

Minutes of the board meeting in Copenhagen 12 June 2015

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair), Jorma Aurela, Ole Harbitz, Steen Hoe, Eva Simic, Annelie Bergman, Jens-Peter Lynov, Atle Valseth, Timo Vanttola, Mette Øhlenschläger, Jeppe Pedersen (from meeting item 10), Kasper Andersson, Karin Andgren, Palle Sundstrøm (auditor – meeting items 1 to 6) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary)

Apologies: Nici Bergroth, Olga German, Eldri Naadland Holo and Tarja Ikäheimonen

1 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Special welcomes and thanks were given to the new member and host Mette Øhlenschläger, SIS. The Chair also expressed special welcomes to the new member Eldri Naadland Holo, NRPA, who couldn't participate in this meeting, and the auditor Palle Sundstrøm, who in this meeting was present for meeting items 1 to 6.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

Kasper Andersson suggested that meeting item 10 concerning the NKS 2016 seminar should be handled already after meeting item 7. Everyone agreed to this. With this change the agenda was approved.

4 Minutes of the last board meeting (Helsinki 13 January 2015)

The minutes were approved. Actions A to H noted in the appendix of the minutes of the January board meeting will be noted in parenthesis in these minutes.

5 Accounts 2014

The auditor Palle Sundstrøm presented the distributed material: the Financial Statements 2014 and the Long-form audit report both dated 1 April 2015. The distributed material and Palle Sundstrøm's presentation did not contain any qualifications, special remarks etc. The question of which size the reserve should have, had been put forward to the auditor. Palle Sundstrøm has estimated unexpected currency exchange rate fluctuations to be the biggest risk to be handled by the reserve within a financial year. Based on many years' experience from NKS accounts Palle Sundstrøm has estimated the magnitude of this risk to be between DKK 500,000 / EUR 65,000 and DKK 700,000 / EUR 95,000. As the reserve itself should be somewhat larger than this amount, the auditor recommended that the size of the reserve should be approximately DKK 1,000,000 / EUR 135,000 (action D). The board took note of this and recommended the 2014 accounts to be approved by the owners.

6 Financial status for the current year

Finn Physant presented the distributed material: the Financial status report dated 29 May 2015 and the Financial programme specification dated 2 June 2015. The reserve at present was estimated to approximately DKK 1,135,000 / EUR 152,000 – in accordance with the auditor's recommendation. The board took note of the positive financial situation.

7 News since last board meeting

a) Report from the owners' group

There has been no owners' group meeting since the last board meeting.

b) News from board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

Eva Simic informed the board that SSM has decided to take over the PC-R role. SSM sends the owners the name and cv of the candidate within a few weeks. The decision of the owners will be announced to the board. The Chair recommended the involved parties to enter a flexible process making it possible for the outgoing PC-R to finally report on 2015 work at the board's next meeting and for the new PC-R to participate in the next Autumn's CfP process. All involved parties agreed to this.

Eva Simic also informed the board about the upcoming SSM conference on SSM's research activities on 19-20 November 2015. Eva Simic welcomed conference participation by board members and their colleagues.

c) Administrative news

Finn Physant presented the new pamphlet (action E) and an updated version of "This is NKS".

Karin Andgren presented the revised "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders", which had been revised according to comments from the last board meeting and comments received from board members since the last board meeting. Karin Andgren also presented the new document "Instructions how to fill in a proposal form" and two new proposal forms: one for continued activities and one for new activities (actions A, B and C). The board discussed the revised and new documents, and it was concluded, that further proposals for changes and revisions of the documents were welcomed and should be forwarded to the coordination group.

8 R-part: status

Karin Andgren made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Overall the work in NKS-R is progressing well. Since the last board meeting in January, final reports for 8 activities have been published on the NKS website. Contracts have been agreed and signed for 9 out of 10 activities commencing in 2015. There are no delayed activities from before 2014. All activities initiated earlier than 2014 have been finally reported. Seven NKS-R seminars and workshops will be held based on the following 5 of the 2015 activities: ADdGROUND, L3PSA, LESUN, MODIG and PLANS. The board took note of the good progress of the R-programme.

