

Mistra Urban Futures

Minutes Board Meeting No. 16

March 3, 2015
Telephone meeting, 4 pm - 6 pm, CET

Participants:

Thomas Rosswall (Chair)
Thomas Elmqvist
Colin Fudge (Vice-Chair)
Klas Groth
Katarina Pelin
Hans Ristner
Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez

Ex officio:
Johan Edman, Mistra
Karl-Gunnar Olsson, Chalmers
David Simon, Director

Invited participants (from Secretariat):
Cecilia Örnroth
Mikael Cullberg (during agenda items 5-10)
Jan Riise

Notice of absence:
Elizabeth Deakin
Katarina Gårdfeldt, Gothenburg Cons.

1. **Opening of the meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Elizabeth Deakin and Katarina Gårdfeldt were unable to participate in the meeting. The Chair expressed special thanks to the Director, the Secretariat and all others involved in the tremendous progress on the SP.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

The Chair invited the members to review the agenda and suggest any additional issues that might be discussed under agenda item #10, Any other business.

Decision:

To approve the agenda as circulated.

3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

The Minutes from meeting #15 had been circulated and approved by the Board electronically. The Strategic Plan 2016-2019 had been circulated and approved by the Board electronically.

Decisions:

To note that the minutes from Board meeting #15 have been approved; and
 To note that the SP 2016-2019 has been approved.

4. Update from the Director

The Director gave a brief update of the main achievements and changes since the Board meeting in January that are not listed under separate items below.

- The formal notification from Sida has been received of their financial contribution to the urban SDG pilot project. The Director has visited KLIP, GMLIP and CTLIP to launch the project.
- The Head of Administration has visited CTLIP to prepare for the Sida audit.
- The Director delivered the keynote speech at the high-level East African Future Cities Visioning Conference organized by the Uongozi Foundation (indicated in advance at the January Board meeting). He also made useful contacts for possible future collaborations, both in East Africa and beyond.
- The Director has been asked by Chalmers' rector to represent the university at a meeting with the Swedish Foreign Ministry on 9 March on Sweden's post-2015 international cooperation.
- The Centre will participate in several events and sessions during the Almedalen political week at Gotland, Sweden, both in opening sessions with an international and city focus and in Gothenburg related sessions. The Director will be in Almedalen during the Monday-Tuesday (29-20 June).

Decision:

To note the update from the Director.

5. Feasibility study report Mistra Urban Futures platforms in Stockholm and Skåne

The final feasibility study report from the Stockholm group was discussed and commented on, specifically regarding local partnerships and the alignment with the SP 2016-2019.

The 'Smart Sustainable Cities' group of the Skåne Research and Innovation Council (FIRS) has appointed a task team to set up a feasibility study for a future Skåne LIP within MUF. The Skåne team consists of one representative from each of the three main universities in Skåne. As a first step, representatives of FIRS have addressed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to the Centre signed by the universities of Lund, Malmö and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Alnarp) as well as the City of Malmö and Region Skåne. Since the LoI was submitted, the City of Lund has expressed its support for the LoI. No budget for the pre-study has been issued as of yet.

Decisions:

To note the feasibility study from Stockholm;
 To request that David and Mikael bring forward the comments from the Board to the team in Stockholm and to have the feasibility study revisited;
 To note the LoI from Skåne with satisfaction, particularly the broad participation;
 To decide in principle to co-finance the feasibility study in Skåne within the budget;
 To have the Skåne feasibility study report by 1 May latest if possible (or a full sketch by 1 May and more details by 1 June); and

To invite the Stockholm and Skåne groups to the Board meeting in June for in-depth presentations should the Mistra Board decide on funding for a second phase.

6. Mid-term evaluation

The Progress Report 2010-2014 was submitted to Mistra on 2 February and the Strategic Plan on 16 February. The panel had their first conference call on 27 February.

The programmes for Caroline Moser's visit to the LIPs in Greater Manchester, Cape Town and Kisumu have been drafted in dialogue with Caroline. A programme for the full panel's visit to Gothenburg has also been drafted. The Board commented that the programme for 5-6 May in Gothenburg needs to be more forward looking (specially the afternoon of 6 May). The Board is invited to participate during 5-6 May.

The evaluation panel members are formally announced by Mistra as being:

- Ilmar Reepalu (Chair) – Former chair of the municipal board in Malmö, professional urban planner etc., Sweden
- Caroline Moser – Professor Emerita, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom
- John Robinson – Professor and Associate Provost, The University of British Columbia, Canada
- David Dodman – Co-Head, Human Settlements Group, Senior Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom
- Carl-Johan Engström – Professional urban planner (National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Uppsala Municipality etc.) + Professor, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

In addition Scientific Secretary/Editor to the Panel will be:

- Rebecca Oliver – Acting Deputy Director, Swedish Global Hub, Future Earth, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Decisions:

To request a revised version of the draft programme for 5-6 May, taking in the comments from the Board;

To send out the revised draft for review by the Board; and

To note the draft programs for the other LIPs

7. Annual report 2014

The Annual Reports are required by Mistra and Sida and are also used for the wider network of Mistra Urban Futures. The 2014 Report is the last in a series of Annual Reports for Phase 1, with a similar design and content. Jan Riise is leading on this, drawing material from the Progress Report as far as possible. The final editing and design work will be done up to 17 March, after which date it will be printed and delivered to Mistra no later than 31 March.

Decision:

To approve the text of the Mistra Urban Futures Annual Report for submission to Mistra with the comments from the Board incorporated, specifically to add country to the Board of Directors.

8. Financial outcome 2014 and revised budget 2015

The closing balance for Mistra and Consortium funds 2014 was MSEK 1.6 more positive than budgeted and MSEK 0.1 for Sida¹. The budget for 2015, as submitted to Mistra and Sida in the Centre Operational Plan, has been revised with the new incoming balance for 2015 as well as with other changes and decisions that have occurred since the COP budget was decided.

Decisions:

To note the financial outcome of 2014; and
To approve the revised budget for 2015 (Annex 1)

9. Next meetings

The following additional Board meetings will be held during 2015:

- 5-6 May – Board members are invited to participate in the site visit by the Review Panel
- #17: 11-12 June – physical meeting (in Gothenburg, lunch to lunch) to discuss outcome of evaluation
- #18: 1-2 October – physical meeting (in Gothenburg, lunch to lunch) to approve draft of revised Strategic Plan and Outline COP if Mistra has approved an extension, or to discuss alternative plans for continued activities
- #19: 23 November – phone meeting (4-6pm, CET) to approve revised Strategic Plan and COP 2016, if required in the light of the above.

Decision:

To note the schedule for 2015

10. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

Date: 16/6 2015


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Thomas Rosswall
Chairman

Date: 10-06-2015


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David Simon
Director

¹ The closing balance was after the Board meeting found to be even more positive than reported, due to currency gains when transferring funds to KLIP and CTLIP. In total the closing balance for Mistra and Consortium funds 2014 was MSEK 2.1 more positive than budgeted and the Sida closing balance MSEK 0.8 more positive than budgeted.