



**Board meeting  
24 May 2016 Teleconference  
Minutes**

**1. Introductions and adoption of agenda**

Christine Daae Olseng (SAON Chair) welcomed the participants, and the agenda was adopted (Appendix 1). The list of participants is found in Appendix 2, the list of documents is found in Appendix 3, and the actions are found in Appendix 4.

**2. 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM) Meeting (28<sup>th</sup> September)**

**3. SAON communication and outreach for the 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting**

Jeremy Mathis (USA) informed the meeting that the planning of the ASM was ongoing. A request for deliverables had been sent out, and input and ideas had been received from several countries. He noted that one of the meeting themes was on observations and data sharing and saw a role for SAON in this context.

Larry Hinzmann (SAON vice-Chair) reminded the Board that he and the Chair had sent out an email, asking all Board members to encourage their governments to promote SAON. The governments should formulate ideas which the ASM could further develop. He also explained that he would be drafting a text, based on the recommendations from the 2016 Arctic Observing Summit conference statement, that should serve as the message from SAON and to the ASM.

Peter Schlosser (ISAC) believed that the strong message should be the need for an initiative to establish a coordinated observing system. "Coordination" would be the important message. He noted that SAON is only existing body that has been mandated to do this.

Christine Daae Olseng agreed that it is important to note the added value of coordination, and asked Larry Hinzman to add language about this to the draft text.

Nikolaj Bock (EEA) saw a value in adding text about the expectation that GEO has to SAON to deliver Arctic coordination.

Nicole Biebow (Germany) explained that EU-PolarNet had been asked by the European Commission also to produce a deliverable for the ASM. She asked about who had been invited to the meeting, and Jeremy Mathis responded that the invitation was for the Science Ministers.

Larry Hinzman believed that the discussion at the Ministerial about data would be important and a major step.

Halldor Johannsson (Arctic Portal) proposed that statements about funding should be added to the text, since the sharing of data has a cost. He saw SAON as a facilitator and as a forum for securing sustained funding, also for data sharing. He had had experiences with Arctic data projects like the permafrost data facility (PAGE21, GTN-P) that currently was without support.

On the discussion about funding, Gambardella Attilio (EC) said that the European Commission will follow the outcome of the Ministerial and will take it into consideration. He made the meeting aware of the recently published EU policy document<sup>1</sup>, which describes EU's contribution to SAON, especially through Horizon 2020.

Eva Kruemmel (ICC) noted that although the ASM is not an Arctic Council meeting, Arctic Indigenous peoples should be represented and asked if the Permanent Participants have been invited. Jim Gamble (AIA) responded that from what he heard on a separate call, PPs have not been invited to the ministerial meeting itself. However, he was told that there will be a role for the PPs at the event, although the actual format has not yet been communicated.

Christine Daae Olseng had noted that the invitation said that international working groups will convene to integrate the contributions and wanted to know when there would be an outcome of this work. Jeremy Mathis responded that this would be as soon as possible, possibly by the end of June.

- ✓ Action: Board members to provide comments to the ASM document by 30th May. Send these to Larry Hinzmann, who compile comments, finalise the document and work with Christine Daae Olseng, who will submit it to the ASM.
- ✓ Action: Jan Rene Larsen to draft an updated version of the SAON brochure.

## 4. Reporting from the Committees

### 4a Arctic Data Committee (ADC)

Peter Pulsifer (ADC Chair) reported on the work of the Committee since the Board meeting in Fairbanks. He put emphasis on these activities:

- Response to Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) RFI on an Arctic Spatial Data Pilot: A response to the consortium had been provided, and the response is well reflected in the final report from the consortium<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52016JC0021>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/arcticdsp>

- Support of Canadian ADN initiative: A letter of support had been drafted to a Canadian project with the title “Sharing Arctic Knowledge across Cultural, Disciplinary, National and Technical Boundaries”.
- Engagement with GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI): Chairs of CON and ADC had been engaged in the development of the (GEOCRI) Implementation Plan in May 2016 (The draft response has been uploaded has a meeting document).
- Development of Arctic Data Ecosystem Initiative.
- SciDataCon Session: An abstract with the title “Sharing Across Scales and Domains: Polar Data in the Global System” had been submitted to the conference.
- Organizing “Polar Connections” Workshop. This is a provisional proposal to organise a workshop on polar data interoperability. Partners, time and venue have not been confirmed, but contacts have been established with GEOCRI, the OGC, the European Space Agency (ESA), and others.

Christine Daae Olseng asked about the funding for the workshop. Peter Pulsifer responded that it would be a small workshop, that ADC members would be funded by their own sources, and that ESA had offered to host the workshop.

#### **4b Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)**

Lisa Loseto (CON Chair) reported on the work of the Committee with emphasis on

- Introducing Hannele Savela from University of Oulu, Finland as new co-Chair of CON
- The recent (March) meeting of the Committee in Fairbanks. It had had participation from 9 countries and 4 organizations. For the ongoing inventory work, the committee has reviewed national and network inventories and also reviewed the thematic approaches, including Arctic Fisheries and the CBM atlas project
- A proposal from the Fairbanks meeting on Community Based Observations by Prof. L. Alessa: A response from CON to the proposal had been sent to Prof. L. Alessa, but there had been no reply.
- The membership of CON: Currently CON members are a mix of representatives from government academia and these may not be in a position to reflect national interests and activities. CON members should be highly motivated to be able to network both at the national level (within and among agencies, universities, networks) and internationally within CON. It would be ideal to have a National SAON Committee team.

