

Skógvatn - ForStreams

4. general meeting 22. of February 2008

Attending: Bjarni D. Sigurdsson (meeting coord.), Hreinn Oskarsson, Robert Rosenberg, Julia Broska, Gisli Mar Gislason, Hlynur Óskarsson, Karólína Einarsdóttir, Jón S. Ólafsson, Edda S. Oddsdóttir, Helena M. Stefánsdóttir (meeting secr.) Guðmundur Halldórsson, Brynhildur Bjarnadóttir (in phone).

Excused: Freysteinn Sigurðsson, Berglind Orradóttir, Sigurður Guðjónsson, Gintare Medelyte

Missing: Franklín Georgsson

Agenda:

1. Open; Minutes of last meeting read and formally accepted
2. The Memorandum of Understanding
3. New FP7 application – CLIMAFOR Application (Bjarni)
4. Application to Landsvirkjun (Jón S.).
5. The students give short overviews of their projects (Helena, Karó, Julia)
6. What did we promise to do in 2007 and 2008? (BDS).
7. What did we do in 2007 – and what was left? (BDS)
8. Funding status at the end of 2007 – use of funds by different institutes (BDS)
9. Decisions about what to do, how frequent the sampling should be and what to delay to 2009
10. What are we going to do in 2008?
11. Other issues:
 - Should we apply to Framleiðnisjóður? For the whole project or for a part of it?
 - Coming meetings, workshops, conferences, etc.
 - SEEDS volunteers
 - Next ForStreams meeting?

Minutes:

1. **Minutes from 3rd meeting** read and formally accepted.
2. **The Memorandum of Understanding**
 - a) Add Hekkluskógar as the 7th organisation and b) Hreinn to the coordination committee; c) Rephrase how votes are counted; d) Add Franklín to signatories; e) Correct a spelling mistake in Karólína's name.

⇒ *The MoU was formally accepted with these changes and does not need to be introduced once more.*
3. **New FP7 application – CLIMAFOR** (Bjarni).
 - a. This is a spin-off from ForStreams, where LbhÍ, Veiðimál and Mógilsá added to the ForStreams project in E-Iceland
 - i. Water balance (PhD student for 4 years, modelling of how vegetation- and climate change affect the hydrological (and carbon) cycle on a landscape level)
 - ii. Biodiversity (Effects of afforestation on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity). Veiðimál and Mógilsá; mainly ForStreams students.
 - b. Would start in early 2009, if we get the funding. Ends in 2013.

4. **Application to Landsvirkjun and Alcan** for Karólína's PhD project (Jón S.).
 - a. Karólína and Jón will meet her future supervisor in London in March, where her PhD project plan will be discussed. The current project idea for her thesis is to study the belowground transport of nutrients and carbon from terrestrial to aquatic systems and study with isotopic methods how aquatic ecosystems use terrestrial vs aquatic derived food sources.
 - b. Alcan granted 500þ ISK for Karólína's research in 2008.
 - c. Landsvirkjun had not responded yet. After the meeting we got the confirmation from Landsvirkjun that Karólína's PhD project got 3.000þ ISK funding from Landsvirkjun in 2008.

5. **The students give short overviews** of their projects (Helena, Julia, Gintare)
 - a. Helena.
Has been taking quite many courses at LbhI. Project: Litter transport and litter decomposition in streams – main focus á Austurland. a) two types of litter bags (invertibr + bact/fungi or only bact/fungi) b) three litter types in all streams (grass, leaves, needles); four time intervals, with three bags (for each treatment each time and each stream. Will start in May 2008.
 - b. Julia
Streams in S-Iceland were inventoried for fish (only fish in 3 out of 8 streams) and fish was harvested outside the study areas to make study on their feeding. Stomach contents of those samples are being processed. At least one shredder-spp has been found. Could take new samples in April/May. Leaves Iceland in June.
 - c. Gintare (GMG reported)
Has started to process samples on aquatic community structure at the lab in Univ. of Iceland. Is finishing 4-6 samples per day. She is also taking 5 courses at HI. She is doing a good job.

6. **What did we promise to do in 2007 and 2008?** (BDS).
The wole project was delayed to autumn 2007 because we had to find new research sites in eastern Iceland. But, since then we are more or less on time!

