



Notes SLU WaterCOG meeting 2020-03-25

Time: 13.00-15.00

Participants: Helena Aronsson, Karin Wiberg, Lisa Beste, Anna Gårdmark, Jens Fölster, Sara Bergek, Staffan Lund and Jens Olsson.

Stina Drakare, Tomas Brodin, Jennifer McConville and Anders Kiessling unfortunately failed to connect to the meeting.

Please also see attached presentation from the meeting for further information

Agenda:

1. New name for this group – WaterCOG (Jens)
2. Activities and work since last meeting (Jens)
3. Information from participants on news/upcoming events related to water at SLU (All)
4. FORMAS proposal on a national program for oceans and water (Jens and All)
5. Discussions on potential future common research projects and programs focused on water at SLU (All)
6. How to make best use of the existing “seed money” within SLU Water Forum (All)
7. Other issues relevant to this group (All)

1 New name for this group – WaterCOG

Since the English name for the existing Vattennav is **SLU Water Hub** (SLU ID: SLU ua 2020.1.1.1-600) “our” group can’t have the same name (SLU Water Hub).

Jens O suggests that WaterCOD (“*SLU COorDination group for water*” and “*Koordineringsgruppen för vatten på SLU*”) could be the new name for this group.

Jens F came with an alternative suggestion WaterCOG (“*SLU COordination Group for water*” and “*Koordineringsgruppen för vatten på SLU*”). COG refers also to the old Hanseatic cogs (ships) connecting countries during the era. The SLU WaterCOG has a similar role in connecting and representing the operations at SLU focusing on water. Indeed a very good idea!

Decision: **new name for this group will be WaterCOG.** No further change of the name of this group is now anticipated.

2 Activities and work since last meeting

Please see the attached presentation and activity reports of SLU Water Forum (shared to the group before the meeting).

Notes from the meeting:

- Next meeting with Uppsala kommun and Uppsala Vatten concerning “Samverkansforum Uppsala kommun” will be held on the 22/4. Focus for the meeting will be forms of collaboration and Jens O will represent SLU. Following this meeting, collaboration within the four focus areas are anticipated to be initiated.
- The main aim of collecting publications from SLU Water Forum should be to 1) communicate and document the wide perspective of the operation of water related work at SLU, both internally and externally, and 2) share information internally on ongoing research focused on water to foster increased collaboration within SLU. Next steps to take includes:
 - further refine the selection of publications based on a list of key words related to water (to filter out publications in the current list not related to water)
 - visualize the collection of publications via for example a Wordcloud-generator capturing the key words/research areas for the selected publications
 - highlight new key (or a selected suite of) publications from the list on the SLU Water Forum web. The publications highlighted should be updated with regular intervals.
- Jens O will send out a reminder to SLU Water Forum on the possibility to apply for funding from the private foundation “Voice of the Ocean”.
- The activities of SLU Water Forum during the “news drive” in connection to the World Water Day 2020 is summarized under the following calendar post: <https://www.slu.se/ew-kalender/2020/3/varldsvattendag-2020/>
- Lisa Beste will provide communication support to SLU Water Forum starting the 1st of April 2020. Lisa’s commission will equal 10% of her employment at SLU.

3 Information on news/upcoming events related to water at SLU

FORMAS: Nordforsk, Nordisk utlysning om Hållbar Akvakultur. Deadline 5/5-2020. More info at: <https://formas.se/arkiv/alla-utlysningar/utlysningar/2020-02-13-nordforsk-nordisk-utlysning-om-hallbar-akvakultur.html>

Water JPI: AquaticPollutants Joint Transnational Call 2020. Deadline 18/5-2020. More info at: <http://www.waterjpi.eu/joint-calls/joint-call-2020-aquaticpollutants/joint-call-2020-aquaticpollutants>

Vetenskapsrådet: Projektbidrag för internationella samarbeten inom kunskapsöverföring och genomslag av forskningsresultat (Aquatic Pollutants, JPIAMR). Deadline 26/5-2020. More info at: <https://www.vr.se/soka-finansiering/utlysningar/2020-01-28-projektbidrag-for-internationella-samarbeten-inom-kunskapsoverforing-och-genomslag-av-forskningsresultat-aquatic-pollutants-jpiamr.html>

LIFE IP Rich waters. Webinarium om *Vattenplaneringens avgörande roll för att säkra framtida ekosystemtjänster* 4/6-2020. Deadline for registration 1/6-2020. Ask Sara.Bergek@slu.se for more info.

