



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2020-2
Online-Conference, 18 September 2020**

Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, opened the SC meeting and welcomed the participants. The SC meeting started on 18 September 2020 at 11:00 hours. The chair informed that Mrs Ingrid Klinge could not attend and that there is no representative from the Dutch local government so far. A list of participants is in [Annex 1](#).

The chair and the secretary proposed to change the order of the agenda items in order to have sufficient time to discuss relevant items comprehensively. The SC meeting agreed on the change in agenda items and adopted the agenda without further amendments, which is in [Annex 2](#).

2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2020-1

Document: SC-2020-1 2 Final Draft Minutes

The SC meeting adopted the final draft minutes of SC-2020-1, phone conference, 30 March 2020 (distributed by e-mail of 15 April 2020 by Manfred Vollmer), which are also available at the WSF website.

3. Announcements

[Preben Friis-Hauge](#) reported that the Region South Denmark decided upon a financial contribution to the WSF of about 15.000€ per year. The final decision will be taken at 28 September 2020. Furthermore, Mr Friis-Hauge informed that the Danish municipalities had paid 7.500€ as a onetime contribution because of the serious financial situation of the WSF.

[Ivan Abdoellakhan](#) informed the SC members that Wintershall/DEA is going to raise their contribution to the WSF from now 5.000€ to 7.500€ per year.

[Pieter van Kuppenveld](#) informed the SC members that Bert Wassink left the island of Terschelling to become council member of the Province of Friesland (NL). Furthermore, he informed that he contacted the representation of the Wadden Sea islands to designate a successor of Mr Wassink and raised the question of funding.

4. WSF Roadmap “Green Coastal Deal”

Document: SC-2020-2 4 Draft WSF Roadmap

The secretary shortly presented key points of the background and the roadmap towards a “Green Coastal Deal” for the WSF. The roadmap towards a “Green Coastal Deal” enables the WSF to be fit for funding on European level. The current decisions taken on the EU level indicate that most funding streams will be mainstreamed according to the EU Green Deal. For example, the EU Interreg programmes adjust their priorities and contents according to the EU Green Deal. Therefore, and with the acknowledgment of the valuable contribution of the WSF to a sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region a new branding is demanded. The base of the WSF “Green Coastal Deal” are the still existing topics and future items such as hydrogen and shipping and ports, but the core element will be the establishment of “Regional Round Tables” (RRT). The beginning of the WSF was based on round tables with regard to specific items, now in order to develop and work on a “Green Coastal Deal” these RRT should be established in the respective regions of the WSR. That means that RRT are envisaged to be established in the northern part of the Netherlands, in Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and in southern part of Jutland. The SC members discussed this proposal comprehensively.

Herewith, the secretary provides a concise summary: The SC members welcomed the idea of establishing RRT in the respective regions and preferred to mount the RRT to existing units within the Wadden Sea cooperation, e.g. national park advisory boards. Furthermore, it was jointly mentioned that these RRT should not start with too many topics or issues in their kick-off meetings.

The SC members concluded,

- That the WSF secretariat completes the roadmap on the “Green Coastal Deal” to be discussed at the coming WSF plenary meeting
- That RRT should be established in the respective regions of the Wadden Sea area
- That the RRT should be mounted to existing units in the respective regions
- That the secretariat is going to send letters to the respective units in order to ask if a cooperation with the WSF is welcomed

5. Development and Discussion Partnership Hub and WSF

Document: SC-2020-2 5 Draft WSF Concept PH

The secretary informed the SC members in a short presentation on the current developments with regard to the Partnership Hub (PH). The PH will be developed as management unit for various network connected to the Wadden Sea Region and the World Heritage site. Member of staff identified as first core team the networks, which signed the MoU on 30 June 2019 in Wilhelmshaven. The WSF signed the MoU as multi-stakeholder network. One objective of the PH is to acquire further network partners, which are linked to the Wadden Sea World Heritage and are willing to cooperate in order to achieve the aim of sustainable development in the Wadden Sea Region. However, these objectives and aims are the working fundament and the core goals of the WSF. The WSF secretariat, therefore, demands the WSF members to develop a clear and distinct profile in contrast to the PH. The WSF secretariat compiled ideas in a draft concept on the cooperation between WSF and PH. The SC members welcomed the approach of the WSF secretariat to develop a concept on cooperation and discussed this concept comprehensively.

