



SAON Board March 23, 2024
13:30 – 17:00 UK time (UTC) / 14:30-18:00 CET / 09:30 am-1pm EST
Teleconference (Zoom)

1. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretariat) opened the meeting and welcomed 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 Arctic Council Guidance and the Plan for Resumption

Jan Rene spoke of the recent Arctic Council decision to allow gradual resumption of official Working Group meetings in a virtual format, enabling project-level work to further advance. This means that the SAON Board may now resume meeting in a virtual format. In moving forward, it is still to be determined if meetings will occur monthly or every two months.

3. SAON Governance

Sandy Starkweather announced that as the former Chair of SAON, she is now transitioning to the Past-Chair position. Mikko Strahlendorff (Vice-Chair of SAON) offered to move to be the Chair. A process will be initiated to select the new leadership.

The Chair of the Arctic Council is transitioning from Russia to Norway. A representative from the country holding the chair position may be part of the SAON Executive Committee; an individual will be identified to represent Norway in this capacity. Jan Rene Larsen thanked Nadezhda Kharlampieva for her past service in the Executive Committee.

4. SAON ROADS Process

Sandy Starkweather, Chair of the SAON ROADS Advisory Panel, reported on a very successful SAON ROADS Open Partnership meeting that was held at the AOS. The ROADS efforts continue to progress well. She also reported on several SAON ROADS pilot projects are moving forward on the topics of Permafrost, Wildfires, and North American pilot efforts on Food Security and Salmon, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Sea Ice. The SAON ROADS documentation web site <https://roadsadvisorypanel.org/documentation> was provided as a good reference site for information on the ROADS process.

The ROADS Advisory Panel composition will be examined to ensure that the membership is active and engaged. Nominations of new members are welcomed. It was noted that the approval of new Advisory Panel members is the responsibility of this SAON Board.

5. The Committees

- a. **Arctic Data Committee** (ADC). New leadership is pending for the ADC with candidate Chairs Chantelle Verhey and Vanessa Raymond. This pending leadership will be confirmed at a future SAON Board meeting.

- b. **Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)**. The CON has also been on pause. Leadership transitioned in 2022 and one of the co-chairs - Alice Bradley - spoke of the need for rejuvenation efforts within CON in the coming months, including confirmation of membership.

6. Decisions by Written Procedure (see email from 26th February, deadline 26th March)

Jan Rene Larsen spoke of establishing a Task Team for improved international coordination of Arctic oceanography under the SAON Board. The expected outcome of the Task Team will be a proposed design for a pan-Arctic ocean observing alliance that would unite the diversity of sustained ocean observing initiatives in the Arctic through a single entity or structure. The proposed Task Team and its efforts will be formally recognized by both SAON and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. A decision will be adopted by the SAON Board by the deadline of March 26th.

The second decision related to the appointment of a Chair for the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) 2024. Jan Rene noted that the AOS is held 27 – 29 March, 2024, and that SAON appoints one of the chairs. Alice Bradley, Williams College, USA has led the planning effort of the AOS, and the SAON Secretariat recommended that she should be appointed as the SAON chair for the 2024 AOS. A decision will be adopted by the SAON Board by the deadline of March 26th. Jan Rene Larsen thanked Alice for her extensive work on this.

7. Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) 2024

Alice Bradley, SAON Chair of AOS, reported on a very full agenda for the upcoming AOS with approximately 300 people expected to attend. Recommendations coming out of the AOS will be presented and discussed over the coming weeks.

8. International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP) IV

Sandy Starkweather stated that the ICARP Research Priority Teams (RPTs) are active and meeting during the AOS. She stated that there are good connections between the SAON Advisory Panel and the RPTs, with Advisory Panel members participating in several RPTs. A second activity relating to ICARP IV is the proposed endorsement of ROADS. This proposed endorsement will bring increased visibility to the ROADS process, and its key aspects of co-production in the design of observing systems.

