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**PROMEMORIA**

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## Activity report SLU Water Forum 2020-03-13- 2020-05-20

Below follows a summary of the activities and operation of SLU Water Forum between mid-March and mid-May 2020. After this there is a short outlook on future plans and activities of the Forum.

### **Information on water related funding opportunities and prices/awards to SLU Water Forum**

17/3, using the “water” search profile (as developed together with Grants Office) in the database Pivot, information on six calls/grants and five prices/awards was distributed to SLU Water Forum.

Additional information on available funding calls has been distributed to SLU Water Forum during two additional occasions (one in mid-April and one in mid-May).

### **Publication-record SLU Water Forum**

Following the initial meeting with the SLU Library in mid-February, refinement of the extract of peer-reviewed publications from SLUpub that relates to water at SLU during 2017-2019 has continued. Currently, a suite of key words related to water has been produced. This suite of words will form the basis for the further refinement of the extract of publications related to water from SLUpub. After the final extraction of publications, the selected list will serve as information internally at SLU but also externally (via the Water Forum web page) of the research activities and operation of SLU Water Forum (see also notes from the second WaterCOG-meeting in Appendix 1 for further suggestions on how to take this further).

### **News-drive SLU Water Forum during World Water Day 22/3**

19-25/3, during the days in close proximity of the World Water Day, SLU Water Forum launched a news-drive focusing on water related activities and work at SLU. A significant number of news was produced and events highlighted (see <https://www.slu.se/ew-kalender/2020/3/varldsvattendag-2020/> for further information).

A “boiler-plate” describing the operation focused on water at SLU (“*SLU – a water university. Water is essential to life. At SLU more than 400 researchers and experts work with water-related issues, from source to sea. Our knowledge contributes to achieving the global sustainable development goals focusing on water quality, life in water and the human use of water resources. Learn more at [www.slu.se/waterforum](http://www.slu.se/waterforum)*”) was also developed and included in all news posted during the news-drive.

Water related work at SLU was also highlighted on the start page of the SLU web during these days, and Kevin Bishop posted a “Rektorsblogg” highlighting the water-related work at SLU (<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2020/3/rektorsblogg-wwd2020/>).

The attention of the news-drive was heavily influenced by the outbreak of Corona in Sweden at this specific time, but was well worth the effort as it is resulted in increased activities in the news feed of the SLU Water Forum web page, and associated social media (see Appendix 2 for detailed information on the outcome of the news-drive). The news-drive was coordinated and organized by Ann-Katrin Hallin and Jens Olsson.

### **Meeting Grants Office (Staffan Lund)**

20/3, continued discussions on the involvement of SLU Water Forum for arranging an international conference focusing on “Water management in the agricultural landscape of the Northern hemisphere” (within the WATER DRIVE project) at Ultuna during spring 2021. Additional discussions on how to facilitate a potential future research program focusing on water at SLU was held, and it was also discussed how SLU could develop its contribution to the governmental commission concerning fulfilling the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

### **Second meeting with WaterCOG**

25/3, the second meeting of the Coordination group for water at SLU (new name “WaterCOG”) was held in the end of March. See Appendix 1 for notes from the meeting. In short, the meeting was focused on:

- following up the activities within SLU Water Forum during late 2019 and early 2020,
- presenting upcoming activities and news related to water at SLU,
- discussing the proposal from FORMAS on a future national research program on seas and water,
- how to facilitate increased cooperation on water at SLU ultimately leading to a future interdisciplinary research program focusing on water at SLU,
- how to make the use of the available “seed-money” within SLU Water Forum.

### **Communication support SLU Water Forum**

Lisa Beste (Department of Crop Production Ecology) started as communication support to SLU Water Forum on the 1/4. Lisa are contracted for 10% of full-time employment during 2020 with the possibility to extend the commission during 2021.

### **Meeting SMI at SLU**

20/4, a meeting that aimed at coordinating SLU:s work related to SMI (Smartare miljöinformation). Relates som ”Planeringsforum för Vatten och hav” in which Jens Olsson is representing SLU.

### **Program-workshop Lakes and watercourses**

21/4, Jens Olsson participated in the workshop organized by the Environmental monitoring and assessment program Lakes and watercourses.

### **Mail profile SLU Water Forum**

April, a mail profile for SLU Water Forum ([water@slu.se](mailto:water@slu.se)) was developed by Lisa

Beste and Jens Olsson. The profile has since May been used for any forthcoming information sent to SLU Water Forum.

#### **Call for “seed-money” SLU Water Forum**

4/5, a call for projects/initiatives that aim at increasing the internal and transdisciplinary cooperation on water at SLU was launched to SLU Water Forum in early May. A news post on this was also made on the internal SLU web page for “Calls for research funding “ (<https://internt.slu.se/en/support-services/forskning/research-funding-calls/>) and at the SLU Water Forum web page. Deadline for applications was set to 31/5.

#### **SLU Water Forum news-feed and Twitter**

May, following the news-drive of SLU Water Forum during the World Water Day, an increase in the number news posted on the SLU Water Forum web is seen. With the help of Lisa Beste, the Twitter-account of SLU Water Forum (@SLUwater) has also been revitalized.

