



NORDISK HYDROLOGISK FORENING

Nordic Association for Hydrology

Minutes of the NHF board meeting at Hilton Copenhagen Airport Hotel, Ellehammersvej 20, Copenhagen, 24 March 2017

Present: Board members – Dirk-Ingmar Müller-Wohlfeil (Denmark), Tiia Pedusaar (Estonia), Johanna Korhonen (Finland), Tinna Þórarinsdóttir for David Egilson (Iceland) on SKYPE, Diana Meilutyte-Lukauskiene (Lithuania), Kolbjørn Engeland (Norway), Linus Zhang (Sweden)

Not present: representative from Latvia

Editor of Hydrology Research – Chong-Yu Xu (Norway)
Secretary – Heidi Lee (Norway)

1.-3. Opening, organization and approval of the meeting agenda

Linus Zhang opened the meeting at 9.05. Linus Zhang was appointed as the Chair and Heidi Lee as the Secretary. The minutes will be scrutinized jointly. The meeting participants are given five days to comment on the minutes, before they are published on the website. The suggested agenda was approved.

4. Minutes from the previous board meetings 7.8.2016 and 8.8.2017

The minutes from the previous board meetings were approved.

5. Meeting costs for this meeting

The costs for the meeting facilities and lunch will be paid directly by NHF. The travel costs for the board members, Secretary and Editor of HR will be reimbursed by NHF. The reimbursement are to be send directly to the Treasure, Martin Bergstrand. A template for the travel reimbursement will be added to the NHF-Google Disk.

6. Finances

Result and balance for the year 2016 were approved. Some of the membership fees have not been collected in 2016. The costs were 40 000 less than budgeted. The total deficit for the year 2016 is SEK 5 990. The financial conditions of NHF are still good but the yearly deficits decrease the equity capital. The recommendation is that the yearly finances go in balance, and that the membership fees cover the maintenance costs.

A short summary:

	Result 2016	Budget 2016 (updated)
Income	81 311	98 000
Costs	87 301	127 000
Balance	-5 990	-29 000

7. Membership

The membership fees for 2016 were collected as follows:

	Personal	Institutional
Denmark	7 (+fees from 2015)	3 (+fees from 2015)
Estonia	1 (+fees from 2015)	-
Finland	4 (+fees from 2015)	0
Iceland	fees from 2015	fees from 2015
Latvia	11	-
Lithuania	18	-
Norway	23	4
Sweden	15 (+fees from 2015)	0

The unpaid membership fees for 2016 will be collected together with the fees for 2017 --

The membership fees for 2017 are to be collected and transferred to the Treasurer by **30 June**. The new fees were approved by the last GA and they are:

- for Nordic countries - personal membership SEK 300/institutional SEK 4000
- for Baltic countries - personal membership SEK 100/institutional SEK 1500

Lithuania, Latvia and Norway have good routines with collecting the membership fees. The Secretary will issue invoices for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. The board members will send the invoices for both personal and institutional members. The board will follow up the payments in September and send reminders on unpaid fees. A Chinese institutional member has joined the association, Linus sends the invoice.

Member recruitment:

If your work is related to hydrology, you should simply be a member of NHF!

The financial income is based on the membership fees. In order to maintain the activities of NHF, the number of members should be high enough and the membership fees should be collected effectively. This does not correspond to the present situation, and new ideas are needed for the member recruitment. Should the revenue base be changed by having only institutional members?

The following was discussed:

What are the member benefits for individual and institutional members?

What do the members get for the membership fee (SEK 300/100 and SEK 4000/1500)?

How to keep the students as (paying) members after they graduate?

What do the members need NHF for, and what is so special about NHF?

How special are NHC and HR? How are the conference and the journal different from other conferences and journals? Should the NHC be replaced by a larger workshop?

What do the member countries have in common – what is the identity of NHF?

Conclusion: One of the strengths is that it is easier to network since the association is small and the background to its members is quite similar. There should be more focus on the institutional members. They should be invited to join the activities, for example to contribute on special (scientific) papers and to arrange workshops. Sharing and solving problems together will benefit the institutes and companies ('learning by sharing'); one example is the Scandinavian Hydrometric Network where practitioners change experiences from fieldwork. A working group consisting of Linus and Dirk will define the next steps to the member recruitment and other issues mentioned above.

