

AI-generated minutes (ChatGPT)

Prompt: Minutes based on the attached transcript. Focus on decision and actions. No time stamp. Exclude the name of speakers. For export into words. Link to agenda. *Followed by manual shortening by JRL.*

Link to agenda: <https://arcticobserving.org/committees/con/meetings>

Link to CON composition: <https://arcticobserving.org/committees/con/members>

SAON Committee on Networks (CON) Meeting Minutes

Date: 2 June 2026

Reference Agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bu53TpiVLE9yiMZrFaXgsTHF1sbeztyk/edit>

Work Plan 2026–2027

Decision

The Committee agreed in principle to organize its 2026–2027 activities around a series of targeted online workshops focused on inventory development and use cases for Arctic observing infrastructure.

Proposed workshop themes include:

- Research stations
- Research vessels and scientific cruises
- Community-based observer networks and monitoring initiatives
- Other observing infrastructure and inventory-related topics as identified

Key Points Agreed

- Workshops will focus on identifying inventory use cases, user needs, and required information content.
 - Workshops should engage expertise beyond the Committee membership.
 - Existing inventory efforts and platforms should be leveraged wherever possible.
 - Community-based and Indigenous observer networks should be included as a dedicated topic area.
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Registry of Polar Observing Networks (RoPON)

Update

The Committee received an update on the Registry of Polar Observing Networks (RoPON).

Current status:

- ROPON has been formally launched.
- Approximately 59 observing networks are currently registered.
- The platform is operational and continues to grow.
- Development is transitioning from active build-out to maintenance and incremental enhancement.

Funding support from NOAA is currently scheduled to conclude at the end of August 2026, with a no-cost extension request submitted.

Discussion

A prototype Polar Observing Site Discovery Tool is also under development. The prototype aims to:

- Aggregate information from multiple machine-readable catalogues.
- Improve discoverability of observing sites across the polar regions.
- Demonstrate interoperability among distributed information systems.

The Committee discussed potential future functionality relevant to IPY planning, including the ability to identify:

- Infrastructure offering physical access.
- Infrastructure supporting remote access.
- Networks capable of collecting observations on behalf of researchers.
- Available datasets and data access opportunities.

Committee Leadership and Terms of Reference

Discussion

The Committee reviewed provisions in the Terms of Reference regarding leadership appointments.

Current co-chairs indicated willingness to continue for one additional year. However, there was agreement that leadership succession planning should begin immediately.

Actions

- Begin identifying and encouraging potential future chair candidates.
 - Consider both internal nominations and broader outreach for leadership candidates.
 - Inform the SAON Board that a leadership transition process is being initiated.
 - Continue discussions on succession planning during the coming year.
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Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) Transition Process

Update

An update was provided on the ongoing review and transition planning process for the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS).

The review aims to:

- Assess community priorities and needs.
- Develop a sustainable future governance and planning structure.
- Define the format and leadership structure for AOS 2028.

A community survey will be distributed shortly to gather stakeholder feedback.

Actions

- Committee members to complete the forthcoming AOS survey.
 - Members to identify and suggest potential candidates for future AOS leadership roles.
 - Transition planning group to continue work through summer 2026 with decisions targeted for September 2026.
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Next Meeting

Decision

The next regular Committee meeting will take place 1st September 2026.