

Mistra Urban Futures

Minutes Board Meeting No. 34

12 June 2019
Phone meeting 17.00-19.00 CEST

Participants:

Fredrik Hörstedt (Chair)
Caroline Wanjiku Kihato
Lyla Mehta
John Robinson
Thomas Elmqvist
Benjamin Bradlow

Ex officio:

Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström, Sida
Åsa Moberg, Mistra
David Simon, Director
Stephen Agong, KLIP
Elma Durakovic, GOLIP
Warren Smit, CTLIP
Barry Ness, SKLIP
Beth Perry, SMLIP
Mikael Cullberg, Chair Consortium Council

Invited participants:

Viveka Blomgren, Secretariat
Jan Riise, Secretariat
Henrietta Palmer, Deputy Scientific Director
Jan Petersson, Director of GMV
Sara Eliasson, Secretariat - minute taker

Apologies:

Olivia Bina

1. Opening of the meeting

Fredrik Hörstedt

The Chair opened the full meeting, welcomed the participants and noted apologies from Olivia Bina.

2. Approval of the agenda and potential conflicts of interest

Fredrik Hörstedt

Agenda approved - no other business and no potential conflicts of interests announced by the board members.

3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

Clarification: The risk assessment of GMV replaces the past risk assessment – more of a risk mitigation.

Decision: Minutes were approved as circulated.

4. Director's Update, including presentation of Sida evaluation report, and update from Sida on their review process

David Simon and Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström

Things are proceeding with the Policy Press Book and the Co-production manual.
Regarding the latter investigating possibilities to publish it with the commercial publisher Practical Action.

LOH

Sida evaluation successful and very positive; however, recommendations forward are based on current operations as the review predated the GSF announcement.

Up to 1,5 million SEK will probably be available to be carried forward to support the urban theme within GSF. Will be formalized by the end of the month.

Nayoka expressed the following options under consideration by Sida:

1. New agreement for a third phase of engagement: Among the key conditions that need to be met are urban focus and content, impact on environment and sustainability, focus on Global South.
2. Slow exit: 12-24 months to allow consolidation and completion of existing projects of MUF.
3. Agreement with GMV: This requires an assessment of GMV and Sida's ongoing engagements with GU and Chalmers, including MUF activities. We could then develop a new program package that includes the carry-over from MUF, and have GMV as our agreement partner. This would take a longer time to process.
4. Close the contract by the end of the year.

Options 1 and 3 would require a new strategy, an annual workplan and budget for 2020, organizational set up and clear indication of partnership from 2020 and beyond. Option 2 would require a workplan and budget. Sida requests that a proposal based on the preferred option be communicated by Chalmers during the fall.

Additionally, dialogue to keep track of the deliverables for the LIPs and the Centre as a whole. Mistra has given clear guidelines of what is required in the final annual report. Have been updated in consultation with the people concerned and there are regular LIP Directors' meetings and specific meetings between the Secretariat and individual LIP Directors to keep track of processes. Decisions are being made in light of GSF. There is an evaluation check list report tool for Secretariat deadlines and all projects/activities at LIPs to ensure full regulatory compliance and completion of all tasks by year-end.

5. Update of the GSF and SAB progress, next steps and how to include the legacy of Mistra Urban Futures

Action: Material concerning GSF will be sent out at the beginning of next week.


Update SAB: the process is ongoing. Olivia and Caroline have both accepted to join. Process with GU and Chalmers to discuss potential candidates – will take two weeks and decision will be made by the Rectors of Chalmers and GU. The goal is to have all the LIPs represented on the SAB, but this has not been confirmed yet.

JP has had discussions with the LIP Directors as well as at faculty and department level. Preparing a report to be sent to the Rectors on Friday that describes the process up till 1st January 2020 and how to identify other themes besides the urban. Hope for a decision by the end of June and then prepare the next steps.

The discussion has been different depending on which LIP Jan has spoken with, regarding:

- SMLIP: Beth and Jan need to discuss more in detail how to work together.
- GOLIP: will allow for North-North collaboration in the future within the GMV framework.
- SKLIP: have discussed with Barry at a national level. Keen to continue working together but need to sort out how.
- Sthlm node: need to discuss how to mobilize the national collaboration.
- CTLIP: possible new avenues for collaboration and CTLIP looking forward to further discussion on the details around it.
- KLIP: discussed ongoing activities and possible new ways of collaboration.