9 **B-part: status**

Kasper Andersson presented the status of the ongoing NKS-B activities. Overall the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Since the last NKS-B status report was made to the board in January 2015, 5 new final reports from completed activities have been published on the NKS website. All the activities that commenced prior to 2014 are completed. 11 of the 12 activities commencing in 2014 have been completed. The last one, NORMIN is close to completion. Contracts for all 10 NKS-B activities commencing in 2015 have been agreed and signed. NKS-B seminars and workshops 2015: IDEA, NORDCOP-COAST, NUFORNOR and FAUNA. The board took note of the good progress of the B-programme.

10 **NKS seminar on current trends in nuclear and radiological safety 2016**

During this meeting item the Chair welcomed Jeppe Pedersen, DEMA, who for the rest of the meeting replaced Steen Hoe.

The outline for the NKS seminar 2016 was presented by Karin Andgren (action F).

Suggested title for the seminar is: "Nordic perspectives of Fukushima: Where are we now and where do we go"? The board had no comments on the title.

It was stressed that focus should be on consequences for the Nordic countries. It is important to keep the Nordic perspective! (However, reports from Fukushima can be used as introductions to the different topics).

The importance of trustworthy authorities was stressed and this subject could be developed further under e.g. the session named "Deal with it". How to communicate to the general public is connected to the trustworthiness and this should also be addressed. It would be interesting to have an honest analysis (good examples as well as areas for improvement) of the trustworthiness and the communication of the authorities in the Nordic countries. A presentation of how the Japanese authorities coped with these issues during and after the Fukushima accident could introduce the subject.

There was a discussion on dose limits, connected to the topic of how to communicate with the public. Is it a good idea to use dose limits and collective doses as risk metrics? Perhaps it is more relevant for the general public if the authorities address the present situation instead? (Both Ted Lazo and Chris Clement (confirmed key note speakers) could address this issue).

As final remarks, presentations will be made from "rapporteurs", who has been present during the event. These rapporteurs can highlight interesting findings or discussions, as well as possible future research topics. Petra Lundström (for the R-side) and Leif Moberg (for the B-side) were suggested. The PCs will contact Petra Lundström and Leif Moberg.

The PCs are responsible for contacting possible speakers for the seminar, on behalf of NKS. Assistance from board members (or other contacts) will be asked for by the PCs if needed.

A presentation of the HERCA-WENRA approach would fit in to the session: “Hope for the best and prepare for the worst”. The topic could be presented by an expert from a Nordic country (to keep the Nordic perspective).

During the session “Nordic progress after Fukushima”, also planned implementations should be included.

Jorma Aurela suggested that the key-note speakers should address both R-related and B-related topics in their respective presentations.

Atle Valseth stressed the importance to keep the schedule and not try to squeeze in too many presentations.

The next program committee meeting is scheduled to the week of the NSFS meeting (24-27 August). Any input on the seminar from the board members is therefore appreciated before 10 August.

The board decided that the seminar should be free of charge.

11 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the website, newsletters etc. – The present generation website was implemented in 2012 and has proved to be a good everyday working tool. Website visitor statistics were presented concluding that the level of use of the website was quite stable seen over the last couple of years. It is a goal to achieve the high level of use, which was achieved in connection with the Fukushima seminar January 2013, again in connection with the 2016 seminar.

Since the last board meeting 2 NewsFlashes have been distributed. The first one of 19 January was a summary report from the January board meeting including the board’s grant decisions for 2015, and the second of 24 April included the first announcement of the January 2016 seminar, other upcoming seminars, new reports etc. Besides this a NewsLetter was distributed 4 June presenting upcoming seminars, new reports etc. There is a list of approximately 480 e-mail addresses, to which NKS electronic letters are distributed.

The new pamphlet was presented under meeting item 7.

The board took note of the situation concerning the information activities.