Interreg Waterdrive conference 2021. The EU Interreg project Waterdrive (<https://water-drive.eu/about/>) are planning a Baltic-wide conference at Ultuna in 2021 (March or October, tbc), focusing on *Implementation of new and smarter water management practices in agricultural landscapes*. Participation and planning support from SLU Water Forum is anticipated. Contact at SLU is Staffan.Lund@slu.se

4 FORMAS proposal on a national program for oceans and water

For the upcoming “Forskningsproposition” to the Swedish Government in the fall of 2020, FORMAS has produced a report suggesting a new national research program focused on oceans and water, https://formas.se/analys-och-resultat/rapporter/2019-11-25-forskning-och-innovation-for-en-livskraftig-vattenmiljo.html?utm_campaign=NyhetsbrevMar2020&utm_content=unspecified&utm_medium=email&utm_source=apsis

Despite that SLU hasn't been part in supporting FORMAS with knowledge needs for the report, the suggestion for a program seems to suite SLU:s operation at a first glance. If the program will be instated, it should hence be of interest to many researchers at SLU.

It is timely, if possible, to start considering project ideas and partners for a future call already now. Please consider this and spread the information in your networks.

5 Discussions on potential future common research projects and programs focused on water at SLU

Please see attached presentation, slides 12-13.

Notes from the meeting:

- There are difficulties in designing a project and consortium when there is no open call.
- A way forward could be to first, from a SLU perspective, map future knowledge needs on water issues in light of current and future environmental- and societal challenges. Following this mapping activity, the suggested knowledge needs could be further grouped into thematic areas (e.g. Water and food, Water and forests, Water and agriculture....) with identification of key persons/groups and potential interdisciplinary connections and cooperation. A final step could later be to organize a seminar day/workshop with stakeholders and funding bodies focusing on a dialogue on future knowledge needs from the perspectives of all participants and also including presentations from SLU describing our expertise and key focal areas with respect to water. The ultimate aim of the seminar should be to inform and influence funding bodies on the needs for future calls focused on water.
- Potential funding bodies could be: MISTRA, VINNOVA, NORDFORSK, FORMAS (potentially new national research program on oceans and water).
- Everyone in WaterCOG is now encouraged to bring the task to list future knowledge needs home to each Department, platform and/or research group. During spring, Jens O will start collecting input from SLU Water Forum and SLU WaterCOG with the aim to start mapping and grouping the knowledge needs into thematic areas.

6 How to make best use of the existing “seed money” within SLU Water Forum

Please see attached presentation, slide 14.

Notes from the meeting:

- The available seed money within SLU Water Forum should foremost be used for networking/workshops to foster internal cooperation within SLU in light of what was discussed under agenda point 4 and 5.
- Jens O will during spring 2020 launch a call for applications for the available seed money to all persons included in the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

7 Other issues relevant to this group

Notes from the meeting:

- It is good to see all the activities in within SLU Water Forum. Jens O is recommended to continue the current way of coordinating SLU Water Forum.
- SLU Water Forum could be even more visible at social media (facebook and Instagram) to also attract the attention of younger people and potential future students.
- Would be good to attract the attention of SLU Water Forum at the management level (dean and vice-dean) at other faculties besides NJ.
- A similar news drive of SLU Water Forum as undertaken during the World Water Day 2020, could also be arranged during the World Water Week in August.
- Next meeting with WaterCOG will be held during the autumn of 2020.

Notes taken by Jens Olsson