



**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2016-2  
Bremen, 08 June 2016**

Final DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

The secretary Manfred Vollmer welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 8 June 2016 at 11:00 hours. Unfortunately, the chair Henk Staghouwer had to cancel his participation due to other obligations. 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-2016-1**

*Document: SC-2016-1 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of SC-2016-1, Hamburg, 22 January 2016 (distributed by e-mail of 15 February 2016), which is also available at the WSF website.

**3. Announcements**

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about a meeting in Copenhagen, which addressed the pollution of the seas with plastic waste. A working group called "plastic change" initiated a project waste free oceans. A cooperation with KIMO would be envisaged. Also Greenpeace had started a campaign to clean the seas of plastic.

Manfred Vollmer briefly reported about an advisory board meeting of the Wadden Sea National Park Niedersachsen and informed that he was invited to give a presentation about the WSF at the autumn meeting.

**4. Nomination Vice-chair**

The secretary recalled the situation of the WSF with regard to the structure and role of chairmanship and replacements by a vice-chair. For quite some time the WSF would run meetings and businesses without a vice-chair. In the normal procedure, a vice-chair should support the chair, substitute for several occasions and additionally represent the WSF as this was done in the past. During the past two years it was envisaged being supported by a German vice-chair, but unfortunately, a candidate was not available. To solve the situation, he suggested to vary from the rotation procedure and to elect an available candidate, namely Preben Friis-Hauge from Denmark.

Mr. Friis-Hauge announced that he would be willing to undertake the duties of a vice-chair to support the WSF in its work. The meeting appreciated the solution and welcomed the support of Mr. Friis-Hauge, who was elected as WSF vice-chair unanimously.

## 5. World Heritage Partnership Centre

At the WSF-28 meeting the participants were informed about the establishment of a World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC), a network of several organisations dealing with the Wadden Sea and bordering areas. The process of defining structure and tasks as well as implementing the PC is in process and facilitated by a drafting group. This group forwards proposals to the Wadden Sea Board for further decision making.

The meeting discussed the necessity of being involved in the process and finally concluded that it would be an advantage for both sides to involve stakeholders from the very beginning. This would guarantee an open information flow and a broad acceptance for the implementation of the PC in order to strengthen the commitment for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. The SC was of the opinion that an active involvement in the PC drafting group would not be absolutely necessary as the WSF is part of the WSB at which final decisions are made. Nevertheless, an observer status in the drafting group was requested to get relevant information at an early stage for opinion-forming within the WSF. A letter of the WSF chair with a request for being involved will be sent to the WSB.

## 6. WSF activities, progress "speed boats"

*Document: SC-2016-2.6.1, structure WSF work*

The secretary introduced the document, relevant for the agenda items 6,7 and 8. Regarding the three running speed boats it could be stated that the presence in social media still depends on contributions from the WSF members. A Facebook account is implemented, but articles to be published had to be provided by WSF members too. Information about sport boat tourism would be provided by the responsible group at the forthcoming plenary in autumn and the green light project would be promoted by just one responsible WSF member. Further actions would be implemented within the coming months.

The meeting discussed all the activities as well as the role the ICZM group could play. It was **agreed** that this group should continue as a permanent working group, supporting the secretariat regarding work contents, facilitating action groups and continue the work on the WSF instruments, particularly the further elaboration on the indicator tool.

The installation of a second permanent working group, a shipping and harbor group, was seen as not very promising. Concerned topical issues like green harbor concept and LNG should be dealt with through ad hoc action groups.