8. Nordic Hydrological Conference (NHC)

The final result for the NHC 2016 is +EUR 292,-. The amount has been transferred to the Treasurer.

NHC 2018 will be arranged 13–15 August in Bergen, Norway. An update from the organizing committee:

The venue, Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, has been booked for the conference. A professional conference organizer (PCO), Bergen Kongress & Kultur AS has been engaged to assist with the practical tasks. The scientific committee has been appointed and it is identifying the subthemes. A draft budget needs to be approved by the NHF-board in August. A flyer will be designed and distributed in the beginning of September.

The NHC is a meeting place for both scientists and practitioners. Therefore, the attention should also be drawn to the practical aspect of the hydrological work. It was suggested that a workshop with a focus on practical hydrology will be advertised and included in the conference program. The possible sponsors could join the workshop and present their field of work (instruments etc.). The other details about the workshop still need to be decided.

It was discussed whether the sub-topics should be presented at a plenary or parallel sessions.

Students who need extra economical support to participate are to contact the NHF-board. Students already get a reduced registration fee.

Two candidates, Estonia and Iceland are appointed to arrange the NHC 2020. Tiia will check first if the conference can be arranged in Estonia. If not, Tinna/David contacts relevant organizers in Iceland.

9. Marketing: publishing, web pages and Hydrology Research

Hydrology Research journal

HR and NHF are getting more attention. Five more associate editors have been engaged. Chong-Yu described how he works with the editing process.

The special issue of HR from the NHC 2016

The conference organizer, represented by Diana and Chong-Yu have been working with the special issue. Chong-Yu leads the process.

Greetings from the meeting with IWA publishing, held in Dec. 2016

The journal needs more publicity among the members. The instructions how to subscribe and how to access the journal are going to be improved. Chong-Yu follows up.

Campaigns to increase awareness interest in the association (HR survey, etc.)

The British Hydrology Society (BHS) has carried out a membership survey regarding the journal Hydrology Research in 2015 to find the member's opinion about the journal. A similar, online survey will be carried out among the NHF-members during the NHC 2018. The results will be distributed after the conference. Chong-Yu and Dirk have the responsibility to organize the survey. The board members are to send questions to the survey. A preliminary draft report from BHS is enclosed the minutes for ideas.

NHCs through history – abstract books to the web page

Johanna suggest that the abstract books should be scanned to pdf and published on the website. The board members try to find the digital versions from the conferences that have been arranged in their countries. The board comes back to this matter and how to arrange scanning of the paper versions.

Website

Karin has sent an e-mail (2.2.2017) about her tasks as a Web-editor, NHF-board follows this up in the next board meeting.

The board members are to send the links and logos to the institutional members to Karin and Linus for publishing on the website. The board members are to check the links under the National activities and report for broken links and other errors.

Chair's corner

Linus writes and publishes.

Twitter

One idea to add activity on the Twitter is to publish a short presentation of the country activities once a year; it makes altogether eight stories.

10. NHF Organization

The proposal to establish a Nordic Branch for young hydrologic society should be carried out even though Jonathan Rizzi has resigned from the University of Oslo. Linus contacts his students in order to find a candidate who could follow up this proposal.

The NHF-board renamed members to the election committee as follows:

Estonia: Juan Manuel Garcia as the deputy.

Lithuania: Vitautas Akstinas as the member, and Jurgita Daubariene as the deputy.

11. Grant application for NRB 2017

The 21st Northern Research Basins Symposium and Workshop “Cold-region hydrology in non-stationary world” will be held 6–12 August 2017 in Yakutsk, Russia. The organizers have contacted NHF for a potential support.

The NHF-board decided that NHF will primarily support the conferences that are arranged in the member countries. The NHF-board decided however that NHF will support the Nordic and Baltic participants, especially students, for up to total SEK 10 000. The applications are to be sent to the Chair Linus Zhang.

12. Other items

Heidi will open a Google Disk-account for easier and better sharing of NHF’s documents. The board members and the officials will get access.

13. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held 30 August 2017 at 13.00 Swedish time as a SKYPE-meeting. A test meeting for the SKYPE-connection will take place one week prior to the meeting; Linus sends a Doodle and invites.

Among other items the NHF-board needs to accept the draft budget to NHC 2018.

14. Closing of the meeting

Linus Zhang closed the meeting at 15.30.

Linus Zhang
Chair

Heidi Lee
Secretary