

**Minutes – Steering committee meeting Research School Focus on Soils & Water: 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2018, 9:30-11:00, room Ekoln (B4051) in the MVM centre, Ultuna, SLU.**

**Participants:** Erik Petersson, Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen, Brendan McKie, Kate Rychel, Hannes Keck, Prithvi Simha, Lisbet Lewan, Maria Kahlert, Magdalena Bieroza

#### **1. Chair, secretary**

Erik Petersson appointed Maria Kahlert as chairperson and Magdalena Bieroza as secretary of the meeting. Prithvi Simha will adjust the protocol.

#### **2. Minutes steering committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2018. Approved by all.**

#### **3. FoSW steering committee**

One PhD student member position is vacant. Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen to send a second round of emails to PhD students with a request (to be known before the 5<sup>th</sup> of October). If this fails, a PhD student Jelena Rakovic will be asked to fill in the position as a deputy PhD student member. Other suggestions are also welcome. Magdalena Bieroza replaces Anke Herrmann as a FoSW Director of Studies from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2018.

#### **4. Information on Economy**

Update from Magdalena Bieroza: Three activities from Year 1 still pending: Carbon cycling course (160 kSEK), Synergy activity (60 kSEK) and the Annual Workshop (40 kSEK). These amounts are to be used up by the end of autumn 2019 (the next report to the NJ). The carbon cycling course and the Annual Workshop are planned for 2019. The Synergy activity is to be either followed up with the Finnish partners or replaced by other activities e.g. the Uncertainty course with Keith Beven. There is money available for additional activities within the research school budget. Suggestions for activities are therefore more than welcome!

Detailed financial overview to be completed following the meetings with the financial teams at both managing departments (September/October 2018).

#### **5. Information on FoSW Activities planned for year 2 (autumn 2018-spring 2019)**

##### **5.1. Ongoing**

**5.1.1.** Ecological stability in times of rapid environmental change 15 – 19 October, 2018, Stina Drakare in charge, 15 applications so far.

<https://www.slu.se/en/departments/aquatic-sciences-assessment/education/post-graduate-education/phd-courses/ecological-stability-in-times-of-rapid-environmental-change/>

##### **5.2. Planned See under 5.3**

##### **5.3. Courses**

- 5.3.1.** How to write scientific papers. RS coop. Responsible: Organism Biology. Course organizers: Mårten Lind, Geert Cornelis. Planned for autumn 2018, but no details yet.

Maria provided an update from the Research School Coordinator's meeting at which different 'writing courses' were discussed. There are two, one organized by Ecology focusing on theory and the other one organized by Organism Biology is more practical.

Brendan suggested renaming of our course to something more indicating the contents. Ideas from the group: Writing your own paper, Hands-on on preparing your paper for submission. Suggestion to be forwarded by Maria to the responsible course leaders.

- 5.3.2.** Nitrogen cycling in terrestrial ecosystems. Anke in charge, planning for January.
- 5.3.3.** Aquatic microbiology - morphology and barcodes. Maria Kahlert course organizer. Planned for end of March 2019. OK for budget from RS Ecology, and from DNAqua-Net. Course planning ongoing.
- 5.3.4.** Carbon cycling: from molecular to global processes (left from spring 2018). Björn Lindahl course organizer, planning for May 2019, already some students interested.

Magda to check if Jose Ledesma is still involved in this.

- 5.3.5.** Ecosystem functioning: From theory to application. Brendan course organizer. Not planned yet.

Brendan to suggest a date that fits with the other activities and his/guest speaker's plans. Potentially the first week in June 2019.

- 5.3.6.** Suggested course Uncertainty modeling (Keith Beven).

Lisbet contacted Jan Seibert to enquire about Keith's interest in running this course. She will contact Keith to probe his interest and find potential dates in 2019. The question who can be the course leader will be answered once those questions are answered.

Kate has talked to the Phd students to find out what type of course they would like to see in the future as the FoSW activities. Suggestions: phosphorus course repeated, catchment hydrology, spatial and temporal data analysis.

Maria to send an email to find out what courses, on top of what is already planned for Years 3 & 4 might be of interest.

A remark on course codes. Maria can assign a course code as soon as the course leader prepares a syllabus. An old code can be re-used for a repeated course.

- 5.3.7.** Understanding and coding the R programming language. RS coop., responsible: RS Ecology. Planned for spring 2019.

- 5.3.8.** Multivariate statistics. RS coop., responsible: RS FoSW. Planned for Feb 2019.

- 5.3.9.** To communicate science. RS coop., responsible: RS FFB Focus on Food and Biomaterials. State not clear, FFB will be contacted.

Not clear how this will be organized. Maria to provide an update next time.

#### **5.4. Other activities**

- 5.4.1.** Synergy activities between SLU and Agforee were planned for spring 2018, not followed up when Anke left, and the contact at Agforee got another job. Discussion if we shall continue with this idea or do something else (e.g. take contact with other RS abroad)?

Magda to follow-up on this previous work and see if the Finnish partner is still interested in running this collaboration. If this does not work, potential to substitute with other activity e.g. the uncertainty course. Ideas on other research schools are most welcome.

- 5.4.2.** Annual workshop - Global Sustainability Goals. Maria, Kate & Prithvi organizing.

Confirmed date: 8th February 2019.

Maria to send an email about the SLU event on the GSG. Maria to attend the meeting and get ideas for our own workshop.

- 5.4.3.** Careers outside university. RS coop., responsible: RS FoSW & Organism Biology. Planned for: 29/11.

Update from Magda – local booking and contacting potential speakers. The advertisement to be sent during the first week in October.

- 5.4.4.** How to become a post doc. RS coop., responsible: RS Ecology, Social Science Perspectives on Sustainable Development, FFB Planned for Jan/Feb 2019.

- 5.4.5.** Workshop current topic public/private sector. Nothing planned yet.

- 5.4.6.** Research School Day. RS coop. Planning not started. Update from Maria and Magda during the next meeting in December.

- 5.4.7.** Research School Coordinators now have monthly meetings.

- 6. Lunch seminars** are running smoothly thanks to active engagement from Kate and Hannes. There is a lot of interest (last one attracted 25 people). The next seminars are planned and will try to capture speakers teaching during the spring courses. Nov – M. Futtuer (tbc), Dec – E. Coucheney (tbc).

#### **7. Decisions**

- 7.1.** Mobility Grants:

Report Sophia Renes for study-visit to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA, March/April 2018. Granted: 10000 kr (of a total planned 30000 kr), final result: 13.899,46 kr, of which 3.899,46 kr are paid by the department (see report).

Approved by all without any comments.

**7.2. Mobility grants:** No applications.

Magda to check the finances – how many more grants can be funded.

Maria to check the NJ rules on how many projects can be funded and if there are any restrictions on several applications from the same student.

**8. Other** there was nothing else to be added.

**9. Meeting dates in autumn 2018:** It has been decided to meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 at 9:30-11:30. Magda to book the room and prepare the agenda.