



LySEF - “Longyearbyen Science and Education Forum”

MINUTES

Date: 11.12.2008 **Time:** 09:00 – 12:00

Place: Svalbard Science Centre, OPS-room

Minutes by: Elise Strømseng

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| Present: | <p>UNIS: Fred S. Hansen, Elise Strømseng. SMS: Tor Punsvik. NPI: Cecilie H. von Quillfeldt, Ken Pedersen (video). SSF: Christiane Hübner. EISCAT: Lisa Baddeley. Svalbard Reiseliv: Unni Myklevoll. Svalbard Museum: Tora Hultgren. Statsbygg: Tor Sverre Karlsen.</p> |
| Inability to attend: | <p>SVALSAT: Sten C. Pedersen. SINTEF: Per Johan Brandvik.</p> |
| Agenda: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of meeting leader 2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of LySEF. 3. Presentation of LySEF web-pages 4. Information and presentations of activities by the different member-institutions. 5. Discussion – where do we go from here? 6. Any other business. |
| Attachments to the minutes | <p>Report to LySEF from SSF meeting, October 20th 2008.</p> |

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| No 6/08: | <p>Election of meeting leader: Fred S. Hansen (UNIS) was chosen to lead the meeting.</p> |
| 7/08: | <p>Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:</p> <p>Different suggestions on institutions to be elected had been given to LySEF secretariat before this meeting:</p> <p>Chair: UNIS/ Fred S. Hansen, NPI / Cecilie H. von Quillfeldt, Vice-Chair: UNIS/ Fred S. Hansen, NPI / Cecilie H. von Quillfeldt, Svalbard Museum/ Tora Hultgren</p> <p><u>The election gave the following results for the first period:</u></p> <p>Chair of LySEF: UNIS / Fred S. Hansen Vice-chair of LySEF: NPI /Cecilie H. von Quillfeldt</p> |
| 8/08: | <p>Presentation of WEB-pages:</p> <p>Elise Strømseng (secretariat) presented the LySEF web-pages.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pdf.-versions of all presentations, as well as agenda and minutes should be presented on the web-pages. • New links to add: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The web-page of Statsbygg, - The University of Leichester (Spear radar) - The RiS-database. • NEWS site/"home" page: LySEF should provide a link to the SSF news pages and also announce recent upcoming news regarding Longyearbyen. • Newsletter: LySEF will not produce a newsletter at the given stage. Special news will be launched at the web-page. • The LySEF web-site should be announced through Svalbardposten. The secretariat will inform Svalbardposten regarding this issue. |

9/08:

All the presentations can be found at the LySEF web-pages.

Additional information from the member institutions:

Svalbard Reiseliv (SR):

The Arctic Guide Study is in progression. It will become a one-year study with 20 students. The project has been worked upon for a year, with financing from Svalbardmiljøfondet. Svalbard Reiseliv, UNIS and Høyskolen i Finnmark are the members in the planning group. The study plan is more or less set and the project group is aiming for the study to commence in autumn 2009. Future tasks are mostly related to financing.

Svalbard museum (SM):

During the summer of 2008 Svalbard Museum (SM), in cooperation with the University of Tromsø (UiTø), took bone samples from one of the graves at Svenskhuset (Kapp Thordsen) in order to find the cause of death of the 17 people overwintering there in 1872. The amount of led found in the bone samples from 2008 were high. Hence, in the summer of 2009 SM is hoping to continue the work at Svenskhuset together with UiTø in order to find out if led was used in the food-cans that were located at Svenskhuset in 1872. This means that there will most likely be one week of field excursion in the summer of 2009. Future tasks are therefore to get permission from Riksantikvaren and The Governor of Svalbard in order to be able to continue the project.

NPI:

Held a powerpoint presentation of activities for spring activities 2009. The plan is preliminary as some things still might be changed. NPI got more funding this year in order to establish an ice and climate centre. NPI is currently working on developing this project.

Field activities in Svalbard during winter/spring/summer 2009:

- Polar bear, reindeer, ptarmigan, arctic fox and sibling vole studies/monitoring.
- Sea birds studies, including special study on the ivory gull.
- Marine mammals: Ringed seals, harbour seals, greenland shark studies/monitoring.
- Geology studies in Isfjorden and Nordaustlandet
- Glacier studies at Ny-Ålesund, Austfonna and Lomonosovfonna

- Sea Ice studies in Storfjorden, Kongsfjorden and Framstredet.
- Monitoring of ground vegetation in relation to climate change and traffic wear.
- Svalbard aerial mapping.

