



Activity report SLU Water Forum 2020-11-14 - 2021-01-21

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between mid-November 2020 and mid-January 2021. After this there is a short outlook on future plans and activities of the Forum. Note: the activities within SLU Water Forum during this period have naturally been affected by Christmas holidays at SLU.

Follow-up work and notes from WaterCOG-meeting 10/11-2020

The autumn 2020 meeting with WaterCOG was summarized in the notes available at <https://internt.slu.se/globalassets/mw/riktade/vattenforum-internt/watercog/minnesanteckningar/anteckningar-watercog-2020-11-10.pdf>. The presentation held during the meeting is found at <https://internt.slu.se/riktat/lasta-interna-sidor/vattenforum/watercog/presentationer/presentation-vid-watercogs-note-2020-11-10/>. During December 2020 and the first half of January 2021, follow-up work related to discussions and suggestions during the meeting has been undertaken within SLU Water Forum.

Meetings and workshops within projects funded by SLU Water Forum “seed-money”

- 16/11. Jens Olsson had a meeting with Ulla Ershad Khan and Lutz Ahrens on the progress of their project *Innovative water purification technology for peri- and polyflouroalkyl substances in drinking water*. The project submitted a research proposal to TUFFO SGI (www.swedgeo.se) during fall 2020. The proposal passed the first round of evaluations, and a second stage proposal was submitted in December 2020. While awaiting a decision on the proposal, the work within the project is now focusing on establishing a wider network for future collaborations and applications.
- 1/12. Workshop within the project *Fiskhälsa i fokus*. 31 experts from many different departments and three faculties at SLU (S, NJ and VH) participated in the workshop. Notes of the workshop are found in Appendix 1.
- November-January. Örjan Östman (project leader), Lisa Beste and Jens Olsson planned the seminar within the project *Internal SLU Symposium on: Future perspectives on Source-to-Sea*. The seminar will be held on the 15-16th of February (<https://www.slu.se/en/ew-calendar/2021/2/seminar-current-and-future-perspectives-on-water-research-at-slu/>), and an invitation to SLU Water Forum was sent out on the 17th of December 2020. The seminar will include 12-13 speakers from different departments covering all four faculties at SLU. We are currently detailing the program for the seminar.

Planeringsforum Vatten och hav

19/11. The last meeting within the Planeringsforum for 2020. The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing initiatives (*Små avlopp, Vattenkvantiteter, Vägdagvatten*) within the Planeringsforum, and discussed the future organization and forms of collaboration within “Smart miljöinformation”.

Meeting with ”VA-guiden”

20/11. A second follow-up meeting between SLU and “VA-guiden” (<https://vaguiden.se>) to discuss future cooperation and engagement from SLU in “VA-guiden”. After the meeting, Jens Olsson informed a selected group of experts at SLU working with “Dagvatten” and “VA-planering” on the interest from “VA-guiden” to write articles and distribute research news from SLU. “VA-guiden” was also informed on the news feed at the SLU Water Forum webpage.

Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun

26/11. A follow-up meeting with the coordinators from Uppsala kommun, Uppsala Vatten och Avfall AB and Jens Olsson was held to discuss the next steps in the collaboration after the initial dialogue meetings. As a next step, the dialogue meetings will be summarized, and the summary will be distributed to all participants in the dialogue meetings. Following this a team with all participants will be created in TEAMS to serve as platform for future collaboration. During spring 2021, a few follow-up meetings within the different thematic areas of the dialogue meetings are anticipated to be held to further develop collaboration between the organizations. One brainstorming workshop on drinking water for the upcoming 2021 calls from Formas and VR is planned to the 21/1 with participants from all three organizations.

Knowledge needs on water and future internal cooperation at SLU

December. A second request for input on the current knowledge needs on water at SLU was distributed to WaterCOG. At present, almost everyone within WaterCOG has contributed with input and suggestions, and the next steps is to summarize the input and arrange a focused workshops on how to take the work further.

Update of the SLU Water Forum web

November-January. The Water Forum web has been updated and adjusted to be more up to date with correct information. On the 11/12, Lisa Beste and Jens Olsson had a meeting with Anna Norman-Halden and Eva-Stina Lindell from SLU Aquaculture on how to make the Water Forum web more accessible, structured and informative. The suggestions from the meeting will hopefully be implemented during 2021.

