



**SAON Board meeting 15th July 2020  
16-17:30 CET / 10-11:30 am EST  
Teleconference. Minutes**

## **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 ROADS process**

Sandy Starkweather (Chair) explained that the Road Map Task Force had re-convened and had included chair of the Arctic Observing Summit 2020 Working Groups and representatives from the *H2020/ArcticGEOSS* consortia. She explained that there was a recognition that participants would start formulating project proposals based on the document, which was the actual purpose.

The next milestone is to have the first workshop/retreat on the governance of the ROADS process itself. The planned deliverable is a draft terms of reference for the Advisory Panel and additional definitional work related to the Expert Panels.

Sandy Starkweather added that once the *mode of operandi* of the Advisory Panel was defined, there would be a request to the Board to populate the Panel. Part of the funding need identified by SAON in the *H2020/ArcticGEOSS* proposal had been secretariat support for the Advisory Panel.

The plan is to submit the ROADS process as a white paper to the journal *Arctic* by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## **3. Committees**

### **3a ADC**

Peter Pulsifer (ADC chair) made reference to earlier years' workshops that the ADC has led along with a number of other groups, including GCW and the Antarctic data community. This has now led into a more formal series of workshops, the first had been on 30th June with more than 80 registered attendants. After an introduction, the meeting was broken out into subgroups: The first was a joint working group that looked at federated search and vocabularies and semantics, and the second was on data policy. The latter will formulate recommendations on enhancements or changes to the IASC Statement on Arctic Data Management.

The next workshops are planned to be in September and end-October, respectively. The latter will also be the annual meeting of the Arctic Data Committee.

Hajo Eicken (USA) was interested to know about the community composition, if it was exclusively data managers and data scientists? He was interested to know if it would be possible to create a communication channel to the broader community?

Peter Pulsifer responded that the challenge has been that the meetings have been set up for the data management community to do actual work. But the hope is to have a specific time and place for those other discussions. He mentioned the Polar Observing Assets Working Group (POAWG), led by Bill Manley that will be documenting observing assets.

Hajo Eicken proposed that the food security working group, led by Rachelle Daniel would be a group to connect to and it was agreed that he and Peter Pulsifer would continue the discussion off-line on this topic.

### 3b CON

Lisa Loseto (CON chair) reported that CON had had the latest meeting on 26th May and had had focus on governance, structure, membership, and got a lot of good feedback. The group had also reviewed the upcoming retreat and governance sessions and would encourage the Board to continue its deliberations on the CON governance and participation.

Jan Rene Larsen (SAON Secretariat) added that the connection between CON and POAWG fitted well the coming EU-PolarNet II, where a deliverable would be a procedure for creating overviews of polar observational capacities.

## 4. Arctic Science Ministerial

### 4a ASM3

Yuji Kodama (Japan) reported from the third briefing meeting, held on 24<sup>th</sup> June. A key point was that the ASM3 is rescheduled to 8-9 May 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. The plan is that there will be a Science Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and the Ministerial Meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Different scenarios are under consideration for the Ministerial meeting, including an option for holding it as an on-line only event. A decision about the format will be made in January 2021. The date for submitting information for the science process had been moved to 31<sup>st</sup> July. Jennie Baseman has been engaged to prepare a summary, and the first draft version is expected to be available by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

A request had been received from the ASM3 organisers to report on projects that relate to the themes of ASM3, and it had been proposed at the June Board meeting that the ROADS process should be such a project. This was agreed by the Board. Jan Rene Larsen proposed that Board members would bring text on the ROADS process forward if Board members were engaged in the process of formulating national input to the ASM3.

### 4a ASM2

Jan Rene Larsen explained briefly about the project *Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus* that is an EU-supported project coming out of the second Arctic Science Ministerial. Three consortia have been established, and the concern from the consortia's side is on

confidentiality and the risk that information flows from one consortium to the other. It had been decided to organise an internal SAON review group and have the dialogue with the consortia through this. Members would be Sandy Starkweather, Jan Rene Larsen, an indigenous representative and non-European Board members. Jan Rene Larsen had been in a dialogue with the consortia to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement that would allow the consortia to share information with the internal SAON review group.

Jan Rene Larsen explained that for formal reasons, it would be the AMAP Secretariat as a legal entity that would be a Partner in the consortium. He emphasised the importance of the SAON Board engagement in the process, so that the project would not just be a Secretariat process.

