

Minutes of the General Assembly of the Nordic Association for Hydrology

Place: Røros, Norway

Date: 06.08.02 at 1630-1800

Number of attendants: 38

- 1. Opening of the General Assembly.**
By Lars Lundin, the acting chairman of the Association.
- 2. Appointment of meeting chair person.**
Sten Bergstrøm was elected unanimously.
- 3. Appointment of meeting secretary.**
Arve M. Tvede was elected unanimously.
- 4. Appointment of two scrutinisers also to be tellers.**
Maja Brandt and Anders Bækgaard were elected unanimously.
- 5. Approval of agenda.**
Irina Krasovskaia suggested adding a discussion on modernization of the Nordic Hydrological Conferences. This suggestion was approved by the Assembly and was added to point 17 in the Agenda
- 6. Announcement of the General Assembly**
Lars Lundin apologized for having published the announcement of the General Assembly to late according to the statutes of the Association. The Assembly accepted the apology and the announcement unanimously.
- 7. Biennial 2000-2001 report from the chairman of the board**
The report was previously published on the Internet and was presented by Lars Lundin. There were no comments on the report.
- 8. Accounts of the board 2000-2001 and the auditors' report**
The treasurer was not present so Lars Lundin presented the accounts. There were no comments from the audience. Lennart de Mare read the auditors report. It recommended the new board to look into the possibility of getting a better interest rate on the bank account. Lars Lundin answered that the treasurer already has been asked to look into this question and discuss it with the board. There were no further comments from the Assembly.
- 9. Budget for 2003- 2004 and decision on membership fee.**
Irina Krasovskaia asked if Vannet i Norden has a need for a paid scientific editor in the future. Lars Lundin answered that the position as scientific editor at the moment is not filled, but that Dan Lundquist so far has acted in the position without payment. Lundin feels that this should be a paid job in order to attract volunteers.

Elve Lode proposed that the fee for the members from the Baltic countries should be increased to 100 SEK from the 50 SEK suggested in the budget.

Dan Lundquist proposed to keep the fees as suggested in the budget as there does not seem to be any financial need for an increase. The Assembly voted on this question and a large majority supported to keep the fees as proposed in the budget.

Dan Rosbjerg proposed to simplify membership applications by downloading application forms from the web-site. He also stated that there is a potential for more members and that the board should take action on this matter.

10. Election of board members and chairman

Agneta Lundberg presented the proposal from the election committee. The audience approved the proposal unanimously. The board for the period 2002-2004 is:

Members of Board (number of years)	Deputies of Board (all for 2 years)
Denmark: Anne Steensen Blicher (4)	Denmark: Finn Plauborg
Estonia: Alvina Reihan (4)	Estonia: Arvo Järvet
Finland: Juha Kajander (2)	Finland: Riitta Kamula
Island: Jona Finndis Jonsdottir (4)	Island: Sigmundur Freysteinnsson
Latvia: Tatyana Koltsova (4)	Latvia: Agrita Briede
Lithuania: Kestustis Kilkus (4)	Lithuania: Arvydas Povilaitis
Norway: Dan Lundquist (4)	Norway: Hege Hisdal
Sweden: Lars Lundin (2)	Sweden: Gunlög Wennerberg

Dan Lundquist, Norway, was elected chairman of the board.

11. Election of deputy members

The audience unanimously approved the proposal presented in the table above.

12. Election of auditors and deputies

Agneta Lundberg presented the proposal from the election committee. The audience approved the proposal unanimously. The auditors for the period 2002-2004 are: Lennart de Mare and Bo Leander and deputies are: Ove Gustavsson and Linus Zhang.

13. Election of election committee members and deputies

Agneta Lundberg presented the proposal from the election committee. The audience approved the proposal unanimously. The committee for the period 2002-2004 is:

Members, election committee	Deputies, election committee
Denmark: Anders Bækgaard	Denmark: Dan Rosbjerg
Estonia: Olga Kovalenko	Estonia: Arvo Iital
Finland: Timo Huttula	Finland: Markku Puupponen
Island: Kristinn Einarsson	Island: Helgi Johannesson
Latvia: Mendelis Lazniks	Latvia: Iveta Indriksone
Lithuania: Jurate Kriauciuniene	Lithuania: Saulius Vaikastas
Norway: Eva Skarbøvik	Norway: Wolf Marchand
Sweden: Barbo Johansson	Sweden: Angela Lundberg

Barbro Johansson was elected chairman of the election committee.