Meeting with UUSI-water coordinator Henrik Josefsson

15/12. Jens Olsson had a meeting with Henrik Josefsson, coordinator for the water part of Uppsala University Sustainability Initiatives (UUSI) on the current status of work within UUSI-water and SLU Water Forum, and future possibilities for collaboration between the two. UUSI is still trying to engage researchers at UU for joint applications and have high expectations on the coming national research program on oceans and water from Formas (see below). The outcome of the meeting was to keep regular contact between UUSI-water and SLU Water Forum on any upcoming potential calls that would favor joint collaboration, and to perhaps arrange a joint seminar focusing on contaminants in water during 2021.

Formas national research program on oceans and water

17/12. Formas will launch a national research-program on oceans and water for a period of ten years <https://formas.se/arkiv/nyheter/nyheter/2020-12-17-nytt-nationellt-forskningsprogram-om-hav-och-vatten.html>. To develop the program, 210 MSEK will be allocated during the coming four years. SLU Water Forum has via Jens Olsson been in contact with the responsible officer at Formas on the involvement of SLU in developing the strategic research agenda for the program. Following this correspondence, SLU Water Forum will be informed and included in the process of developing the research agenda for the program. The first calls of the program will likely be launched during 2021.

New representatives in WaterCOG

December. A new representative in WaterCOG is Staffan Waldo from the Department of Economics. We are currently looking for engagement in WaterCOG from the Department of Urban and Rural Development.

Input on SLU:s contribution to EUSBSR

December-January. 19 experts from SLU Water Forum have submitted texts and information to SLU:s Grants Office on current projects at SLU that contribute to the fulfillment of EU:s Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The reporting of SLU:s contribution of EUSBSR is coordinated by Grants Office.

Thematic brief on water, biodiversity and ecosystem services in a development context

January. A selected group of experts from SLU Water Forum is reviewing a thematic brief on water, biodiversity and ecosystem services in relation to SIDA:s focal areas that SLU:s SIDA-helpdesk has developed and produced. The thematic brief will contribute to the future direction and focus of SIDA:s operation.

News feed and Twitter

November-January. There is a continuous feed of news on water via the SLU Water Forum web. From 14/11-2020 to 21/1-2021, 23 different news/press-releases related to water at SLU has been linked to the news feed at the SLU Water Forum web. These posts and other relevant issues on water related to SLU have routinely also been spread via @SLUwater at Twitter.

Information on water related funding opportunities and events

November-January. During this period, three e-mails on upcoming funding opportunities and events related to water have been distributed on the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

Plans/activities during spring 2021

Seminar: Current and future perspectives on water research at SLU - a seminar for collaborative activities

15-16/2. <https://www.slu.se/en/ew-calendar/2021/2/seminar-current-and-future-perspectives-on-water-research-at-slu/>

Second newsletter from SLU Water Forum

The second newsletter from SLU Water Forum are planned to be released during early March 2021. The newsletter will summarize the activities and work within SLU Water Forum during autumn 2020 and early 2021.

News-drive from SLU Water Forum during the World Water Day 2021

The 2021-focus of the World water Day will be “valuing water”. During 22-24/3, SLU Water Forum are planning to launch a news-drive similar to the one during the 2020 World Water Day, <https://www.slu.se/ew-kalender/2020/3/varldsvattendag-2020/>.

Launch of seed-money from SLU Water Forum 2021

March. Seed money for 2021 on pilot projects aiming at strengthening transdisciplinary cooperation focusing on water at SLU will be launched by SLU Water Forum.

Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun

“Collaboration platform” in TEAMS.

Follow-up meetings within the different thematic areas of the dialogue meetings to foster further collaboration.

Strategy and work-plan SLU Water Forum 2021-2022

Update of the current strategy and work-plan of SLU Water Forum for the years 2021-2022. Input from WaterCOG is anticipated.

Knowledge needs on water and future internal cooperation at SLU

Summarizing the suggestions and input received from WaterCOG in thematic areas. A dedicated workshop focusing on how to take this further will be arranged during spring 2021.

Publication-record SLU Water Forum

List of publications from people included in the SLU Water Forum mailing list. Following this, the selected publications will be visualized and communicated both internally and externally to highlight water related research at SLU.

List of “water-experts” at SLU

A list of experts on water at SLU to be displayed on the Water Forum web are planned. The current list of “Baltic Sea-experts” at SLU (<https://www.slu.se/om-slu/pressrum/ostersjoexperter-slu/>) will serve as the basis for the “water-expert” list.

Outline and structure of the SLU Water Forum web

Update of the web to make it more accessible, structured and informative.