Herewith, the secretary provides a concise summary: On the one hand, the SC members remarked that the WSF might lose the opportunity to get funding if no adequate connection

between the WSF and PH will be found. On the other hand, the SC members indicated that selected issues within the TWSC would not have been treated if the WSF did not offer to take the lead. They conveyed the idea to discuss with the PH if the treatment of such topics could be founded on contract basis. Furthermore, the SC members recommended promoting concrete results of the WSF more active and via different channels, e.g. Instagram and press releases, which are send to WSF members.

The SC members requested the WSF secretariat to complete the concept on the cooperation between WSF and PH in order to provide a paper for the thorough discussion at the plenary end of October 2020.

6. WSF finances 2020/2022

Document: SC-2020-2 6 Finances _2020_2022_Fundraising

The secretary informed the SC members on the current situation of the WSF e.V. budget. The secretary explains the current budget for 2020 and the budget appropriation for the years 2021 and 2022. In 2020, according to the onetime contribution by the Danish municipalities (7.500€), an assignment by the Lower Saxon National Park Administration on "Shipping Safety" (10.000€), an assignment by the World Heritage Visitor Centre Wilhelmshaven (1.000€) and the intended contribution of the Region South Denmark (7.500€ in 2020) the budget of the WSF will be positive balanced. Due to these contributions, the budget for 2021 indicates to be positive balanced too. In 2022, if no further financial contribution will be provided, the budget will be negative balanced again.

The secretary proposed a threefold approach on how to overcome the still existing structural deficit of the WSF e.V. All SC members discussed the approach comprehensively; most of the SC members welcomed the approach. Within this discussion, one member of the SC explains its objections against selected parts of the approach presented by the WSF secretariat in detail.

Herewith, the secretary provides a concise summary: Most of the SC members

- acknowledge and are very grateful for the permanent and substantial contributions of all funding and supporting organisations and institutions (except one SC member)
- confirmed the disparity of financial support by the three member states of the TWSC and asked for a permanent solution for the German contribution (all SC members)
- would like to encourage all WSF members, which have not adjusted their contributions since years, to initiate an adjustment (except one SC member)
- would like to encourage all WSF members to lobby for the WSF actively (except one SC member)

7. Progress WSF activities

Document: SC-2020-2 7 WSF Activities

The secretary informed the SC members on two proposals the WSF together with different partners applied: i) Crisis Management – Involvement of Volunteers and ii) Resilient Wadden Sea Communities. For both, feedback on the first step will be end of October 2020.

Furthermore, the secretary informed the SC members on the recent activities on

- Small Wadden Sea Harbour initiative – Sustainable Ports
- Sediment management in the Wadden Sea area, e.g. cooperation with MCN
- Development in the Dark Sky group
- Progress on Round Table Shipping
- Goose-Management
- Coastal Protection – challenges induced by wolves for sheep farmers

- Trilateral Initiative of Public Access Channels (TRIN-PAC)
- TV coverage of WSF by OldenburgEins
- Recruiting WSF ambassadors in respective regions along the Wadden Sea Region

The secretary informed the SC members that the website of the WSF has been refreshed and updated and that the WSF is providing information on Facebook and Instagram continuously. The SC members took note of and welcomed the activities. Some of the SC members recommended additional contact persons in order to increase the visibility of the WSF. Some SC members offered to spread news and press releases of the WSF in their network.

8. Draft agenda WSF-38

Document: SC-2020-2 8 WSF-38 proposed draft agenda

The SC members agreed on the proposed agenda for the WSF-38 plenary meeting ([Annex 3](#)). On 18 September 2020, the status was that the plenary meeting could be conducted as live meeting in Skærbæk (DK) as planned.

On 21 September 2020, the chair together with WSF secretariat decided to cancel the live meeting of the plenary and suggested a full day online meeting. The WSF-38 agenda will be adapted to the new situation of an online meeting. Focus will be on the intense discussion about the roadmap towards a "Green Coastal Deal" and the concept for the cooperation between WSF and PH.

