



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2016-1
Hamburg, 22 January 2016**

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The chairman Henk Staghouwer welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 22 January 2016 at 11:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda was **adopted** without amendments and is in **Annex 2**.

2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2015-2

Document: SC-2015-2 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of SC-2015-2, Bremen, 16 September 2015 (distributed by e-mail of 12 October 2015), which is also available at the WSF website.

3. Announcement

Preben Friis-Hauge informed the meeting that the Danish National Park Wadden Sea has bought a small vessel for cruises in the Wadden Sea. The idea would be to bring the natural values closer to interested people and groups. He further informed about developments in the Tønder municipality to extend the harbour on Rømø. The port would like to strengthen the offshore services but marine areas protected under the World Heritage Convention would be effected. A controversy discussion had started among the different interest groups in the municipality.

Michael Zettlitzer reported about European requirements to implement an EIA for the intended exploration drillings in the Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein. Under German law, the assessment would not be necessary as the determination of the drilling locations was agreed many years ago and taken into account in the designation of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. Nevertheless, DEA had to follow the European rules.

Secondly, he informed about a recently accepted measure to compensate the scour measures at the Mittelplate. In Schleswig-Holstein, mussel fishery licenses for 300ha were redeemed of which 60-70 ha were accepted as compensation measure of DEA.

Henk Staghouwer reported about similar measures in the Netherlands. An agreement between shrimp fisheries and green NGOs was made to redeem licenses for 10 million Euro, so that 25 of 96 licenses could be bought back, which would be a good measure for the protection of the Wadden Sea.

4. Reflections WSF-27 meeting

The meeting was invited to review the course of the last plenary meeting and to discuss contents and outcome with a view on future needs and responsibilities. The participants were very positive about the outcome of the workshop in November. Many new ideas had been addressed and new energy for the WSF work was experienced. The SC underlined the importance of being more visible in the regions and to raise the voice to other organisations and the political level, particularly to the WSB. It was consensus that the expectations regarding the responsibilities of the SC and the secretariat would be fairly high and the power of all WSF would be needed to meet the expectations.

In general, the SC was of the opinion that the facilitation of the workshop had been necessary to reach the envisaged goal of getting more commitment and new ideas in the future work. It was also said that the momentum should be used to proceed with the implementation of the formulated goals. The secretariat was requested to place a brief summary of the workshop on the website.

5. Progress WSF activities

The meeting briefly discussed the progress of WSF activities, particularly with regard to the agreed actions at the WSF-27 meeting in November in Aurich.

Only a few actions were launched and are under elaboration. These were:

- Implementation of social media to get better known
- Overview of compensation measures for activities in the Wadden Sea
- Visibility of the WSF through links on different websites
- Provide access to information for sport boat tourism (very beginning)

All others have to be stimulated again. It was agreed to send a letter to the responsible leaders of the defined actions (captains) with the request to inform about the status of actions and to draft Terms of Reference for the future implementation. The secretariat will draft a letter to be commented and amended by the SC members. Following, the letter will be forwarded to the action leaders. With regard to the venture "WSF information events", it was agreed that the secretariat should take the lead.

Besides the speed boat ventures, the meeting was informed about further activities within the WSF.

- Goose management actions are continuing on trilateral as well as on regional level. On 3 February a trilateral goose management meeting will take place in Bremen to discuss management measures and the role of the trilateral group under the responsibility of the WSF. Goose management developments in Niedersachsen will be discussed on 4 February in Brussels to minimize conflicts by involving farmer organisations and EU representatives. The WSF was asked to contribute with statements in the view of trilateral management schemes.
- The sustainability indicator instrument will be further developed in cooperation with the Dutch Wadden Academy, Brabant University and master students from Groningen, Kiel and a university in Denmark.
- The WSF is going to elaborate a project application under Interreg Europe to get EU co-funding. The contents are on integration of nature conservation and cultural heritage.
- The cooperation within the Enhance project is almost finished, as the contribution of the WSF will end by end of February 2016. The involvement in this project has led to new responsibilities in risk management.
- The cooperation with the Task Group Climate is ongoing.

6. Structure future WSF

The WSF-27 meeting requested the Steering Committee to further debate the present structure of the WSF as well as possible changes to meet future requirements.

Firstly, the SC discussed the representation in the Committee itself and proposed to attract new members to reach a balanced representation of the countries and sectors. The membership of women should be encouraged. It was proposed that the composition should consider representatives of regional and local governments, the economic sector and nature conservation. Particularly, the counties of Leer and Dithmarschen should be approached being engaged in the WSF and its Steering Committee. The debate about the composition of the SC will be part of the WSF-28 agenda.

Secondly, the meeting discussed the role and activities of the WSF working groups. According to the results and decisions of the WSF-27 meeting, the SC recommended focusing on the speed boat scheme and to foster the implementation of the defined actions. A decision about further working topics should be taken at a later stage. Nevertheless, the ICZM group was seen as an important working group and should continue the work on coastal development and risk management as well as elaborating on the instruments planning portal, indicator tool and climate atlas.

