

## NHF - Report from the chair, January 2025 – June 2026

### 1 Organization

By 2026, the Nordic Association for Hydrology has approximately 320 registered individual members, and 11 institutional members. Individual membership has been free of charge since 2020. The total number of registered individual members was approximately 280 in January 2025.

#### *Officers and Board*

The Board of the Nordic Association for Hydrology was elected in December 2024, and has had the following members since January 2025:

#### **Board members:**

**Chair:** Torill Engen Skaugen

Country	Board member	Period	8 years in	Comment
Denmark	Sofie G. M. van't Veen	2022- <b>2026</b>	2026	Board member since 2018.
Estonia	Elve Lode (Vice Chairwoman)	2022- <b>2026</b>	2026	Board member since 2018.
Finland	Anna-Kaisa Ronkanen	2024- <b>2028</b>	2028	Board member since 2020.
Iceland	Tinna Þórarinsdóttir	2022- <b>2026</b>	2026	Board member since 2018.
Latvia	Jolanta Jekabsone	2024- <b>2028</b>	2032	New board member since 2024.
Lithuania	Vytautas Akstinas	2022- <b>2026</b>	2030	Board member since 2022. Deputy member (earlier)
Norway	Torill Engen Skaugen (Chairwoman)	2024- <b>2028</b>	2032	New board member since 2024.
Sweden	Jing Li	2024- <b>2028</b>	2032	New board member since 2024.

**Deputy members:**

Country	Deputy member	Period	8 years in	Comment
Denmark	Niels Behring Ovesen	2022- <b>2026</b>	2026	Deputy member since 2018.
Estonia	Jaanus Terasmaa	2022- <b>2026</b>	2026	Deputy member since 2018.
Finland	Eliisa Lotsari	2024- 2028	2028	Deputy member since 2020.
Iceland	Andri Gunnarsson	2024- <b>2028</b>	2032	Deputy member since 2024.
Latvia	Līga Klints	2024- <b>2028</b>	2032	Deputy member since 2024. Board member (earlier)
Lithuania	Diana Meilutyte-Lukauskiene	2022- <b>2026</b>	2030	Deputy member since 2022. Board member (earlier)
Norway	Sjur Anders Kolberg	2022- <b>2026</b>	2030	Deputy member since 2022.
Sweden	Fainaz Inamdeen	2024- <b>2028</b>	2032	Deputy member since 2024.

**Auditors and deputies:**

Auditors	Deputy
Lennart de Maré	Jonas Olsson
Björn Norell	

**Officials:**

Treasurer	Martin Bergstrand
HR-editor	Bjørn Kløve
Secretary	Heidi Helena Lee

**The election committee has had the following members since January 2025:****Chair:** Kolbjørn Engeland

Country	Election committee	Deputy
Denmark	Jane Rosenstand Laugesen	Bertel Nilsson
Estonia	Alvina Reihan	Arvo Iital
Finland	Riitta Kamula	Pertti Ala-aho
Iceland	Jórunn Hardardóttir	Óli Grétar Blöndal Sveinsson
Latvia	Ilze Rudlapa	Anda Bakute
Lithuania	Jurate Kriauciuniene	Rita Linkeviciene
Norway	Per Alve Glad	Kolbjørn Engeland
Sweden	Claudia Teresa Canedo Rosso	René Capell

## 2 Activities

### *Board meetings*

Enhanced digital techniques for meetings have made it possible to meet more often than before. Teams has therefore been the main tool for Board meetings. The Board has had seven meetings in 2025. One of the meetings was a physical meeting in Iceland in connection with the conference. There have been two Board meetings in 2026, and there will be a physical meeting in Åland on August 17<sup>th</sup>, in connection with the NHC2026.

The Board meetings were held on the following dates:

- 2025-02-19
- 2025-03-07
- 2025-04-08
- 2025-06-26
- 2025-06-02 (in Iceland)
- 2025-09-04
- 2025-11-19
- 2026-02-18
- 2026-05-20
- 2026-08-17 (to be held in Åland)

The minutes from all meetings are available.

### *Activities of the association*

Due to the covid-pandemic and volcanic eruption in Iceland, the track of the Nordic Hydrological Conferences (NHC) became delayed. Iceland did a great job to arrange the NHC2025, one year delayed compared to the original track. (See a short summary of the conference below). The Board had to decide whether to arrange the next conference in 2028, or switch the biennial conference to 2027, 2029 etc. The latter involves decisions from the General Assembly.

Finland signed up to arrange the conference in Åland 2026 because they already planned a big Digital Waters<sup>1</sup> conference at the same time. They wanted to host the events together. The Board found that the proposal from Finland met the “Principles of arranging NHC”. The Board therefore decided to go forward with the collaboration of the events, even though we were late regarding the decision of the main title of the conference. The Board would like to thank Finland for the big effort in being able to arrange the NHC in such a short notice.