9. Collaboration

- ArcticGEOSS – Jan Rene Larsen spoke on this initiative of the Global Earth Observation (GEO) in the Arctic. It was proposed that SAON would be the Arctic component of the Arctic GEOSS. A written proposal has been submitted to GEO for SAON to be a project within the system. Feedback from GEO to the proposal was positive and requested that additional services should be added to the proposal to make it stronger. Regarding governance, an annual meeting will be held of the SAON ArcticGEOSS to provide oversight to the initiative. Additional follow-up to the ArcticGEOSS proposal will be done in coming months.
- ArcticPASSION – Mikko Strahlendorff, Lead of WP6, reported on this initiative. With the Arctic Council now resuming meetings in a virtual manner, stronger linkages will be able to be made with ArcticPASSION work packages.
- Arctic GRA/GOOS – covered under Agenda item #6 above.

- AASCO (Arena for the Gap Analysis of Arctic Science Cooperation) - Sandy Starkweather reported on this initiative that aims to close knowledge gaps in Arctic science. A meeting was held at the Arctic Science Summit Week, with further discussions to come on how SAON ROADS might best interact with AASCO.

10. Any Other Business

Representatives from the member countries provided national reports on highlights of efforts over the past months. These verbal reports were provided by Roberto Delgado, United States; Vito Vitale, Italy; Mikko Strahlendorff, Finland and aspects of EU activities; Hiroyuki Entomoto, Japan; Agnieszka Beszczynska-Möller, Poland; Marie-Noelle Housais, France; Nadezdha Kharlampieva, Russia; and, Yubao Qiu, China.

APPENDIX 1

SAON Board meeting 24th March 2024
13:30 – 17:00 UK time (UTC) / 14:30-18:00 CET / 09:30 am-1pm EST

Teleconference (Zoom)

Draft agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, tour de table and adoption of agenda
[Please note that the session will be recorded. The recording will not be shared, but only used for the preparation of minutes]
2. The Arctic Council guidance and the plan for resumption
3. SAON governance
 - a. Board. Meeting schedule - past and coming.
 - b. Executive, composition
4. SAON ROADS process
 - a. Progress on documentation
 - b. Pilots
 - c. ROADS Advisory Panel composition
5. The Committees
 - a. Arctic Data Committee (ADC). New leadership: Incoming chairs are Chantelle Verhey and Vanessa Raymond
 - b. Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)
6. Decisions by written procedure (email from 26th February, deadline 26th March)
 - a. Establishing a Task Team on improved international coordination of Arctic oceanography under the SAON Board
 - b. Appointing a chair for 2024 the Arctic Observing Summit
7. Arctic Observing Summit 2024
8. ICARP IV
9. Collaboration:
 - a. ArcticGEOSS
 - b. ArcticPASSION
 - c. Arctic GRA/GOOS
 - d. AASCO
10. Any other business

APPENDIX 2

List of Participants

Agnieszka Beszczynska-Möller, Poland
Alice Bradley, Co-Chair CON
Roberto Delgado, USA
Sdrjan Dobricic, JRC - EC
Hiroyuki Entomoto, Japan
Izuchukwu O Ezukanma (University of Florida, USA); new IASC-SAON Fellow
Marie-Noelle Houssais, France
Nadezdha Kharlampieva, Russia
Yubao Qiu, China
Sandy Starkweather, Chair of SAON
Mikko Strahlendorff, FMI, Finland and Vice-Chair SAON Board
Vito Vitale, Italy

Jan Rene Larsen, AMAP Secretariat

APPENDIX 3

List of documents

24th March 2024: Meeting documents for Board Meeting, Teleconference

Agenda item	Document no	Document Title	Document author
0	01	Draft agenda version 12th March	Secretariat
0	02	Meeting logistics and zoom dial-in	Secretariat
2	(link)	"Arctic Council advances resumption of project-level work"	
3b	(link)	SAON Terms of Reference	
4a	(link)	ROADS documentation	
4b	(link)	ROADS Expert Panels	
4c	(link)	ROADS Advisory Panel composition	
6	03	Decisions on Task Team on improved international coordination of Arctic oceanography and AOS chair	Secretariat
9	(link)	ArcticPASSION	
9	(link)	AASCO	