



Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

**21st September 2016 10-11 AM EST / 16-17 CET (Teleconference)
Draft minutes**

1. Welcome to the call

2. Review minutes from last call

Lisa Loseto (CON chair, Canada) welcomed the participants. The minutes from the meeting on 7th June 2016 was approved.

3. Overview of Review - comments

Jan Rene Larsen presented findings and recommendations from the external review. Of particular interest to the committee are these recommendations:

- 2) The SAON Board needs ongoing and productive communication with the SAON Committees and within the Board itself, via regular teleconferences and face-to-face meetings.
- 3) SAON's role and interactions with its networks and programs need to be clarified and strengthened.
- 5) SAON must develop more task-oriented Goals that are reflective of the SAON Vision and Mission and are a key component of a newly developed Strategic Plan. Annual work plans for the SAON Committees should specify deliverables, milestones and annual review and reporting so as to demonstrate progress and success.
- 8). The SAON Committees have been a successful addition to the SAON organizational structure and ongoing guidance from the SAON Board and resourcing with funds or dedicated personnel should be made available.

In the following discussion, Vladimir Romanovsky (IPA, USA) asked what the follow-up will be. Jan Rene Larsen responded that the SAON Board will develop a strategic plan.

Hannele Savela (CON co-chair, Finland, INTERACT) asked the Committee members which of the recommendations, they found were the most important, and what the priorities of the Committee should be. She believed that the most important thing for SAON would be to define tasks, goals, and activities. It would be good for the Committee and help it organize the work more easily.

Vito Vitale (Italy) said that the most important thing would be to secure funding for observations and find a way to secure the sustainability of observational systems. He saw a need for a strategic plan, since a plan could be used to go to funding bodies.

Vladimir Romanovsky added that sustainability is the most important question. The Committee is almost completely based on voluntary work. The meetings are seldom, while face-to-face meetings are more productive.

4. Database update and review

Jan Rene Larsen gave an overview of the inventory on polar observational and monitoring programmes. The inventory is an EU-PolarNet deliverable, and CON and its members have provided a significant part of the information that is found in the inventory. The work on the inventories covering networks, projects, and platforms continues.

Vito Vitale mentioned the EU-funded project INTAROS and it was agreed that SAON should seek to establish a connection to this.

5. Planning ahead: TOR and workplan based on review outcomes

Lisa Loseto presented the existing ToR, noting that the main topics currently are work on inventories and indicators. It was agreed that the chairmanship should develop a draft updated ToR. The work should also contain a list of task. The work on indicators should not be given priority.

Vladimir Romanovsky saw a need for discussion about the membership of the Committee. He saw a need for adding members with more information and power. He believed that the Committee should be closer to the sources of funding, and he was especially missing the USA NSF.

6. Next call proposed date/time

Jan Rene Larsen will circulate a Doodle among the members.

7. Other

Larry Hinzman (USA) informed the Committee about the initiative by the USA to establish a national SAON office.

Appendix 1: Agenda

- 1) Welcome to the call
- 2) Review minutes from last call
- 3) Overview of Review - comments
- 4) Database update and review (Jan Rene Larsen)
- 5) Planning ahead: TOR and workplan based on review outcomes
- 6) Next call proposed date/time
- 7) Other

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Name	Affiliation
Hannele Savela	SAON CON co-chair, Finland, INTERACT
Jan Rene Larsen	AMAP Secretariat
Kjetil Tørseth	Norway
Larry Hinzman	SAON vice-Chair, USA
Lisa Loseto	SAON CON chair, Canada
Peter Pulsifer	ADC chair, USA
Rodica Nitu	WMO
Sarah Kalhok	Canada
Vito Vitale	Italy
Vladimir Romanovsky	IPA, USA

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

Appendix 3: Actions

Action No	Action	Who	When
1	Draft a proposal for updated ToRs	Hannele Savela, Jan Rene Larsen, Lisa Loseto	1 st October 2016