#### **Meetings with *Planeringsforum för Vatten och hav***

7/5, Jens Olsson participated via video. No attendance at the planned meeting 2/4 due another conflicting meeting.

#### **Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun**

Mid-March to mid-May, the Activity plan for the collaboration has been developed together with Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten (see Appendix 3 for the latest version of the Activity plan), including information on already existing cooperation as well as experts and competence at SLU for the different focus areas. The Activity plan was developed following a meeting (via video) between Camilla Rivera (Uppsala kommun), Kristina Ekholm (Uppsala Vatten) and Jens Olsson on the 22/4. The next step in the process is that Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten list their experts for the different focus areas, and following this planning of the first dialogue meetings in October 2020 will take place.

#### **Planning of an application for a joint interdisciplinary research program focused on water coordinated by SLU**

The potential first steps in this process was discussed during WaterCOG meeting (see Appendix 1 for notes from the meeting). Following this meeting, a call for “seed-money” was launched (see above), and on the 18/5 a request to the persons in WaterCOG to list the knowledge needs on water in light of current and future environmental- and societal challenges was sent out. During summer-fall 2020 a mapping activity of the knowledge needs will follow. The potential next step in this work is outlined in Appendix 1.

#### **Presentation Water Forum at SET**

20/5, Jens Olsson gave a presentation on the concept, aims, recent achievements and planned future work of SLU Water Forum to SET. In focus for the presentation was the efforts within SLU Water Forum to strengthen water related research at SLU.

## Plans/activities for the nearest future

### **Meeting with UUSI**

3/6 (via video). SLU Water Forum has been invited to take part in a seminar arranged by UUSI (Uppsala University Sustainable Initiatives) with focus on challenges for water in Uppsala and potential future cooperation to attract national funding for projects focusing on research, innovation and sustainable development of cities. Invited organisations besides UU and SLU are: Uppsala kommun, Uppsala vatten, WSP, Livsmedelsverket, Läkemedelsverket and SGU. Jens Olsson will participate during parts of the seminar and present SLU Water Forum.

### **Evaluation and decision applications for “seed-money” SLU Water Forum**

June-July, evaluation and decision for the submitted proposals. Projects/initiatives are anticipated to start during autumn 2020.

### **Planning of an application for a joint interdisciplinary research program focused on water coordinated by SLU**

Summer-autumn, mapping and grouping of suggested knowledge gaps from SLU WaterCOG. Further steps in this process will be outlined together with WaterCOG during autumn 2020.

### **First newsletter SLU Water Forum**

June to early-July, together with Lisa Beste, a first newsletter from SLU Water Forum will be developed and communicated to relevant recipients before the holidays. The main focus of the newsletter is internal communication at SLU, but the newsletter could also be communicated outside SLU to stakeholders and partners.

Tentative content of the newsletter includes a blog-post by Jens Olsson, brief information on the operation and achievements of SLU Water Forum during spring 2020, upcoming funding calls, research news and calendar posts, as well as work that are in the pipeline of the Forum.

### **Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun**

May-June, planning of the first dialogue-meetings between Uppsala kommun, Uppsala Vatten and SLU in accordance to the activity plan for “Integrated water resource management” (Appendix 3). The dialogue-meetings will be scheduled to October 2020.

### **Cooperation SIWI and SLU**

A meeting between SIWI and Jens Olsson is scheduled to 30/6. Focus for the meeting is how to proceed with the established contact and cooperation between SIWI and SLU including for example SLU:s potential participation in SIWI:s “Clustergroups” and seminar series.

### **Meetings with *Planeringsforum för Vatten och hav***

Last meeting for the spring 2020 will be held on the 4/6. Jens Olsson will most likely not be able to participate in the meeting due to another scheduled meeting.

## Plans/activities during autumn 2020

### **Third meeting with SLU WaterCOG**

The next meeting with WaterCOG will be held during the autumn 2020 (date TBD later). Likely focus for the meeting will be to discuss the progress and work since last meeting, to share news and information on water related work at SLU including research calls of interest, and to continue the internal discussions and work needed to increase interdisciplinary cooperation on water at SLU.

### **Second news-drive Water Forum**

If relevant and feasible, a second news-drive by SLU Water Forum will be launched during autumn 2020.

### **Internal web page Water Forum**

Lisa Beste and Jens Olsson will during autumn 2020 develop an internal web page for SLU Water Forum where important internal information and documents can be stored and shared.

### **Publication-record SLU Water Forum**

The work initiated during spring 2020 will be continued during autumn 2020 with the ultimate aim to visualize and communicate (both internally and externally) water related research at SLU.

### **Strategy and workplan SLU Water Forum 2021-2022**

Late autumn 2020. The current strategy and workplan for SLU Water Forum will be updated to also include the year 2021 (at least) and 2022 (potentially).

### **Evaluation of SLU Water Forum**

Autumn 2020. As suggested by dean Torleif Hård, the activity and operation of SLU Water Forum should be evaluated during late 2020. The forms and format for the evaluation needs to be outlined during the nearest future.