Two tasks had been formulated that SAON believed that the consortia should cover. Task 1 was about identifying and documenting 2-4 Essential Arctic Variables (EAVs), and Jan Rene Larsen explained that the SAON Board contribution to this task would be crucial. As described in the ROADS process, EAVs should be developed in Expert Panels, and SAON Board members would be asked to populate these. Task 2 was about to provide support to the work of the Arctic Data Committee.

On Task 1, Sandy Starkweather added that the ROADS process does not describe the variables that should be given priority. Instead, this would be a 'grassroots' effort. It is expected that for each consortium, there would be funded experts, and the role of the Advisory Committee would be to review the work and then make recommendations to the Board if there are gaps in expertise that should be filled.

Hajo Eicken explained about the NSF/RNA project, where the plan is based on the recommendations from the Arctic Observing Summit to hold a set of regional workshops in the Pacific Arctic sector, with a focus on food security to identify a set of shared Arctic variables are essential to Arctic variables. He believed that for some participants it would be more attractive for an expert to be involved in an activity where they know that in their home country, there is a large interest in a particular region. As an example from the Pacific region, there are many research vessels coming in from Canada, China, South Korea, and Japan.

Maribeth Murray (Canada) noted that some of the effort described was depending on EU and USA funding, and asked for a document or rationale, that could be brought to other countries to make the argument for why they should provide resources to support experts. Sandy Starkweather concluded the overall discussion by noting that the ROADS process should be followed up by an engagement strategy document.

## 5. Governance

The first workshop in July would be on the ROADS governance process.

## 6. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS)

Craig Lee (USA), who represent SAON within the GRA and UNDOS processes explained that there have been some discussion if the Arctic should move to become a GOOS Region.

For the UNDOS process, there had been plans for a physical meeting in autumn 2020 to develop a set of recommendations for an Arctic action plan for the UN decade of the ocean. The plan is instead to have an online consultation in March 2021 and spend the time on preparations. Preparations would be through

establishing a number of working groups, where each would develop action plans towards a set of specific objectives. The outcome of the March meeting would be a final set of action plans, ideally, available for the ASSW.

UN Decade objectives are broad and along the lines of a safe ocean, a protected ocean, a healthy ocean. The Arctic group has been released from that structure, and there is a discussion if these instead could be refined into something that are more specific to the Arctic and its societal benefit areas, perhaps along the lines of the ROADS process.

## **7. SAON presence at**

It was noted that a session proposal had been submitted to the Arctic Circle Assembly, and it has been approved.

## **8 Any other business.**

### **8a Joint fellow with IASC**

(The topic was not covered)

### **8b IASC Statement On Tackling Racism & Systemic Bias**

Sandy Starkweather explained that for many reasons national representatives would not always be able to sign on these kinds of statements but believed that it would be of value if SAON could formulate a similar letter. She proposed that a small group would work on drafting a straw man text to be presented to the Board.

## Appendix 1. Agenda

SAON Board meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
16-17:30 CET / 10-11:30 am EST  
Teleconference

### Draft agenda

1. Introductions and adoption of agenda (5 min)  
[Sandy Starkweather]
2. The ROADS process (10 min)  
*[The process should be defined, documented, and be in a publicly accessible format for the ASM3. The plan is to submit it for the special edition of the journal Arctic that will report on the outcomes of AOS2020. The RoadMap Task Force will reconvene over summer and review and revise the document. In addition, representatives from the three consortia behind the project Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus have been invited as are representatives from the five AOS2020 working groups. The deadline for submission is 1<sup>st</sup> September. Sandy Starkweather]*
3. Committees (20 min)
  - a. ADC [Peter Pulsifer]  
*[Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon was held 30 June 2020]*
  - b. CON [Lisa Loseto] *[Including the Polar Observing Assets WG (POAWG) and the EU-PolarNet-2 deliverable "Procedure for ongoing collection and collating of European Polar observing capacities and activities"]*
4. Arctic Science Ministerial
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial (10 min)  
*[SAON has been invited to provide input to ASM3. The Board is invited to approve the draft presented. Following approval, national representatives are encouraged to bring the text forward through national channels. Jan Rene Larsen]*
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Arctic Science Ministerial follow-up (15 min)  
*[The project Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus. There have been dialogues with the three consortia, and the third document describes the proposed level of SAON engagement in the preparation in the project proposals. The two first documents describe the SAON engagement in the project itself. The project proposals will be submitted 3<sup>rd</sup> September. SAON Board members will be asked in a tour-de-table to describe their envisaged engagement in the project. Jan Rene Larsen]*
5. Governance (15 min)  
*[It has been proposed that a series of retreats are organised. Topics include a discussion on how SAON develops and organises the relationship with other entities. Another topic is the SAON national structure. Jan Rene Larsen]*

6. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (UNDOS):  
Copenhagen Arctic Workshop 21-23 October 2020.
7. SAON presence at (15 min)
  - a) Arctic Circle 2020 Assembly. October 8–11, 2020 in Reykjavík, Iceland. [*The session proposal has approved*] <http://www.arcticcircle.org/>
  - b) Arena for the gap analysis of the existing Arctic Science Co-Operations (AASCO) 2-3 November 2020, Monaco. Registration 15 May 2020.  
<http://www.atm.helsinki.fi/peex/index.php/aasco>
  - c) 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial. 21-22 November 2020, Tokyo, Japan  
<https://asm3.org/>
  - d) Arctic Circle Japan Forum November 21-23, 2020  
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/japan>
  - e) EO for Polar Science Workshop (date unknown). <http://eo4polar.esa.int/>.  
Contribution submission 1st June 2020
  - f) Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (*postponed*)  
<http://www.arcticcircle.org/forums/berlin/announcement>
  - g) ASSW 2021 20-26 March, Lisboa, Portugal [*A session proposal has been submitted*].  
<https://assw2021.pt/>
  - h) International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X): 15-19 June 2021,  
Arkhangelsk, Russia. <https://icass.uni.edu/>
8. Any other business (10 min)
  - a. Topics to pursue with IASC: *Joint fellow*
9. Next telephone conference: 12<sup>th</sup> August 16-17:30 CEDT / 10-11:30 am EDT.

## Appendix 2. List of participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Agnieszka B. Möller	Poland
David Arthurs	Polar View
Craig Lee	USA
Eva Kruemmel	ICC
Hajo Eicken	UAF, USA
Heikki Lihavainen	SIOS
Jan Rene Larsen	SAON Secretariat
Jórunn Harðardóttir	Iceland
Nicolas Segebarth	European Commission
Peter Pulsifer	ADC Chair
Larry Hinzman	IASC
Lisa Loseto	CON Chair
Maribeth Murray	Institute of the Arctic
Roberto Delgado	NSF, USA
Rodica Nitu	WMO
Sandy Starkweather	Chair
Srdan Dobricic	European Commission, JRC
Yoo Kyung Lee	Korea
Yuji Kodama	Japan

(More details on affiliation will be added)

## Appendix 3. List of documents

<b><i>Agenda item</i></b>	<b><i>Document no</i></b>	<b><i>Document Title</i></b>	<b><i>Document author</i></b>
0	01	<a href="#">Draft agenda. Version 7th July 2020</a>	Executive
0	02	<a href="#">GoToMeeting dial-in</a>	Secretariat
0		<a href="#">SAON Board meeting 10th June 2020. Draft minutes version 13th July 2020</a>	Secretariat
3a	(link)	<a href="#">Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon: 30 June 2020</a>	PDF
4a	06	<a href="#">ASM3: Online briefing</a>	
4a	(link)	<a href="#">ASM3: New Project Deliverable / The ROADS process (draft)</a>	
4b	03	<a href="#">The project <i>Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus</i>: Task Description. Task 1 Draft version 04JUL2020</a>	
4b	04	<a href="#">The project <i>Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus</i>: Task Description. Task 2 Draft version 04JUL2020</a>	
4b	05	<a href="#">The project <i>Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus</i>: Non-Disclosure Agreement. Draft version 04JUL2020</a>	
7a	(link)	<a href="#">Arctic Circle 2020 Assembly. October 8–11, 2020 in Reykjavík, Iceland</a>	
7b	(link)	<a href="#">1st AASCO Meeting, Monaco, 2-3 November 2020</a>	
7c	(link)	<a href="#">3rd Arctic Science Ministerial, Co-hosted by Iceland and Japan, NEW DATE: 08-09 May 2021, Tokyo, Japan</a>	
7d	(link)	<a href="#">Arctic Circle Japan (postponed)</a>	
7e	(link)	<a href="#">EO for Polar Science workshop will be held online. 28 / 30 October 2020</a>	
7f	(link)	<a href="#">Arctic Circle Berlin Forum (postponed)</a>	
7g	(link)	<a href="#">ASSW 2021 20-26 March, Lisboa, Portugal</a>	
7h	(link)	<a href="#">International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS X): 15-19 June 2021, Arkhangelsk, Russia</a>	

Documents: <https://www.arcticobserving.org/governance/board/board-meetings/12-board-meetings/412-15th-july-2020-meeting-documents-for-board-meeting-teleconference>