



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
Meeting 2022-1
Online-Conference on 02 March 2022**

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, opened the SC meeting and welcomed the participants. The SC meeting started on 02 March 2022 at 9:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The SC meeting adopted the agenda without further amendments, which is in **Annex 2**. **Annex 3** encompasses the actions decided upon in the SC-20221-1.

2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2021-2

Document: SC-2021-2 Final Draft Minutes

The SC meeting adopted the final draft minutes of SC-2021-2, online meeting, 8 July 2021, which are also available at the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge reported that there is a new administration contact point for the Region South Denmark: Ms Helle Knudsen, email: helle.knudsen@rsyd.dk and phone +45 29201905. Furthermore, he stated that the Danish Waddensea Nationalpark is experiencing a budget decrease, because the national level wants to use more money on a new project called Nature-National parks (fences around Nature of a certain value), which is ordered by the Danish ministry.

Pieter van Kuppenveld informed that due to the current situation of war in the Ukraine and the potential stop of energy supply from Russia attempts have been taken to enlarge Eemshaven for LNG supply. Also stepping out as shareholder in Russian gas, the Dutch energy supplier GasUnie faces a big financial loss, which will also effect the whole Netherlands. In former times, gas extraction in Groningen was and is still considered as dangerous because of earthquakes, but there is now the need to think further due to the new energy situation.

Erich Hinrichs pointed out that with the extended use of LNG in the future more ships will travel the North Sea and Wadden Sea and increase the possibility of accidents.

Stefan Mohrdieck informed that the decision to build a LNG terminal in Dithmarschen made by the government is still pending.

He also stated that there are strong concerns against the announcement made by Hamburg authorities to deposit the sediment from the Elbe and Hamburg port close to the islands of Neuwerk and south of Helgoland. They fear the immense impact on nature.

The **SC concludes** to prepare a Statement of the WSF against deposition of sediment at vulnerable sites of the World Heritage site Wadden Sea. The *preparation procedure* is as follows:

- 1) Agreement on draft statement by SC
- 2) Afterwards presentation to the WSF membership and comprehensive discussion at WSF-41
- 3) Publication in press and provision/presentation at Trilateral Governmental Conference in Nov/Dec 2022.

Derek Mösche reported that Wintershall Dea is closely linked to Russia and involved in projects such as North Stream 2. The upcoming sanctions will have a serious impact on the company. Western Europe is now back to reality and this will have an impact on the Wadden Sea Region. We have to work together now for a new structure of energy supply - and in addition to renewable sources, the production of oil and gas in Western Europe will regain importance in order to become more independent from other countries – especially from Russia. In terms of the draft “WSF Ministerial Conference Declaration”, which we will discuss in a moment, this means: Demands to ban mining activities in the Wadden Sea have little chance of success. From this point of view, the formulated goal of ending production from gas and oil fields by 2045 should be examined critically. The ecological footprint of the producers has been reduced significantly in recent years and further measures are in preparation.

4. WSF Steering Committee – Proposal RoC and ToR

Document: SC-2022-1 4 Proposal WSF Steering Committee RoC and ToR

The meeting witnessed the necessity of developing rules of composition (RoC) and terms of references (ToR) for the WSF Steering Committee by the WSF secretariat.

Furthermore, due to the resignation of Christian Lorenzen as SC and forums member, the SC members see the need to strengthen the committee by recruiting new members. They proposed to ask for new members at green NGO's level or the Wadden Sea Team as well as representatives from Wadden Sea islands, to not only being a member in the forum but also in the Steering Committee. Another suggestion was to ask Mr. Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf as a representative of chamber of commerce and Christine van der Pol, mayor of the island of Terschelling.

5. WSF 20th anniversary

Document: SC-2022-1 5 WSF 20anniversary proposal

The SC meeting welcomed the suggestions for the 20th anniversary made by the WSF secretariat and agreed on it.

Stefan Mohrdieck suggested inviting people from EU level. Further invitations should be sent to the Omgevingsberaad in The Netherlands, the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board and the Wadden Sea Board.

6. Discussion of drafted Ministerial Conference Declaration and relationship with TWSC

Document: SC-2022-1 6 WSF Ministerial Conference Declaration

The WSF secretary introduced the SC members to the current version of the Ministerial Conference Declaration provided by the Drafting Group - Ministerial Conference Declaration (DG-MCD) prior to the WSB35 meeting. The SC discussed the role and consideration of the WSF in the draft MCD. The **SC decided** and gave the **mandate** to the chair and the WSF secretary to step into a conversation with the DG-MCD. Basis for the discussion with the DG-MCD is the final draft report on "The active role of the WSF in Stakeholder Involvement within the TWSC" prepared by the WSF secretariat. The report recapitulates the reason and the historical background of the WSF, analysis the status and provides offers to improve the stakeholder involvement by taking an active role within the TWSC. The SC *suggested* the following procedure:

- 1) Review of the draft report by SC members if applicable
- 2) Act as mandate and basis for discussion for the chair and the WSF secretary with members of the DG-MCD
- 3) Revision if applicable and submitting to the WSF-41
- 4) Discussion and agreement at WSF-41
- 5) Publication and submitting/presentation at TGC-14 in Nov/Dec 2022

7. Draft agenda WSF-41

Document: SC-2022-1 7 WSF-41 draft agenda

The SC meeting decided to postpone the discussion and decision about the next WSF-41 to **19 March 2022** from **14:30 to 16:00** as an online meeting.

8. Any other business

No other business discussed.

9. Next meeting

The SC meeting agreed on the following dates for the next meetings:

- Tuesday, **19 April 2022** from 14:30 to 16:00 online and on
- Wednesday, **15 June 2022** from 10:00 to 13:00 probably in Heide or online.

10. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions, the comprehensive discussions and closed the meeting at 12:00 on 02 March 2022.

Annex 3**Action List**

| No. | What? | Next steps |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | Prepare a statement on Sediment deposition at the Wadden Sea | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Agreement on draft statement by SC 2) Afterwards presentation to the WSF membership and comprehensive discussion at WSF-41 3) Publication in press and provision/presentation at Trilateral Governmental Conference in Nov/Dec 2022 |
| 2 | Prepare the report on "The active role of the WSF in Stakeholder Involvement within the TWSC" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review of the draft report by SC members if applicable 2) Act as mandate and basis for discussion for the chair and the WSF secretary with members of the DG-MCD 3) Revision if applicable and submitting to the WSF-41 4) Discussion and agreement at WSF-41 5) Publication and submitting/presentation at TGC-14 in Nov/Dec 2022 |
| 3 | Finish the RoC and ToR for the Steering Committee and invite new members to get involved in the SC | |
| 4 | Working on the 20 th anniversary proposal | |