NPI finished their presentation with giving an overview of where the logistic capacities and fuel depots are situated around in the Svalbard area.

SMS:

The Governors office has a low budget for 2009. This will affect some of their activities, e.g. field-inspectors in summer of 2009. SMS is however optimistic for 2010, due to the white paper and the current focus on Svalbard as a research platform.

There has been a rise in applications from scientists, especially from projects with logistical needs. A total of 115 applications were received by November 1st 2008. A web-guide for scientists applying to the Governor will be present on SMS web-pages within February 1st 2009. This guide will be based on the SSF guidelines. All applications and projects need to have a RIS-number in order to be considered at the Governors office. An information letter will be sent out in week 51. This letter will also stress the use of traffic outside area 10 and the current situation with depots of equipment and fuel around the island.

EISCAT:

EISCAT do not have fieldwork in spring. The major thing at the moment is to get the new Director after Tony van Eyken settled in.

Other information:

EISCAT was the first radar in the world to get data from the eclipse August 1st 2008. They also participated during the successful launching of the ICI-2 rocket in week 49. The work at the Spear radar has also been successful in autumn 2008.

EISCAT is currently working on getting a third antenna/dish.

SSF:

There have been two workshops in 2008. For 2009 there are two new workshops to be held. This will be the Ny-Ålesund research flagship “Terrestrial Ecosystems”, whereas the other workshop will be regarding cooperation in Svalbard among the four main research bases in Svalbard. SSF is open for suggestions regarding participants and topics.

Minutes from NySMAC meeting and SSF meeting:

Lisa represented LySEF at the SSF meeting at 20th October.

Relevant information for LySEF:

- Hornsund presented a model for measurements in 3D which could be used for modeling cultural heritage and research site.
- Kings Bay will raise a Amundsen-Nobile tower and the Chinese station is renewing their riometer in Ny-Ålesund (operable in 2009).
- Barentsburg has renovated the hotel – researchers are welcome to use the hotel. A small research vessel will be situated in Barentsburg, it is suitable for 10 persons.
- Pyramiden has been evaluated as research base and it has been concluded that Pyramiden is suitable in the summer season.
- New member in NySMAC: India.

UNIS:

UNIS have a low budget for 2009, indicating that they will have to cut several courses in order to get the budget balanced. Since there is still no agreement on which courses to run in 2009, all logistical agreements and bookings are put on hold. UNIS will put out news on the web-page when the UNIS-plan for 2009 is ready (after the budget is accepted by the UNIS board).

Although tough economy, UNIS reports on high student numbers for the spring term of 2009. There has been a raise in applications for 2009 so far.

External projects are still running and are not affected by the budget situation:

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO2-project: The fourth drill hole will be drilled in summer 2009, preliminary June. • KHO is operational and running at the moment. A sign will be put up to ask cars not to drive up there during the dark period due to sensitive measurements being done. • The one-week safety course will be held from January 5th – Saturday 10th of January. One/two day safety courses will be held several times during the spring term. • UNIS will be involved with the Arctic Guide Study, especially within safety training, but also when it comes to scientific education of the guides. <p>Logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Viking Explorer vessel will be lying outside the while winter – if anyone needs boat contact UNIS. • The hovercraft is stationed on Svalbard and will stay here for the whole next season. • The weather pages will be up running again shortly. • Safety lessons which are being taught at UNIS are made public, and can be found at: http://www.unis.no/48_HSE/info_lessons.htm. • ESFRI / SIAEOS application have succeeded. 2009 will therefore be a planning year for UNIS. Although this will contribute to a higher amount of research projects going on in Svalbard, it is not possible to estimate the extent of this at the given stage. |
| <p>10/08:</p> | <p>LySEF – Where do we go from here?</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to ensure that we remain a focus on more than solely logistics. This will lead to cooperation in several fields. • LySEF should consider arranging an open meeting in order to inform the public and other institutions in Longyearbyen about the purpose of LySEF. <i>Responsibility:</i> The Chair and the Vice-Chair will discuss this and plan a meeting. |

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| | <p>As an alternative the next LySEF meeting could be an open meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fred S. Hansen suggests that we make a LySEF poster which can be put on the doors in the building and in other suitable areas as e.g. the public library. |
| | <p>Next meeting: Week 20, Thursday May 14th at 09:00-12:00</p> |