SAON ROADS Advisory Panel

ROADS Advisory Panel – Minutes
15th September 2026, 14-15:30 UTC, 16-17:30 CEST, 10-11:30 am EDT

Minutes prepared from: AI generated summary based on meeting transcript

Key Outcomes

The ROADS Advisory Panel is shifting focus from documentation to a broader engagement strategy to support new expert panels (EPs) and increase outreach to non-Arctic states and early career researchers

Key initiatives include organizing a "supersized" open partnership meeting at the next Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) and exploring sustainable funding for a dedicated secretariat role to manage communications and coordination

Decisions Made

- **ASSW Workshop:** The open partnership meeting at ASSW will be expanded into a series of workshops (potentially two half-days) focusing on the ROADS process and engagement with non-Arctic/Asian states.
- **ASSW Coordination:** Sandy will act as the bridge between the standard open partnership meeting and the "Beyond Arctic Passion" funded workshops, while Heikki and Zoe will initiate a planning document.
- **Outreach Focus:** Future engagement will prioritize "newcomer-friendly" content to accommodate participants unfamiliar with ROADS acronyms and processes.

Progress & Status

- **US-led Proposals:** Margaret is pursuing NSF funding for a cohort model ("InROADS for the next generation of Arctic observing leaders") to support facilitators and two implementation-focused EPs, specifically targeting river erosion and flooding in Alaska.
- **Sea Ice EP Phase II:** Documentation is being finalized with a wrap-up meeting scheduled for September 28; a proposal for Phase III and IV funding has been submitted to the UK Arctic Office.
- **Funding Opportunities:** ArcticNet's "Connections and Co-Production Grant" (approx. $25k–$30k CAD) is available in early winter to help researchers and communities build relationships for future grant applications.
- **Emerging EP Interests:** Early interest has been noted for youth-led work on marine litter/ plastics, a shared Arctic variable approach to fjords, and Asian-led efforts on extreme weather.

Risks & Blockers

- **Lack of Core Funding:** The panel currently relies on in-kind support and voluntary work, which limits the ability to maintain a professional web presence or develop outreach materials like the handbook.
- **Secretariat Capacity:** There is a critical need for a dedicated role to handle documentation, web maintenance, and EP interaction to prevent advisory members from being overwhelmed by administrative tasks.

Action Items

- **Heikki:** Create and share a Google Doc for the ASSW workshop plan with the full advisory panel by early October.
- **Sandy:** Initiate an email thread between Heikki, Tetsuo, and COPRI hosts to brainstorm co-chairs for the ASSW meeting.
- **Sandy:** Follow up with Oksana regarding Polar Knowledge IPY planning grants.
- **Advisory Panel:** Identify potential co-chairs for the ASSW sessions, specifically seeking those who haven't led such meetings before.

Next Steps

- **ArcticNet Meeting:** Present the ROADS concept and coordinate with the European Permafrost EP.
- **Arctic Circle Assembly:** Attend the INTERACT workshop on October 9 regarding IPY and observing.
- **Strategic Planning:** Develop a justification/pitch for a dedicated secretariat role to be presented to the SAON board or other funding bodies over the next 6–8 months *2425*.
- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for October 20.

Appendix 2 - Agenda – ROADS Advisory Panel

ROADS Advisory Panel

Teleconference.
Zoom (**not Teams**)
https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/4105560408

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Workspace for agendas and meeting notes: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rm3aGZcGuKaVMagkNNpU8sOEzEChKWns

1. Welcome & Introduce New Members (if any) (Lauren, 5 min)
    a. Minutes/Takeaways from previous meetings: Minutes from 25th August
2. Fostering the next generation of Expert Panels, follow-up work from AOS, and strategy to IPY5
   Background:
    a. US Proposal and fostering new EPs in US (Margaret, 5 min)
    i. River Flooding/Erosion + UAV/GIS and data sharing/storage/accessibility to Indigenous communities
    i. Existing EPs
        1. North American Wildfire EP
        2. HABs EP
    a. Work underway
    i. European Permafrost EP
    i. Sea Ice EP
    a. Ideas coming from AOS + other directions (Sandy, 5 min)
    i. EP on Marine Litter/Debris/Plastics
    i. Hackathons, also with the Arctic Data Community
    i. Improve our engagement with APECS (e.g., training)
        i. GRISO - GReenland Ice Sheet-Ocean interactions
   Strategy Discussion: (Sandy, 45 min)
    d. Funding possibilities for EPs
    i. ArcticNet Planning Grants
        1. Connections and co-production grants - launched in early winter to build relationships and come together to write the proposal - $25-30k CAD
    i. UArctic- https://www.uarctic.org/activities/government-funded-projects/indigenous-northern-collaborative-research-education-and-relationship-development-initiatives/call-for-submissions-uarctic-announces-new-five-year-funding-stream-for-2026-to-strengthen-indigenous-and-northern-research-collaboration/
    d. Funding for core organizational activities and AP
    i. Previously looked at Prince of Monaco - required fund matching
    i. Arctic Belmont
    i. Funding through Arctic Council for portion through contractual
        i. Follow-up with Aaron Poe

d. Potential co-facilitators & partner organizations - who do we draw in
i. APECS
1. Other ECR - Arctic Oceans 2050
2. SEAL Program - https://www.gu.se/en/seal
i. European Environment Agency (EEA)
d. Targeted events and groups for broader engagement
i. BAP IPY5 meeting at ASSW Hakodate: ('InROADS' theme with non-Arctic states context), HABs EP abstract, Beyond Arctic PASSION planning a workshop submitted, interest in an Open Partnership Meeting/ in-person AP meeting? Writing retreat?.
1. Recommend keeping the starting points quite "newcomer friendly"
2.

i. IPY5 coordination office
1. The idea of a funded ROADS coordinator position part of this office (show wide support for this in preparation, e.g., EPs, Indigenous Peoples' Organizations representatives, SAON Board members)
i. Create a landing page for those new to ROADS on website for engagement

3. Upcoming Events (Jan, 10-15 min)
a. Arctic Circle Assembly, Reykjavik, October 8-10, 2026. List of relevant sessions
i. INTERACT session
a. ArcticNet, Halifax, December 7-10, 2026. Travel fund for Indigenous community members and Northerners that otherwise would not be able to attend. 2 abstracts submitted - ECR (Monday 7 Dec), EP panel (TBC)
a. AGU, San Francisco, December 7-11, 2026.
a. Arctic Frontiers, Tromsø, February 1-4, 2027. Abstracts due October 5, 2026.
a. Arctic Youth Conference, Nuuk, February 26-28, 2027.
a. Arctic Biodiversity Summit, Nuuk, March 16-18, 2027.
a. ASSW, Hokodate, Hokkaido, Japan, April 11-20, 2027. workshop or community meeting ('InROADS' theme with non-Arctic states context), HABs EP abstract, Beyond Arctic PASSION planning a workshop submitted, interest in an Open Partnership Meeting/ in-person AP meeting? Writing retreat?.

3. AOB (Open, 5 min)
a. Arctic Observing Summit - Transition/Planning Group (Jan, 5 min)
a. Dialogue with EEA. Draft proposal for text on ROADS (Jan, 5 min)

3. Actions items recap and Closing Remarks (Lauren, 5 min)
a. The next regular meeting is 20th October 14:00-15:30 UTC, 16:00-17:30 CEST, 10:00-11:30 am EDT

Please reserve the third Tuesday every month 16-17:30 CEST / 10-11:30 am EDT / 14-16:30 UTC. Agenda and other meeting documents will be made available here: https://roadsadvisorypanel.org/meeting-documents