14. **Publications – Vannet i Norden and Nordic Hydrology, Head Publicity Councillor**

Dan Lundquist introduced Dan Rosbjerg who gave a report on Nordic Hydrology. The number of articles submitted to the journal has increased. The numbers of subscribers are approximately 250. The economy has until now been secured with grants from the Danish Research Council, but this grant can be lost from next year. Rosbjerg suggested that the Association should go into formal negotiations with the International Water Association (IWA) that has expressed a need for a hydrological journal. IWA is a strong organization that covers a large part of the scientific water societies and it is a professional publisher.

Anders Bækgaard supported this proposal and suggested that Dan Rosbjerg was asked by the Board to continue the negotiations.

Dan Lundquist reported on the situation for the Web-publication “Vannet i Norden”. He wanted more contributions from the members. The new Board will work to improve and increase the content of the publication. The Web-adresse is: www.vannetinorden.com. Anne Steensen Blicher was elected as the new Head publicity councillor.

15. **Web-site.**

Dan Lundquist informed that the present Web-site of NHF will be closed down before the end of this year, keeping a link to the “Vannet I Norden” web-site, which will then be the official web-site of NHF. From the floor, it was also suggested to start a Newsletter forum.

16. **Time and organiser of the next General Assembly and NHC**

Alvina Reihan from Estonia invited the Assembly to come to Tallinn for the next General Assembly and NHC in August 2004.

17. **Other matters.**

Irina Krasovskaia gave an introduction to a discussion on the modernization of the Nordic Hydrological Conferences. She wanted to make NHC more attractive to younger hydrologists. She indicated that this conference was dominated by the “oldies”. She suggested dropping the traditional publishing of the papers in the proceedings, as this is not an attractive way of publishing for the scientific community. Instead she suggested publishing only the abstract on CD’s, full publishing should be directed to scientific journals. This

may also decrease the Conference fees. The sessions should include more time for discussions. One way of saving time is to let the chairmen present a short version of the papers and let the authors answer questions. She also suggested a special session for express information on new projects, including discussions with potential new partners.

This introduction provoked a number of remarks from the audience.

Lars Lundin remarked that the board of NHA is not responsible for the organization of the NHC, a national organizing committee does this.

Elve Lode said that she wanted to keep publishing the full papers in proceedings, as the libraries in Estonia cannot afford to subscribe to many of the international journals. The proceedings can be photocopied to students. She also wanted to have NHC only every 3rd year.

Dan Rosbjerg remarked that many of the participants were “practising” hydrologists that seldom publish in scientific journals. He suggested limiting the proceedings to extended abstracts of 2-3 pages. Arne Tollan supported this view. He also suggested a more clear differentiation between ordinary sessions and workshops.

Lennart de Mare was afraid that NHC would be less attractive for the “practising” participants, who normally are the older hydrologists. One of the benefits of NHC today, is to be a meeting place between the younger and the older. He also wanted to keep the full publishing of the papers in the proceedings.

Nils Roar Sæthun suggested publishing the abstract on the Web before the conference. He was also afraid that a reduced publishing policy could result in more “non-shows”.

Bo Olofsson remarked that the university professors had a responsibility by encouraging the students to participate.

Dan Lundquist and Lars Lundin concluded and said that they will take up the ideas to discussion in the board. More input can be sent to Dan Lundquist on his e-mail.

18. Conclusions

Sten Bergstrøm thanked the participants for the lively discussions and closed the General Assembly by expressing warm thanks the old Board for the job done and wishing the new Board good luck in the coming two years.

Arve M. Tvede
Meeting secretary

Maja Brandt
scrutiniser

Anders Bækgaard
scrutiniser