7. **What did we do in 2007 – and what was left from 2007?** (BDS)
 - a. Sediment transport in streams. We have to solve how we can quantify this. *JSÓ and GMG will contact Orkustofnun and try to get some good ideas.*
 - b. Chemical analysis, *BDS and HÓ will see to that samples are sent for analysis.*
 - c. Water quality, groundwater and stream water. Samples should be taken from stream water in May. *GH will contact Franklín. Install groundwater tubes – GH takes responsibility for this.*
 - d. Mapping of catchment areas – *BDS, HÓ and Robert will take responsibility for this.*
 - e. Runoff plots – should be set up in spring 2008 – Talk to Berglind about this when she is back. Litter transport set up in 2007 and decomposition of OM set up in 2008 – *Helena takes this.*

8. **Funding status at the end of 2007** – use of funds by different institutes (BDS)
 - a. Total funding in 2007 was 7.530þ ISK; total cost was 6.400þ ISK
 - b. Salaries of students was as planned.
 - c. Less was spent on equipment (820þ)
 - d. Nothing has been used yet on chemical analysis.
 - e. Travel was 2.300þ more expensive than planned!

9. **Decisions about what to do**, how frequent the sampling should be and what to delay to 2009. We can't continue to run the project with such a high travel cost.

The group accepted the following actions:

→ Accepted by all participants: Use the remainder of equipment money (820 þ) not used so-far to substitute much to high travel cost in 2008. Each partner gets the same ratio of over-spendure covered. Veidimal bills Lbh!

→ Wait until BDS/HÓ have gotten final prices for chemical analyses on 2007 samples to decide if anything of 2007 chemical money (1.160 þ) will be split in the same way!

→ Regular sample-trips in 2008 will be reduced to four per year (Feb=Winter – May=Spring – Jul=Summer – Oct=Autumn)? This will save travel money for other activities + salaries.

→ Make new budget for 2008, based on real estimates of cost. Should be ready before 1. April. Then we will know if Landsvirkjun has funded the project.

10. Project plan for 2008?

- a. Mapping BDS, Hreinn and Robert.
- b. Primary terrestrial production and leaf fall (Brynhildur/Edda), Estimation of approx 700þ ISK this year. Consider to split the work between 2008 and 2009.
- c. Install groundwater tubes and take samples for water quality. GH will consider this.
- d. Install soil water samplers/runoff plots - Berglind/Karólína/BDS.
- e. Lab-based chemical analysis. BDS/HÓ will get final offers and send samples to analysis.
- f. Sediment transport – JSÓ and GMG will decide.
- g. Consider to make new studies on fish and vegetation of catchments at a larger spatial scale – Róbert, JSÓ, SG...
- h. Transport and decomposition of OM - Helena
- i. More effort on aquatic communities - Gintare

11. Other issues

- a. **Should we apply to Framleiðnisjóður**, deadline 29.feb. → Decided that JSÓ will lead the work on making an application, where we will ask for general funding for salaries of students in ForStreams.
- b. **Should we apply to Fiskræktarsjóður**, deadline 15.mars → Decided that JSÓ/SG and Robert should try to get a paralell study on fish and catchment vegetation on a larger spatial scale...
- c. **Should we apply to Pokasjóður**, deadline 7.mars → Hreinn will make such an application for ForStreams.
- d. **Should we apply to Nýsköpunarsjóður námsmanna** → Karólína should be encouraged to send in an application.
- e. **Meetings and other happenings.** Fundir
 - i. Raunvísindaping 15-16 March. Gintare has sent in abstract in English and will have a general poster for ForStreams
 - ii. Fræðafundur skógræktar, 4-5 April. Helena will give a talk.
 - iii. NECC-BACCI2008, 16-19. June – international conference in Reykjavik.

- iv. COST ForMan meeting in Croatia in April. JSÓ, EO, BDS and GMG will attend.
- f. **Heimsókn frá Dawn Ferris**, Ohio state University, in late June. GH is the contact. Karólína was interested in meeting with her.
- g. **SEEDS volunteers** → Had sent in a letter where they wanted to do some work for the project. *It was decided that it would be more work to train such people for doing measurements than it was worth.*

Next meeting is planned on March 27th.

There we should finish the project plan for 2008.