

Minutes

of the

Annual SNC-IUGG Committee Meeting

15 November 2013, 11:30 – 12:45
Palais de Rumine, Lausanne

Committee members present

IACS	Dr Charles Fierz, Secretary and treasurer
IAG	Mr Adrian Wiget
IAHS	Dr Bruno Schädler
IAMAS	Dr Markus Furger
IAVCEI	Prof. Dr Peter Ulmer
IPA	Dr Marcia Phillips

Committee members absent with regrets

IAGA	Prof. Dr Andrew Jackson
IAHS	Prof. Dr Rolf Weingartner
IAPSEI	Dr John Clinton

Committee members absent

IAGA	Prof. Dr Peter Wurz
IAPSO	Prof. Dr Thomas Stocker

Secretary C. Fierz opens the meeting and welcomes the committee members present. Prof. A. Jackson and Dr John Clinton excused themselves for professional reasons. Dr B. Schädler replaces Prof. R. Weingartner. The necessary quorum required by the bylaws is attained.

1. Approval of the agenda

Secretary C. Fierz proposes to switch items 7 and 8. No other modifications or additions are requested to the agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the committee meeting in Berne, 16 November 2012

The minutes are accepted with two modifications (items 5 and 8), with thanks to SNC-IUGG secretary C. Fierz.

3. Communications

No communications.

4. Reports on 2013 activities and events

IUGG

The GeoForschungsZentrum GFZ hosts and supports financially the IUGG secretariat in Potsdam. IUGG is currently revising its strategy and vision for the future and membership issues are hot topics for discussions. Finally note that IUGG is on facebook ([f](#))

IACS

DACA-13 (www.daca-13.org) was a full success with almost 1000 participants. The Swiss Society for Snow, Ice and Permafrost and the Swiss Society for Meteorology organised jointly a poster contest. Six Early Career Scientists were awarded CHF 1000.- each. IACS also sponsored a one-day Workshop organised by the Association of Polar Early Career scientists. At the end of the IACS Bureau Meeting following the conference, C. Fierz took over the IACS presidency from Ian Allison.

IAG

Mr A. Wiget tables and comments his report (see Appendix A).

IAGA

Prof Dr Jackson provided a short report on IAGA activities presented by Secretary C. Fierz: This year the IAGA conference was held in Merida, Mexico. This was a fairly well attended meeting, though the furlough in USA meant some US colleagues were not able to attend as planned. At least part of the IAGA community is awaiting the launch of ESA's Swarm mission, due this month. This will be the first high precision satellite launched for 13 years, and is innovative in the sense that it is 3 satellites flying in a mini-constellation in order to unravel the various sources that its magnetometers measure. We expect considerable activity as a result of this impetus.

IAHS

Dr B. Schädler highlights the main IAHS related activities in Switzerland and elsewhere (see also Appendix B).

IAMAS

Dr M. Furger tables and comments his report (see Appendix C).

IAPSO

No report.

IASPEI

No report.

IAVCEI

Prof. Dr Ulmer tables and comments his report (see Appendix D).

IPA

Dr M. Phillips comments on PERMOS, the Swiss Permafrost Monitoring Network, as there are ongoing discussions about the future location of the PERMOS office. EUCOP4, the 4th European Conference on Permafrost, will be held 18-21 June 2014 in Évora, Portugal. Indeed, Portugal is active in Permafrost research in both Antarctica and the Pyrenees! Also note that an Alpine Permafrost field trip will be organised 2016.

5. Treasurer's report

The treasurer tables his report for 2012. The report displays incomes of CHF 27 805.55 and expenditures of CHF 27 066.40. The bank account balance on 31 December 2012 amounted to CHF 855.35, including CHF 170.- surplus to be returned to SCNAT in 2013.

Note that about CHF 600.- to cover expenses tied to the preparation of DACA-13 (Swiss National Organising Committee) could be taken over to 2013.

The members present accept the report with thanks to the treasurer.

6. Budgets 2013 and 2014

2013

Treasurer C. Fierz reminds those who asked for travel assistance to submit their claims as soon as possible.

2014

The Platform Geosciences accepted our requests for Union Lecture and travel assistance without cuts. But note that the allotted budget is still pending acceptance by the Executive Council of SCNAT. Our IPA correspondent, Dr M. Phillips, missed to ask for a contribution towards her travel expenses to EUCOP4. Treasurer C. Fierz proposed to allot 10 % (CHF 600.-) of all requested contributions to Dr Phillips. Mr A. Wiget spontaneously proposed to transfer CHF 500.- from the IAG request to IPA. Accordingly, the attributions are:

IACS:	CHF	1000.-
IAG:	CHF	1500.-
IAMAS:	CHF	1500.-
IASPEI:	CHF	1500.-
IPA:	CHF	500.-

7. Memberships

This year will see a lot of changes in our committee. President Marc Parlange stepped down as he moved to Canada. Beat Bürki, a long standing member of the committee, stepped down for personal reasons as well as approaching retirement. Furthermore, 7 members would have to be re-elected for further three years. Four of them, Dr M. Furger, Prof. Dr A. Jackson, Prof. Dr R. Weingartner, and Prof. Dr Thomas Stocker have chosen to step down instead. Search for replacement is underway but we agreed that Dr Schädler will take the IAHS correspondent position ad interim until CHy has refilled President and Executive Secretary position.

The members present also agreed to wait until all, or almost all positions in the committee are filled again before we start anew a president search. First we will seek among committee members and then outside of it. There is a consensus that the President should be well integrated in Academia and the Swiss geosciences community as well as having acquaintance with IUGG.

8. Union Lecture

Prof. Dr Oliver Korup, University of Potsdam, Germany, will deliver the 2013 Union Lecture.

The theme of SGM 2014 will be "drilling" and SNC-IUGG will take the lead for organising the Union Lecture. Any suggestion for a suitable Union Lecturer is welcome.

9. Activities 2014

2014, swisstopo will co-organize the Geospatial World Forum to be held 5-9 May in Geneva. Other activities are mentioned under other items or in the appended reports.

10. Varia

Mr A. Wiget mentions that 2013, swisstopo celebrates its 175th anniversary.

Dr B. Schädler hints to a recent publication of the Swiss Hydrological Commission CHy titled "Wasser in der Schweiz".

11. Next Meeting

21 November 2014 in Fribourg (SGM 2014), time to be announced.

2013-11-16 & 2014-05-21 / C. Fierz