

varves



Varves Working Group (VWG)

PAGES-endorsed

Minutes of an informal meeting at the 20th INQUA Congress in Dublin, Ireland

July 29, 2019, 13:30–14:40 h

Participants: 28 (list of participants is attached)

Organiser: P. Francus

Minute taker: B. Zolitschka

The large interest in and the lively debates carried out during this meeting indicate that the VWG is still very active with plenty of interests from a wide variety of scientists, and this despite being no active PAGES group since a number of years. Nevertheless, new and fresh ideas are needed to stimulate varve-related research in the future. After a short presentation by P. Francus introducing the reasons for this VWG getting together at INQUA, the discussion was directed to six major topics.

1. Re-applying for a PAGES working group status: Additional years of funding from PAGES are principally possible through reapplying for working group status. However, this would need a new scientific approach with challenging questions to be answered by records with annual resolution. A few topics were mentioned like varves as a high-resolution dating tool for precise calendar-year time scales, which allow rates of change to be calculated instantly. Also, connections to the Anthropocene and the multidisciplinary nature of varve-related investigations were considered.
2. Workshops and meetings: There was a consent to use major conferences, e.g. EGU, AGU, IPA-IAL and INQUA, as a general meeting platform. This could be handled by special sessions (dedicated conveners would have to take the lead for such efforts) or by teaming-up with regular sessions at such large meetings. The session “Paleoclimate records in continental archives” regularly convened by N. Fagel & M.-F. Loutre at EGU was mentioned by I. Hajdas and could be the next possible option of this kind. Nevertheless, there is also a clear interest for having “Varve Workshops” in the future, such as the ones organised in Manderscheid, Corpus Christi and Palmse between 2010

and 2012. This requires dedicated organisers and a substantial amount of funding and thus should be planned not on an annual schedule but perhaps every 4-5 years, depending on opportunities. Thus, the next VWG meeting is theoretically overdue. After some discussion, M. Grosjean (together with the absent W. Tylmann) suggested that they are willing to organise the next VWG workshop in 2021 either in Switzerland or in Poland. This was generally appreciated.

3. Database: P. Francus introduced “PaCTS 1.0: A crowd-sourced reporting standard for paleoclimate data” that has been published online by D. Khider et al. in *Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology* (<https://doi.org/10.1029/2019PA003632>). This approach to standardize archive-specific metadata together with their chronologies and all kinds of proxy data with their interpretations will provide plenty of opportunities for the VWG to add their ideas during forthcoming upgrades of this standard. A. Brauer indicated that he is putting together a special database for annually laminated lacustrine climate archives and is willing to share this database with the VWG, once the related project terminated and the database has become publicly available. A. Ramisch would then probably be the contact person.
4. Communication: Currently, there is the VWG webpage under PAGES (<http://pastglobalchanges.org/science/end-aff/varves-wg/intro>), which also hosts a list server for distributing emails to 116 inscribed scientists, and a Research Gate project with 95 followers. A newsletter was not considered as a relevant target to approach, as this requires constant updates with efforts and input from several dedicated scientists. Thus, platforms for spreading information to all interested, i.e. inscribed, scientists exist already. However, these options should be used more often, more regularly and perhaps need some improvements. As one addition that might be very useful, a survey of “which scientist is specialised in what topic and/or can provide which analytical support” was mentioned. The idea of an additional survey about ongoing scientific activities related to annually laminated lake sediments was also raised. After the meeting, M. Żarczyński offered help with a survey about the specialisations of different research teams around the world. Still after the meeting, Cecile Blanchet offered to organize the VWG around a Twitter account.
5. Continuation of the “Varve Library”: Participants agreed that the WinWord-based Varve Library (<http://pastglobalchanges.org/science/end-aff/varves-wg/varve-related-publications>) is a very useful tool to access recent and older publications related to the study of annually laminated sediments from lakes and oceans as well as from the Quaternary and from much older time windows, especially for students and young researchers. The question arose, whether it would create an even higher rate of acceptance if a free bibliographic system such as Zotero would be used for the Varve Library instead of a docx file. Pros and cons were discussed but no clear solution appeared.
6. New leadership: This topic was raised at the very beginning of this meeting in Dublin and once again at its end to spot people who would like to take the initiative of reviving the VWG. There was nobody ready to raise his or her hand right away. But after the meeting we were approached by A. Palmer and C. Martin-Puertas, indicating that they are both interested to take over responsibilities to develop the VWG into the future.

These minutes have been approved by Pierre Francus and the scientists present at the meeting. They will now be distributed via

1. the VWG mailing list,
2. the ResearchGate project and
3. the PAGES e-news.

List of Participants

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