The Board has been in touch with the Chiefs of Hydrological Institutes in the Nordic and Baltic countries (CHINB). Dr. Hege Hisdal, Director, Hydrology Department, the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) was invited to one of the Board meetings to give a short presentation and discuss possible collaboration between NHF and CHINB. There are overlaps between the two organizations, and there are topics that we could collaborate on. This will be a topic for the next NHF Board to consider together with CHINB.

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<sup>1</sup> [Home - digitalwaters.fi](https://www.digitalwaters.fi)

During the last six years, routines for maintaining the membership record and collecting membership fees have been simplified. Since the weaving of the individual membership fees, an individual membership register is kept for administration purposes. For institutional members, the NHF Secretary has prepared invoices in PDF format, which are distributed by the national Board members or sent out directly. Since 2025, NHF Secretary has been hosted by NVE.

During recent Board meetings, concerns have been raised regarding the current process for collecting membership fees from institutional members. It has been noted that PDF invoices may not always fit institutional financial procedures, which increasingly rely on electronic invoice systems. This issue will require further consideration, and the Board will explore options for implementing an NHF system that can generate and distribute electronic invoices.

*Hydrology Research (HR)* is the official journal of three hydrological associations: NHF and the German and Italian associations. As mentioned by the previous Chairman in the Biennial report of 2024, HR has been an open access journal since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Prof. Bjørn Kløve (Finland) has been the Editor-in-Chief since 2018. We are proud to say that the Impact factor of HR increased to 3.7 in 2026.

The NHF Chair and the Editor-in-Chief have participated in one digital meeting and one physical meeting in London with the publisher (IWA Publishing) during the period January 2025–June 2026. IWA has also been invited to one of the NHF Board meetings.

IWA Publishing is in partnership with the publisher ELSEVIER. The most important topic to discuss has been whether to transfer HR to Elsevier's platform. IWA Publishing will still have the same responsibility for the journal. They will update us on a regular basis regarding news from the collaboration.

*NHCs web page.*

The permanent NHF webpage address is: [nhf-hydrology.org](http://nhf-hydrology.org) independently of the web hotel provider. The webpage has mainly been used to announce and give information regarding the Nordic hydrological conferences. Only one newsletter from the chairwoman's corner has been published. Ideas on how to improve the newsletter are still highly welcome.

### ***NHC-2025***

The [Nordic Hydrological Conference 2025](#) (NHC2025) was successfully held from June 2<sup>nd</sup> until June 5<sup>th</sup> in Reykjavik, Iceland. The conference title was "Water and climate change: impacts and adaptation". The main topics were *Hydrology in a changing environment* and *Adapting water management to a changing climate*.

The conference consisted of 96 oral presentations, 60 poster presentations as well as four keynote speeches. Three awards were announced: best student poster, best student oral presentation and prize for best paper published in *Hydrology Research* in the last four years:

- Best paper in *Hydrology Research* 2022-2025 - Kielo Isomäki: "Hydrological effects of open ditch damming and controlled subsurface drainage in a Nordic agricultural field" *Hydrology Research* 1 February 2024; 55 (2): 112–127. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/nh.2024.053>. She was awarded a diploma as well as SEK 15 000,-

- Best student oral presentation NHC2026 - Irina Svetlinova Pitropova: "The optimal bioretention cell design: striking the balance between substrate, saturation and vegetation". She was awarded a diploma as well as SEK 2 000,-
- Best student poster NHC2026 - Mariah Elizabeth Josten: "Impacts of Ferry Traffic in the Finnish Archipelago Sea", She got a diploma as well as SEK 2 000,-

There was also an interesting social program including a wetland walk, an afternoon excursion as well as the conference dinner. Thanks a lot to the organizing committee!

Scientific presentations from the conference are accepted to the Special Issue in Hydrological Research. IWA publisher is now working on getting the Special Issue set up in the Editorial Manager system, with Guest Editor checks, and the APC discount for conference attendees.

### ***NHC-2026***

The [Nordic Hydrological Conference 2026](#) (NHC2026), will take place from August 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Åland. The title of the conference is *Nordic digital solutions in hydrology and sustainable water*. Registration for the conference has been successful, and the program has been announced. The Board is looking forward to attending the conference!

### ***NHC-2028***

The NHC 2028 will be held in Latvia in August 2028. The topic will be announced in Åland on the last day of the conference.

## **2.1 Biennial report from the Publicity Committee**

The Board was assigned the task of defining who should be responsible for the Publicity committee. However, there were difficulties finding time for Board members to meet. The Board therefore decided to take responsibility for the Publicity committee itself.

The Board decided to be as active as possible at LinkedIn. An [open LinkedIn profile](#) has been created, where everybody is invited to be a member and announce relevant topics and information. The Board members have a special responsibility for publishing relevant information on the LinkedIn-profile.

In addition, the Board decided on a publicity strategy, whereby long texts (reports and other information), including pictures, will be published on [our webpage](#). We then suggest using LinkedIn to announce or highlight the topics that are published on the webpage, in a short-text format.

The Board encourages everyone to use this profile as actively as possible. Please contact the secretariat if you would like something to be published on our website!

Oslo, 2026-06-30

Torill Engen Skaugen  
NHF Chair