



SAON Board meeting 3rd March 2025
16 – 1730 UTC / 17-1830 CET / 11am-1230pm EST

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

The SAON Board Chair, Mikko Strahlendorff, welcomed participants to the meeting. (Note that the agenda and participants listing are available in Appendices 1 and 2). Jan Rene Larsen reported that the draft minutes from the [13th January 2025](#) SAON Board meeting are available for review.

2. Presentation of Organization/National Report – SIOS - Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observation System

Heikki Lihavainen gave a presentation entitled “SIOS Research Infrastructure”. He described SIOS as a Norwegian initiated consortium of institutions with research infrastructure in and around Svalbard. It is currently comprised of 29 institutions from ten countries, with a focus on long term observation of processes (e.g. environmental and climate change). The Svalbard location appeals to the research community with its three major super observing sites, and a large temperature range across its location. The workplan has three pillars (and includes seven work packages) relating to: joint activities; services; and, sustainability. Heikki highlighted the data management system that manages data generated across the observing sites. He also noted the annual production of the SESS (State of Environmental Science in Svalbard) report as a key document building on the SIOS earth observation data. For further information: www.sios-svalbard.org

Mikko encouraged other SAON Board members to make similar short organization/national reports at future SAON Board meetings.

3. SAON Board meeting in Boulder

SAON Board meeting has been scheduled for 23rd March 2025 13:30 – 17:00 MDT / 20:30-24:00 CET. Jan Rene noted that the meeting will focus on the work of the SAON Committees – Arctic Data Committee and the Committee on Networks (see [Meeting documents](#)). He also reported that there are registration fees for both on-site and online attendance, and requested that [this GoogleForm](#) be completed if members plan to participate either in person or virtually.

4. ASSW/ICARP IV 20-28 March 2025, Boulder, Colorado, USA

- a. [ASSW](#) - Gerlis Fugmann reported that the ASSW program is now available online and that the agenda is very full with business community meetings and scientific sessions, as well as town halls presenting the work of ICARP by research priority teams.
- b. [ICARP IV](#) – Mikko asked that members refer to the ICARP IV website for further information on this work. In regards to International Polar Year (IPY) process, Heikki will be the SAON representative in these discussions. There are currently four IPY Task Groups (and more to be proposed) on: Vision and Priorities; Indigenous Leadership; Countries and Funders Involvement; and, Capacity Building and Early Career. The Task Groups are open to membership from relevant expert parties and involvement is encouraged.

- c. [Overview of Relevant Events](#) – Jan Rene asked members to follow this web link to see an overview of relevant events that are planned during the ASSW and ICARP later in March. Members are welcomed to add additional relevant events.

5. Any Other Business

- a. Jan Rene spoke about the **Survey: 'Evaluating the Arctic ROADS process'**. The objective of the survey is to inform the ROADS Advisory Panel. The proposed survey is organized into two versions: i) 'Insiders': Advisory Panel members, Expert Panel facilitators and members, project leads; and, ii) 'Outsiders': SAON Board and SAON Committees. Jan Rene indicated that SAON Board members will be receiving an email with the link to the survey within the coming days, and he highly encouraged members to complete the short survey (estimated to take 10-15 minutes only).
- b. **AASCO:** <https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/peex/index.php/aasco/> Hanna Lappalainen reported on this meeting that was held over two days in early February 2025 with over one hundred participants. A White Paper will be circulated shortly based on the meeting discussions. It is hoped to have the White Paper available prior to the ASSW/ICARP meetings later this month.
- c. **Applications for the GEO Post-2025 Work Programme:** Mikko reported that there had been two elements proposed for the GEO work programme – ArcticGEOSS and SAON. These will now merged into one element, based on the GEO Secretariat feedback. This new approach would see ArcticGEOOS proposed as a "convenor" in the GEO work programme and SAON will be proposed as the organization to carry ArcticGEOOS.
- d. **Next SAON Board Teleconference:** Teleconferences will be held the first Monday of every second month. The next meeting/teleconference will be held during ASSW on 23rd March and then on 5th May.

APPENDIX 1



SAON Board meeting 3rd March 2025
16 – 17 UTC / 17-18 CET / 11am-12pm EST

Teleconference (Teams – link below)

Draft agenda

6. Welcome and adoption of agenda (Mikko Strahlendorff)
[Please note that the session will be recorded. The recording will not be shared, but only used for the preparation of minutes]. Draft minutes from the teleconference [13th January 2025](#) (10 min)
7. Organisation/national reports
 - a. SIOS - Heikki
8. SAON Board meeting in Boulder
 - a. SAON Board meeting 23rd March 2025 13:30 – 17:00 MDT / 20:30-24:00 CET. [Meeting documents](#). The meeting will have focus on the work of the Committees. *There are registration fees for both on-site and online attendance. [Please complete this GoogleForm](#) if you plan to participate* (Jan Rene Larsen)
9. ASSW/ICARP IV 20-28 March 2025, Boulder, Colorado, USA
 - a. [ASSW](#) (Gerlis Fugmann)
 - b. [ICARP IV](#) (Sandy Starkweather)
 - c. [Overview of relevant events](#)
10. Any other business (10 min)
 1. Survey: 'Evaluating the Arctic ROADS process'. The objective of the survey is to inform the ROADS Advisory Panel. The proposed survey is organized into two versions: 'Insiders': Advisory Panel members, Expert Panel facilitators and members, project leads. 'Outsiders': SAON Board and SAON Committees.
 2. AASCO: <https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/peex/index.php/aasco/> (Sandy)
 3. Applications for the GEO post-2025 programme: 1) ArcticGEOSS, 2) SAON as a convener (Mikko Strahlendorff and Jan Rene Larsen)
 4. Board teleconferences will be held the first Monday of every 2nd Month. The next will be during ASSW(23rd March) and 5th May.

Teams link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGFmZTM0ZTYtMzBiNC00YjcxLWlxMTctYWwRkN2EwNDI2ZDky%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22e85164ec-9598-49a2-98a1-709a3f29cfc6%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22201df34a-7bdc-4596-b7a2-09094429e16e%22%7d

APPENDIX 2

List of Participants

David Arthurs, PolarView
Christine Barnard, ArcticNet
Alice Bradley, , Williams College, AOS WG #4
Amanda Cliff, Polar Knowledge Canada
Robert Delgado, NSF, US
Lauren Divine, Aleut International Association (AIA) – Co-chair SAON ROADS Advisory Panel
Sdrjan Dobricic, JRC – European Commission
Izuchukwu Ezukanma, SAON ROADS Fellow
Gerlis Fugmann, IASC
Ola Grabek, ESA
Jórunn Hardardottin, Iceland
Patrick Huber, EPA
Michael Karcher, Arctic PASSION
Ole Krarup Leth, DMI, Denmark
Ulf Jonsell, Polar
Cornelya Klutsch, INTERACT
Eva Kruemmel, ICC
Halldór Jóhannsson, Arctic Portal
Hanna Lappalainen, AD, Finland
Heikki Lihavainen, Arctic PASSION & SIOS, Co-Chair of SAON CON
Anna Nikolopoulos, Norwegian Polar Institute & Arctic GOOS
Andrey Petrov
Axel Schlindwein, APECS International
Nicolas Segebarth, EC Europa
Mikko Strahlendorff, FMI, Finland and Chair SAON Board
Chantelle Verhey, Co-Chair Arctic Data Committee
Jeremy Wilkinson, UK

Jan Rene Larsen, AMAP Secretariat