In the discussion, Eva Krueemmel informed the meeting that it was not clear yet if the CBM atlas work on terrestrial biodiversity, which was so far funded by Polar Knowledge, would have funding beyond 2016.

### **5. Other follow-ups from Fairbanks**

#### **2018 Arctic Observing Summit**

Larry Hinzmann informed the meeting that it had been decided that the next Arctic Observing Summit would be held in Davos, Switzerland in June 2018. It would be held in conjunction with the ASSW meeting, which is joint with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) in 2018. It still had not been decided if the AOS should be held before, under, or after the ASSW/SCAR meeting. Concern had been

raised about Permanent Participant participation, but it had been agreed that efforts should be made to secure funding to ensure good representation from Arctic Indigenous peoples.

## **5. SAON Review**

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretary) reported that the review was ongoing, according to schedule. The survey would close at 1<sup>st</sup> June and the next activity would be interviews. The physical meeting of the External Review Committee will take place in Copenhagen in July 2016, and assistance from APECS has been secured. The report will be ready by 1<sup>st</sup> September for submission to the October 2016 meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs).

## Appendix 1: Agenda

SAON Board meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
16-17:30 (CET) / 10-11:30 AM (EST)  
Teleconference (GoToMeeting)

### Draft agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda
2. 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting (28<sup>th</sup> September)  
*[The date and themes have been announced:  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/05/13/white-house-arctic-science-ministerial-september-28-2016>. Please note the second theme: "Strengthening and Integrating Arctic Observations and Data Sharing"  
You have/will receive(d) an email from Christine Daae Olseng, asking you to encourage your delegation to the meeting to promote the recommendations defined during the 2016 Arctic Observing Summit and the 2015 International Conference on Arctic Research Planning.]*
3. SAON communication and outreach for the 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting  
*[The SAON Executive is drafting a statement for the meeting and asks the Board for approval.]*
4. Reporting from the Committees
  - a. ADC  
*[This includes a brief update on the idea of organizing a workshop focused on the interoperability of polar data systems. There is draft document outlining this proposal. It should be noted that the event is still being developed and has not yet been advertised. Dates and partnerships should be agreed before disseminating broadly]*
  - b. CON  
*[This includes a status on the inventory work and deliberations on CON membership. A brief report on the outcome of the recent GEO Cold Region Initiative meeting is included]*
5. Other follow-ups from Fairbanks  
*[This includes a status on the AOS and Community Based Observing (CBO)]*
6. SAON Review  
*[The Review Committee is working according to schedule. The planned survey is ongoing]*

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

Affiliation	First name	Last name
Chair	Christine	Daae Olseng
Vice-Chair	Larry	Hinzman
ADC Chair	Peter	Pulsifer
CON Chair	Lisa	Loseto
CON co-Chair	Hannele	Savela
Denmark	Katinka	Stenbjørn
Germany	Nicole	Biebow
Poland	Agnieszka	Beszczyńska-Möller
Spain	Oscar	Bermúdez Molina
Sweden	Ulf	Jonsell
USA	Jeremy T.	Mathis
Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)	Eva	Kruemmel
Saami Council	Jannie	Staffansson
AIA	Jim	Gamble
AMAP	Lars-Otto	Reiersen
AMAP	Jan René	Larsen
Arctic Portal	Halldór	Jóhannsson
EC (European Commission)	Attilio	Gambardella
EEA (European Environment Agency)	Nikolaj	Bock
International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)	Volker	Rachold
International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)	Peter	Schlosser
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Etienne	Charpentier
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Miroslav	Ondras

### Apologies:

- Adi Kellerman, ICES
- Birgit Njåstad, Norway
- Dominique Berod, GEO Secretariat
- Þorsteinn Gunnarsson, Iceland
- Yoo Kyung Lee , Korea

More information about the participants and their affiliation can be found at <http://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-members>

### Appendix 3: List of meeting documents and presentations

<b><i>Agenda item</i></b>	<b><i>Document title</i></b>	<b><i>Document author</i></b>
	GoToMeeting dial-in information	
1	Draft agenda	Executive
4a	ADC Updates	ADC
4a	Polar Connections Interoperability Workshop	Peter Pulsifer et al
4a	GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEOCRI) Implementation Plan - Draft SAON proposal	Peter Pulsifer and Hannele Savela
4b	CON Updates	Lisa Loseto et al

The documents can be found at <http://www.arcticobserving.org/12-board-meetings/192-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference-24-may-2016>

## Appendix 4: Actions

Action No	Action	Who	When
1	Provide comments to Larry Hinzmann on the ASM document.	Board members	30th May 2016
2	Update the SAON brochure	Jan Rene Larsen	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2016