6. Financial Update

Viveka Blomgren / 

Papers have been circulated. The actual expenditure is a bit lower than expected but this is normal for the time of the year as some big invoices arrive during T2. Will have some money over after 2019. Delivering what we have agreed upon. The financial budgeting forecasting is changing radically to a rolling model and there are differences such as including only staff for durations of their current contracts. This adds complexity during the Centre's transition right now and fine tuning requires negotiating and navigating.

7. Update of the Audit 2018

Viveka Blomgren

Ongoing process. Have not received the audit from KLIP yet. On track; working with the auditors and hopefully get feedback from them next week. Deadline for Sida by the end of June.

8. Fundraising update Centre and locally

David Simon /Pia Schmidtbauer

Key point: the application to Sida for Phase 3. Smaller grant applications in relation to GOLIP. Due to GSF decision, a new story needs to elaborate that conveys the strengths of this context for urban applications. Fundraising will focus on new calls in the autumn and beyond. Pia Schmidtbauer's contract is not going to be extended. Once clarity on the Rectors' decision is obtained, the situation with Thomas Melin will be reviewed. It is deemed that fundraising efforts will return a better yield if they are carried out in 2019 and in the first half of 2020. Accordingly, a budget revision request to Mistra is being prepared and is due on June 30th.

All fundraising will be undertaken by GSF for 2020 onward or individual themes within it. Anything going into 2020 Jan is signing off as a part of the GSF context. Within the GMV framework there might be bilateral and multilateral possibilities.

Current calls: a Mistra Urban Futures application for the Mistra Environmental Communication call and a decision is expected next week. The Vinnova bid for GOLIP is also due to be announced imminently.


Decision: Pia Schmidtbauer, Viveka Blomgren and David Simon will provide an updated spreadsheet of the calls currently working on, to send out with the minutes.

QME (Quality Management and Evaluation) update

Jan Riise /Viveka Blomgren

The comparative project Realising Just Cities is covering a group of projects. A book is going to be produced in South Africa with the help of the science writer Leonie Joubert who did the book Tomatoes & Taxi Ranks. Will be capturing 1st, 2nd and 3rd order effects in a narrative way, including 3rd order impact stories being commissioned from an external evaluator.

Benchmarking – not much to compare with; maybe the Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam. Jan Riise to explore further.

It is necessary to put the QME framework into its strategic context. It is clear that the effect logic is embedded in the framework but there is a lack of strategic reasoning. It is not about the framework itself but qualities. How we can measure societal impact and effects on sustainability transitions: how do we know that we are measuring what we set out to do and how do we ought to achieve that, are we doing the right things and if so how well are we doing it? These aspects are still missing in the document. Impact stories are in progress: more of these and processes of change were recommended, along with a stronger definition what this tool can do for Mistra Urban Futures. There is a set of 

indicators associated with it to measure the process. John is happy to share information and plan of work in Toronto where an ongoing evaluation of projects is executed.

Decision: Documents MUF 34:5 approved and proposed process forward in implementing the QME framework is that Jan Riise, Caroline Kihato and John Robinson talk over the phone and propose an agenda for a meeting with the QME framework group.

9. Update regarding the conference in Sheffield/ Manchester

Ulrica Gustafsson/Beth Perry

Tuesday: good if selected Board members are able to attend workshops and comment briefly on the discussions before plenary discussions. Together with the Secretariat: 'What is the role of local action to address the global challenges?'.
Board members are welcome from Sunday (opening reception) – key time to be there is Tuesday (arriving), Wednesday and Thursday (Board meeting).

Decision: Beth will send out an email to Board members requesting all the details she need for the conference; for example, days attending the conference and important in the email to copy Ulrica in due to booking of flights from the Secretariat.

10. Next meetings: for 2019

Fredrik Hörstedt

Dates for remaining Board meetings in 2019:

#35: 17 October – physical meeting in Sheffield after Annual Conference 14-16 October (09.00 – 12.00, end time to be confirmed later in light of the agenda)

#36: 14 November – phone meeting (4-6pm CEST)

The last meeting will most likely include a discussion of the last annual report.

11. Any other business

Fredrik Hörstedt

There was no other business.

Signed: David Simon, Director



Date: 03/07/2019

Fredrik Hörstedt, Chair of the Board



Date: 08/08/2019