To cover the topical issues of the Wadden Sea Region, regular conferences should be held, which was seen as an alternative concept to the working groups. The conferences should bring together scientists, stakeholders, decision makers and other representatives of the WSR society. Regional conferences would strengthen the visibility of the WSF in the regions. It was agreed to start with regional conferences about demographic change, one of the biggest uncertainties in the WSR.

7. Draft agenda WSF-28

The meeting discussed the proposed draft agenda for the WSF-28 meeting in detail. It was requested to amend the draft WSF agenda by two agenda items, the composition of the Steering Committee and the budget 2016.

With regard to presentations about topical issues it was proposed to report about perspectives to balance economy and ecology with the example of the harbour development on Rømø. To get the different opinions and to start a controversy discussion, representatives of the Tønder municipality and the green NGOs should be invited.

Secondly, DEA Deutsche Erdoel AG will give a presentation about risk management in practise. After having had three workshops on risk management under the umbrella of the Enhance project, information about concrete management procedures would complete the picture.

8. WSF budget 2016

The secretariat informed the meeting about a budget update for 2016. With regard to an approved budget change within the Enhance project, an additional financial contribution could be made available. This would lead to a balanced budget in 2016. The financial contribution from the German Federal Ministry for Environment has not been taken into account yet, as this would be depended on project financing.

9. Any other business

No other business discussed.

10. Next meeting

The meeting proposed to fix the dates for the next Steering Committee meeting and the WSF-29 meeting at the plenary meeting on Fanø.

11. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:00 hours on 22 January 2016.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2016-1
Hamburg, 22 January 2016**

Draft Agenda

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2015-2**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Reflections WSF-27 meeting**
- Agenda item 5. Progress WSF activities**
- Agenda item 6. Structure future WSF**
- Agenda item 7. Draft agenda WSF-28**
- Agenda item 8. WSF budget 2016**
- Agenda item 9. Any other business**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**

Wadden Sea Forum
28th meeting
Fanø, 07-08 April 2016

D R A F T A G E N D A

1. Opening

The meeting will be opened by the chairman Mr Henk Staghouwer at 13:00 hours. Members will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 27

Document: WSF-27 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-27 meeting, Aurich, 5-6 November 2015. The final draft minutes of WSF-27 have been distributed by e-mail of 25 November 2015. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 28-3.1 Membership list

An overview will be presented of all relevant changes in WSF membership. The latest version of the WSF member list is attached as document WSF-28-3.1. Participants will be invited to submit any further information.

4. Announcements

Participants will be invited to inform the meeting about relevant developments.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 28-5.1 Minutes SC-2016-1

The meeting will be invited to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2016-1, Hamburg, 22 January 2016 and to raise questions as appropriate.

6. Composition Steering Committee

The Steering Committee proposed that the SC composition should consider representatives of regional and local governments, the economic sector and nature conservation. Particularly, the counties of Leer and Dithmarschen should be approached being engaged in the WSF and its Steering Committee. The membership of women should also be encouraged. The meeting will be invited to discuss the proposal and to take a decision about the SC composition.

7. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 28-6.1 Summary progress report

The meeting will be informed about the progress of WSF activities, particularly with regard to the agreed actions at the WSF-27 meeting in November 2015 in Aurich.

8. Reflection of the WSF workshop

The meeting will be invited to reflect on the course and outcome of the workshop in November 2015 and to consider how to make use of the agreements. This could lead to an action plan, improving the speed boat approach.

9. Theme: Development of Rømø harbour

Presentation: NN

Perspectives to balance economy and ecology with the example of the harbour development on Rømø

10. Theme: Risk management

Presentation: DEA Deutsche Erdoel AG

Information about concrete risk management procedures

11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and TWSC

Representatives of the advisory boards as well of the TWSC will be invited to present relevant information about the proceedings within their boards and organizations.

12. WSF budget 2016

The meeting will be informed about a budget update for 2016. With regard to an approved budget change within the Enhance project, an additional financial contribution could be made available. This will lead to a balanced budget in 2016.

13. WSF Communication

At the plenary meeting WSF-27 it was discussed how the Forum could be more visible in the regions, also to better involve the society in future dealings. The meeting will be invited to discuss the implementation of regional conferences and with which topics interest can be produced (see proposal of SC in document WSF 28-5.1 Minutes SC-2016-1). Furthermore, the participants are requested to consider needs of an improved website to inform about the work of the WSF and topical themes.

14. Next Meeting

The meeting will be invited to agree on the proposed meeting date for the WSF-29 meeting in autumn 2016, which will take place probably in the county of Nordfriesland, Germany.

15. Any other business

Participants will be invited to raise other issues, not addressed in the agenda.

16. Closing

The meeting will be closed around 12:30 hours on 08 April 2016.