Loseto@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
France	Marie-Noelle Houssais	Laboratory of Oceanography and Climate Experiments and numerical approaches Joint Research Unit 7159 CNRS / IRD / Sorbonne University / MNHN Pierre Simon Laplace Institute Pierre and Maris Curie Campus Box 100 - 4, place Jussieu 75252 PARIS Cedex 05		mnh@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr
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Iceland	Jórunn Harðardóttir	Icelandic Met Office		jorunn@vedur.is

Affiliation	Name	Institution and address	Phone	e-mail
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Japan	Tetsuo Sueyoshi	National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) Arctic Environmental Research Center (AERC) 10-3 Midori-cho Tachikawa-shi Tokyo, 190-8518		sueyoshi.tetsuo@nipr.ac.jp
Japan	Yuji Kodama	National Institute of Polar Research 10-3, Midori-cho, Tachikawa-shi Tokyo 190-8518		kodama.yuji@nipr.ac.jp
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Poland	Agnieszka B. Moeller	Institute of Oceanology PAS		abesz@iopan.gda.pl
Sweden	Justiina Dahl	Swedish Polar Research Secretariat		Justiina.Dahl@polar.se

USA	Larry D. Hinzman	University of Alaska, Fairbanks P.O. Box 756 660 Fairbanks, AK 99775 6660	+1 907 474 6000 +1 907 460 0552 (Cell)	ldhinzman@alaska.edu
USA	Cathy Coon	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management U.S. Department of the Interior 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500 Anchorage Alaska 99503-5823	+1 907 334 5245	catherine.coon@boem.gov
USA	Roberto Delgado	The National Science Foundation 2415 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22314	+1 703-292-2397	robdelga@nsf.gov
Organisations				
Chair of ADC	Peter L. Pulsifer	National Snow and Ice Data Center Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science (CIRES) University of Colorado 449 UCB University of Colorado Boulder CO 80309 USA	Boulder tel: +1 (303) 619-4560 Ottawa tel : +1 (613) 620-7195	Peter.Pulsifer@Colorado.edu / ppulsifer@gcrc.carleton.ca
AMAP (SAON Secretariat)	Jan René Larsen	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat Visiting: Hjalmar Johansens gate 14, 9007 Tromsø Postal: The Fram Centre, Box 6606 Langnes, 9296 Tromsø	+45 23 61 81 77	jan.rene.larsen@amap.no
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More details about the participants can be found here: <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-members>

Appendix 3. List of documents

Agenda item	Document no	Document Title
0	10	Draft agenda version 11DEC2020
0	09	GoToMeeting dial-in
0		SAON Board meeting 11th November 2020. Draft minutes version 15th December 2020
2	(external link)	The report from the external review of SAON from 2016 (Finding #5 on national SAON Structures)
3a	(external link)	Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon 5th November 2020
3b	11	SAON Governance Review / Workshop #2 – CON Workshop / November 30th, 2020. Draft report version 12th December
4	(link to earlier Board meeting document)	Governance review plans Version 10th June 2020
5	(external link)	ASM3 webinars (8 seminars, including 3rd December and 20th January)
6	(external link)	ESA Polar Science Cluster – collaborative research and networking actions
	05	Proposed engagement Version 15th November
7	(external link)	ASM3 webinars (8 seminars, including 3rd December and 20th January)
	(link to earlier Board meeting document)	UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS): Arctic Regional Process
	(external link)	ASSW 2021 20-26 March 2020
	(external link)	Arctic Circle Japan Forum. 7-10 May 2020, Tokyo, Japan
	(external link)	3rd Arctic Science Ministerial 8-9 May 2021
	(external link)	International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X) June 15-19, 2021
	(external link)	Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, Iceland, October 14-17, 2021
	(external link)	Svalbard Science Conference, 2-3 November 2021
	(external link)	Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (postponed)

Field Code Changed

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Meeting documents are available here: <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/429-15th-december-2020-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference>