

**MINUTES steering committee meeting Research School Focus on Soils & Water (FoSW): 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, 10:00-12:00, room Marken (B3051) in the MVM centre, Ultuna, SLU.**

Participants: Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen, Lisbeth Lewan, Brendan McKie, Jenna Senecal, Tina Putz, Kate Rychel, Hannes Keck, Maria Kahlert, Anke Herrmann

**1. Chair, secretary**

Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen was elected as substitute chairperson (Erik H. Pettersson absent), and delegated the chair of the meeting to Anke Herrmann. Maria Kahlert secretary, Lisbet Lewan to adjust the protocol.

**2. Minutes steering committee meeting 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 (see attachment) – approved by all**

**3. Activities autumn 2017**

Activities autumn 2017				
		Responsible	FoSW responsible	Status
Course	Image Analysis	John Koestel	Anke Herrmann	Completed; report pending, 12 students
RS	Career outside university	Lina Sjöholm (OB)	Anke Herrmann	Completed, 30 students, RS Organism Biology in charge for the report & budget
WS Topic	KAPA writing course	Linnea Hansson; Jenna Senecal; Sabina Braun	Anke Herrmann	Completed; report see below
Other	Lunch seminars	Tina Putz/Hannes Keck	Anke Herrmann	Ongoing, Lisbeth asks to add both title and date on the signature sheet
Other	Mobility Grant		Maria Kahlert/Anke Herrmann	
	Sophia Renes		Maria Kahlert	Application submitted
Other	Maintenance homepage	Kate Rychel	Maria Kahlert	Ongoing

**Homepage:**

Kate is working on the homepage, especially on updating the information on members.

Anke suggests having a routine to update the PhD students. However, not all NJ-PhD students are or want to be members of FoSW. Discussion about the need for an updated PhD member list on FoSW? Suggestion to replace it/add a page showing the links to the other departments' staff lists, where and updated PhD student list usually can be found. Kate to prepare such a website. Priority is however an updated activity list – Kate preparing it, Cajsa Lithell to implement when ready.

We also need to update the "Guidelines for activities and applications" on the homepage.

Maria will inform the NJ-director of PhD-studies twice a year with a standard email about the possibility to join FoSW (how to join the email-list). Steering group in cc. Email should be spread within the different departments to reach also postdocs etc. Additionally, Maria will inform on NJ-department doors paper.

#### 4. Planned activities spring 2018

Activities spring 2018		Responsible	FoSW responsible	Status
Course	Organic pollutants	Lutz Ahrens	Maria Kahlert	Application submitted (see below)
Course	Multivariate statistics	Ulf Grandin	Maria Kahlert	Application submitted (see below)
Course	R course	Matt Low	Maria Kahlert	Application missing. Helena Bylund (RS Ecology) informed that course will be given April/May 2018.
Course	Carbon course	Björn Lindahl	Anke Herrmann	Application missing. Plan for May next year.
Course	Risk assessment	Jana Weiss	Anke Herrmann	Application submitted (see below)
RS	Communicate Science	Galia Zamaratskaia et al.	Maria Kahlert	Feb & April, Division of Planning responsible. For info see: <a href="https://www.slu.se/utbildning/program-kurser/kurser/?sprak=en&amp;kurskod=POS0007">https://www.slu.se/utbildning/program-kurser/kurser/?sprak=en&amp;kurskod=POS0007</a>
RS	How to become a	Helena Bylund et al.		Date not set: Feb/March. RS Ecology responsible.
Other	Annual FoSW workshop	Sabina Braun	Anke Herrmann	Brainstorming discussion, suggestion: Sustainable development goals - How does your research fit in? 3 sessions: 1) Management of Soil systems, 2) Aquatic Management & Science, 3) Food. Date: May (Anke to send out doodle). Invited people from agencies, EU or SE, research proposal experience; also researchers strategic developing an application. Organizing committee volunteers: Anke, Jenna, Kate, Sabina, Lisbeth
Other	Synergies AGFOREE & FoSW	Mattias Sörengård	Anke Herrmann	Ongoing discussion with AGFOREE, informal visit of students 12/13.2.2018 to ev. discuss joined courses
Other	Lunch seminars	Tina Putz/Hannes Keck	Anke Herrmann	Ongoing. Suggestions for speakers: Helmut Hillebrand (autumn), Tobias Rütting, Hannes to ask Martyn Futter about guest professor Chris Evans, new professor at Soil Dept.: Jennie Barrow, Dan Berggren Kleja (either Dan or opponent of Åsa Löf). At least 2 defenses in march at Soil Dept.(one is Tina Putz). Jenna & Kate to help Hannes when Tina is leaving steering group in 2018
Other	Mobility Grant		Maria Kahlert/Anke	Ongoing
Other	Maintenance	Kate Rychel	Maria Kahlert	Ongoing

#### 5. Overview activities Year 2 autumn 2018/spring 2019

For complete schedule see attachment.

3 planned, new FoSW courses:

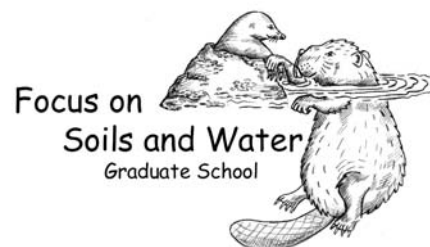
- \* **P&N cycling course:** We already had a P course in 2017. **Anke** to do pre-planning about an eventual N-course/N-cycling in ecosystems. Suggestion to contact Sara Hallin, terrestrial & aquatic. Date: ~autumn 2018
- \* **Ecosystem functioning:** **Brendan** to think if he would give the course again. Date: ~spring 2019
- \* **Aquatic microbiology** – morphology & barcodes. **Maria** to ask Organism Biology for cooperation.

Suggestions to include in FoSW plans:

- \* **Kappa-workshop** was very appreciated – probably as activity every second year, was much appreciated, autumn 2019, workshop
  - \* **PNG0070 ‘Reviewing and Summarizing Science - Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Science\* (\*But Were Afraid to Ask)’**, 2 ETCS. Was much appreciated. Maybe as biannual activity. Budget: 80 tkr
- Anke & Maria to go through future FoSW plans & budget, with suggestion on when to include.



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## 6. Decisions

### 6.1. Course and workshop reports

Course report PNG0071 *Phosphorus cycling in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems* (Carin Sjöstedt/Anke Herrmann) (9 SLU PhD students), June 2017. Overall course grade: 4.6 out of 5.

Proposed budget: 168 636 SEK, final budget: 170 416 SEK.

Alternative 1) I approve the course report & final budget.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

***approved by all***

Workshop report: *KAPA writing course* (Linnea Hansson, Sabina Braun, Jenna Senecal) (25 PhD students participated), June 2017. Seventeen participants returned the evaluation: general opinion overall course grade: 4.9 out of 5. Proposed budget: 40 000 SEK (not specifically specified), final budget: 29 809 SEK.

Alternative 1) I approve the course report & final budget.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

***approved by all***

### 6.2. Course applications

Ulf Grandin: *Multivariate Methods for Ecologists*, Feb 2018. Joint RS activity, proposed budget: 173 205 SEK; (Budget: 180 000 SEK three research schools á 60 000 SEK).

Alternative 1) I approve the course schedule & tentative budget.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

***approved by all***

Lutz Ahrens: PNS0119 *Organic micropollutants in the aquatic environment – measurements and transport processes*, April/May 2018. Proposed budget: 139 460 SEK (budget: 150 000 SEK).

Alternative 1) I approve the course schedule & tentative budget.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

The decision was postponed, as the FoSW steering group had several questions to the course organizers, and asked for an updated application with clarifications for next steering group meeting. Questions/suggestions were:

\* The FoSW steering group would like to see external teacher(s) in the course. In that way, the students will have the opportunity to meet someone other than their regular supervisors/people they interact with daily/weekly. FoSW has the aim to “improving co-operation within the soil and aquatic science community”, and also to give the PhD students the possibility to build up a broad network within their field of science. That is the reason why FoSW encourages to invite external, and even international experts as course teachers. The FoSW steering group is asking for a motivation why so many internal researchers are planned as lecturers.

- The FoSW steering group would like to know how the laboratory part was improved compared to last time the course was given, as that part got some critics in the evaluation.
- The role of the PhD students in the lab part was discussed as unclear. The FoSW steering group would like to get a short motivation on what exactly the PhD students helping in the lab part will do (as it is stated as “teaching” in the budget), if those students are planned to get credits for the course, and in that case, a motivation for this.
- Please take out the salary for Karin Wiberg from the budget, as FoSW is not covering salaries for faculty professors.

Jana Weiss: *Risk assessment of chemicals*, Jan-March 2018. Proposed budget: 38 923 SEK (note: course not included in initial FoSW application).

Alternative 1) I approve the course schedule & tentative budget.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

The decision was postponed, as the FoSW steering group had several questions to the course organizers. Questions/suggestions were:

\* FoSW steering group requests a motivation for the number of course credits 7.5 hp. Would it perhaps be more reasonable with 5hp ? For example, the IVMs literature course gives 7.5 points for both writing a literature review and giving a presentation. It was unclear from the application what exactly your students should do to reach the 7.5 ECTS. Overall, the FoSW steering group thought that the course schedule looks a bit preliminary for a course starting in January: Who are the guest lecturers, for example?

\* FoSW steering group requests a clarification regarding the type of “feed-back” from teacher/course-leader on the students’ individual tasks and preparations for seminars. Which types of contact with the students are you planning between the sessions. Is it only by Email? We were a bit afraid that students might get left alone too much with their tasks. How will the tutor’s time be paid. And what is the role of the guest lecturers in all this? Are they the experts mentioned in the grading criteria?

\* FoSW steering group requests a clarification regarding the examination/grading criteria: They seem to involve addition of extra tasks (not totally clear how they correlate with those given in the course schedule), without anything about how well the task is done. ILO 2 involves discussion with experts. Which experts, and who checks the Discussions happened. ILO3 is assessment of quality of input data. Shouldn't this be actually part of the basic work, maybe before discussion with experts? And ILO4 seems to be the basic course goal, to make a presentation. Additionally, we wonder if the course examiner has done the basic grading course which is a policy of SLU?

\* Please come in earlier if you plan to give the course again, as the FoSW steering group can see the course' potential and would be happy to provide help in setting up a syllabus, as it is also the task of the research group steering groups given from the NJ faculty, to ensure a high quality of PhD courses.



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### 6.3. Mobility Grant: Report

Maidul Islam Choudhury for visiting the Department of BioScience, Aarhus University (AU), Denmark. Granted: 8 700 kr, final result: 7 543.49 kr.

Alternative 1) I approve application.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

***approved by all***

### 6.4. Mobility Grant: Application

Sophia Renes for study-visit to the the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA, March/April 2018.

Total applied for 30 000 SEK.

Alternative 1) I approve application.

Alternative 2) I do not approve. Reason:

***10.000 kr approved by all***

### 7. Other

**New student representative.** Voting rights right now: Hannes, Jenna, Kate. Tina needs to be replaced from January 2018 as she soon will defend. Suggestion: To ask new student from VPE who has asked to join the steering group (substitute). **Anke** to contact.

### 8. Meeting dates in spring 2018 – Anke to send out an doodle

## Overview FoSW activities Year 2:

Year 2 (ht18/vt19)														
#	Name of Activity	C (course), S (Seminar), W (workshop), O (Other)	hp	Basic	Advanced	Generic	Est. nb of PhD-students	Will be repeated Year (2,3 or 4)	Progression of activity (#)	Interdisciplinary	Interaction with other RS	External contact	Target group	Cost tkr
	Ecosystem functioning: From theory to application	C	3	x			20			x		x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	120
	Phosphorous and nitrogen cycling in terrestrial ecosystems	C	4	x			20					x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	180
	Aquatic microbiology - morphology and barcodes	C	3	x			10					x	MVM and BioCentre clusters	100
2:4	How to write scientific papers	C	4.5	x		x	10	4			x		MVM and BioCentre clusters	55
	Understanding and coding the R programming language	C	2	x			20	2,3,4			x		NJ, LTV, S faculties	33
2:6	Multivariate statistics	C	4.5	x			30	2,3,4			x		NJ, LTV, S faculties	60
2:7	To communicate science	C	2	x		x	15	3			x		NJ, LTV, S faculties	20
2:8	How to become a post doc	WS				x	40	2,3,4			x	x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	10
2:9	Careers outside university	WS				x	25	2,3,4			x	x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	10
2:10	Workshop current topic public/private sector	WS				x	20	2,3,4				x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	40
2:11	Lunch seminars	S					100					x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	76
2:12	Mobility grants	O					5	2,3,4				x	FoSW	50
2:13	Annual FoSW Workshop	W					60	2,3,4		x		x	FoSW	40
2:14	Research School Day	W					80	4		x	x	x	NJ, LTV, S faculties	10
2:15	Research School Coordinators	O						2,3,4			x			Included in
2:16	FoSW Director of Studies	O						2,3,4					FoSW	Included in

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