12 Research activities in 2016

Kasper Andersson informed the board about this year’s call for proposals (CfP). There will be a CfP for both the B- and R-part opening on 1 September with deadline 15 October. The proposals will be passed on to the board members no later than 16 October. The deadline for submission of evaluations from board members will be 16 November and the next coordination meeting will take place end of November.

The Chair proposed the budget for 2016 for each programme’s activities to be set at DKK 3,500,000. The board agreed to this.

The Chair will ask the owners and co-financiers for a possible raise of funding in 2016 compared to their funding in 2015. At this time the expectation is that the contributions of 2016 will be at least the same as in 2015.

13 Other issues

Kasper Andersson informed the board about the status of the project commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) on non-nuclear radioactive waste issues in the Nordic countries. The purpose of the activity is to pinpoint possible benefits from enhanced Nordic collaboration. The activity group of representatives of all the Nordic authorities had met in Copenhagen 9 June in order to present and discuss the national contributions (action G).

Kasper Andersson summarised and concluded on the work. A final report of the activity will be delivered to NCM no later than September 2015. One NORM proposal was seen as an idea that might be developed into an NKS activity proposal for the autumn's CfP. Each authority representative had agreed to identify a national participant for the NKS activity proposal work group. The Chair and Ole Harbitz expressed their positive interests in future NKS waste activities.

Finn Physant presented the plan for NKS participation in the NSFS conference 23-27 August in Roskilde. The coordination group will participate with an exhibition stand. 7 oral and 2 poster NKS presentations have been planned. NKS will sponsor conference bags with NKS logo and name badges for conference participants. NKS' costs presented will cover sponsorship, exhibition stand and participation fees.

The board decided to grant approximately EUR 5,000 for the proposed NKS participation in the NSFS conference.

Mette Øhlenschläger - as President of NSFS – was grateful for the NKS contribution to the conference. Mette Øhlenschläger welcomed conference participation by board members and their colleagues.

The Chair addressed the question brought up during the last board meeting about aligning NKS research activities (B-part) and EURATOM research activities. As no news had been received, the working group will await the promised background paper from Sisko Saaloma regarding difficulties and practicalities about alignment (action H).

Any other business: Karin Andgren asked the board if travel support for young scientists under some certain conditions could be extended to travel support outside the Nordic countries. After some discussion it was decided that the coordination group will prepare a proposal for the the next board meeting.

14 Next meeting

Next meeting will be in Stockholm 13 January (dinner) and 14 January (meeting) 2015.

15 End of meeting

Many thanks for a good meeting – in particular to the host SIS – were expressed by the Chair.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chair

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendix: Actions from the board meeting

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- A. Ref. Item 7: Eva Simic informed the board that SSM has decided to take over the PC-R role. SSM sends the owners the name and cv of the candidate within a few weeks. The decision of the owners will be announced to the board.
- B. Ref. Item 7: Concerning the revised handbook, new instructions and forms: The board discussed the revised and new documents, and it was concluded, that further proposals for changes and revisions of the documents were welcomed and should be forwarded to the coordination group.
- C. Ref. item 10: 2016 Seminar: The next program committee meeting is scheduled to the week of the NSFS meeting (24-27 August). Any input on the seminar from the board members is therefore appreciated before 10 August.
- D. Ref. item 12: The Chair will ask the owners and co-financiers for a possible raise of funding in 2016 compared to their funding in 2015.
- E. Ref. item 13: Concerning the NCM waste activity: A final report of the activity will be delivered to NCM no later than September 2015.
- F. Ref. Item 13: NKS participation in the NSFS conference 23-27 August in Roskilde: The coordination group will participate with an exhibition stand. 7 oral and 2 poster NKS presentations have been planned.
- G. Ref. Item 13: NKS-EURATOM alignment: the working group will await the promised background paper from Sisko Saaloma regarding difficulties and practicalities about alignment.
- H. Ref. Item 13: Karin Andgren asked the board if travel support for young scientists under some certain conditions could be extended to travel support outside the Nordic countries. After some discussion it was decided that the cordination group will prepare a proposal for the the next board meeting.