## 7. Topical issues besides the speed boat actions

*Document: SC-2016-2.6.1, structure WSF work*

Besides the speed boat actions, the meeting discussed further important issues of the WSR to be dealt with within the WSF. The following items were defined as most prominent:

- Energy supply and distribution; this includes certified management systems about which DEA Deutsche Erdöl AG could give an introductory presentation.
- CO<sub>2</sub> neutral Wadden Sea Region; the WSF has elaborated a study with examples of regional activities regarding climate friendly developments but on the trilateral political level no progress has been made. A new attempt for cooperation with the WSB should be made to proceed on the transnational level. To proceed, the WSF chair will send a request to the WSB meeting in June.
- Green harbor concept; a workshop should be organized to compile information about ongoing projects and developments.
- Risk management; after having implemented three workshops on risk management in the framework of the Enhance project, risks and uncertainties in the WSR should be further detailed. Objectives can be linked to work fields of the WSF like goose management, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and transport systems. This would be a further step to practical and applied risk management.
- Cultural history and identity; this theme aims at a contribution the TGC-13 2018 in Leeuwarden (see agenda item8).

## **8. Delivery for TGC-13 in 2018**

In 2018, the next Ministerial Conference of the Trilateral Cooperation will take place in Leeuwarden, which will be nominated as European Cultural Capital 2018. The SC discussed possible contributions, which should also address cultural issues to contribute to the cultural occasion. Two valuable contributions were defined to be presented at TGC-13:

- Report of the new indicator project
- Exhibition about building culture

Building culture will describe living conditions and housing through time in the Wadden Sea Region. Also preservation of buildings and decay of historical buildings would be part of the story. The secretariat will check possibilities to elaborate on a joint exhibition on trilateral level.

## **9. Defined central themes at WSF-29**

It was agreed to emphasize two main themes at the WSF-29 meeting in October 2016: goose management and sustainable transport management. The meeting stated that the themes should be prepared in a understandable way and to present general and background information for an overall picture. With regard to goose management, an overview of the concerned species, distribution and habitats should be visualized. The second theme, sustainable transport management, was questioned because the responsible action group would not be operational yet. An alternative will be discussed in the coming weeks.

Besides the presentations about the topical issues, ongoing developments and results in the framework of the WSF business will be presented. This encompasses speed boat actions, the indicator project, cooperation in EU projects as well as collaboration with the WSB.

## **10. WSF finances 2017**

For 2016, the WSF has managed to reach a balanced budget but for 2017 a quite big deficit is expected. To reach a balanced budget from 2017 on, the current financial facilitators have to be asked to continue their support. Additionally, financial contributions on the regional level have to be found and the WSF should strive for a sound involvement in EU projects to get co-financing on certain WSF projects. Also negotiations with the trilateral governmental level are necessary to guarantee stakeholder involvement in sustainable development of the region and the protection and promotion of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

The secretary was tasked to elaborate on a balanced budget from 2017 on in close collaboration with the WSF Steering Committee.

## **11. Any other business**

The meeting briefly discussed the contributions for the WSB-17 meeting on 22 June in Tönning. A progress report will not be forwarded as no concrete results since the last meeting in March can be reported on. The WSF chair will forward a letter with the request to discuss the involvement of the WSF in the implementation of the World Heritage Partnership Centre as well as cooperation to develop the WSR into a CO<sub>2</sub> neutral Region, which was expressed as political aim in the Sylt and Tønder declaration.

## **12. Next meeting**

The meeting **proposed** to hold the next Steering Committee meeting on 2 September 2016 in Hamburg prior to the WSF 29 meeting on 13-14 October 2016. Video conference facilities will be provided in case some members are not able to travel.

## **13. Closing**

The new elected vice-chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:00 on 8 June 2016.

**ANNEX 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
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DRAFT AGENDA

- Agenda item 1.      Opening**
- Agenda item 2.      Adoption of the minutes SC-2016-1**
- Agenda item 3.      Announcements**
- Agenda item 4.      Nomination Vice-chair**
- Agenda item 5.      World Heritage Partnership Centre**
- Agenda item 6.      WSF activities, progress "speed boats"**
- Agenda item 7.      Topical issues besides the speed boat actions**
- Agenda item 8.      Delivery for TGC-13 in 2018**
- Agenda item 9.      Defined central themes at WSF-29**
- Agenda item 10.     WSF finances 2017**
- Agenda item 11.     Any other business**
- Agenda item 12.     Next meeting**
- Agenda item 13.     Closing**