The presentation Prof Madsen on goose-management is shifted to an extra meeting, which will take place at 21 October 2020 at the Bauernverband Schleswig-Holstein.

9. Any other business

The SC members had nothing contributed.

11. Next meeting

Date for the SC-2021-1 meeting will be at 9 February 2021. The venue of the SC-2021-1 meeting will be the Kreishaus in Heide, Dithmarschen (SH).

Conditionally, the date for the WSF-39 meeting in spring 2021 will be on 17 to 18 March 2021. The venue for the WSF-39 is still Skærbæk (DK).

12. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:00 on 18 September 2020.

Annex 2

Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2020-2
Online Conference, 18 September 2020

D r a f t A g e n d a

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|-----------------|--|
| Agenda item 1. | Opening |
| Agenda item 2. | Adoption of the minutes SC-2020-1 |
| Agenda item 3. | Announcements |
| Agenda item 4. | WSF Roadmap "Green Coastal Deal" |
| Agenda item 5. | Development and Discussion Partnership-Hub and WSF |
| Agenda item 6. | WSF finances 2020/2022 |
| Agenda item 7. | Progress WSF activities |
| Agenda item 8. | Draft agenda WSF-37 |
| Agenda item 9. | Any other business |
| Agenda item 10. | Next meeting |
| Agenda item 11. | Closing |

Annex 3

Wadden Sea Forum
38th meeting
Full day online meeting at 29 October 2020

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, will open the plenary on 29 October 2020 at 9:00 hours. *Invitation* to the members to adopt the draft agenda.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-36 and WSF-37

Documents: WSF-36 Final Draft Minutes

Invitation to the meeting to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-36 meeting on 18-19 November 2019 in Leer, distributed by e-mail of 9 December 2019. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

The next meeting WSF-37 was a short and compressed on-line meeting due to the Corona travel restrictions on 30 June 2020 with no final draft minutes.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF-38 3 Membership list

An overview will be presented of all relevant changes in WSF membership. The document WSF-38 3 Membership list contains the latest version of the WSF member list.

Invitation to the participants to submit any further information.

5. Announcements

Invitation to the participants to inform the meeting about relevant developments.

6. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF-38 6 Minutes SC-2020-2

Invitation to the meeting to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2020-2 on 18 September 2020 in Bremen and to raise questions as appropriate.

7. Discussion: WSF Roadmap "Green Coastal Deal"

Document: WSF-38 7 WSF Draft Roadmap Green Coastal Deal

Information to the participants on the drafted roadmap of the WSF to strive for a "Green Coastal Deal". The WSF prepares this roadmap, because forthcoming funding strands and programmes of the EU will be in line with the EU Green Deal.

Invitation to the participants to discuss the drafted roadmap toward a "Green Coastal Deal" intensely and actively contribute to finalise its preparation.

Lunch break

8. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF-38 8 Summary progress report

Information of the meeting on the progress of WSF activities.

Invitation to the meeting to take note of the information and to engage in the activities actively.

9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Invitation to the representatives of the advisory boards as well as of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organizations.

10. Discussion: Concept for Partner-Hub involvement

Document: WSF-38 10 WSF proposal PH contribution

To be better prepared in the discussion of implementing a partner-hub concept and in order to play a pro-active role in this process, the WSF members agreed at the last WSF-36 meeting to discuss these issues intensively.

Invitation to the participants to discuss the presented proposal of the WSF intensively.

11. WSF Budget 2020 to 2022

Document: WSF-38 11 WSF Budget 2020 - 2022

Information to the meeting on the budget for 2020 to 2022.

Invitation to the participants to comment as appropriate and to contribute by finding solutions for a sustainable and sufficient budget in the future.

12. Next Meeting

Invitation to the meeting to agree on the proposed meeting date for the WSF-40 meeting in the period autumn 2021, which will probably take place in Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein.

13. Any other Business

Invitation to the participants to raise other issues, not addressed in the agenda.

14. Closing

Closure of the plenary will be around 16:00 hours on 29 October 2020.