



**Wadden Sea Forum  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 2022-3  
28 June 2022 in Heide**

Final Draft Minutes

**1. Opening**

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, opened the SC meeting and welcomed the participants. The SC meeting started on 28 June 2022 at 10:00 hours in the Kreishaus, Heide. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. The preliminary agenda of WSF 42 in Wilhelmshaven is in **Annex 3+4**. The action list is in **Annex 5**. Draft WSF Statement to WHV Declaration is in **Annex 6**.

**2. Adoption of the minutes SC-2022-1**

*Document: SC-2022-2 Final Draft Minutes*

The SC meeting adopted the final draft minutes of SC-2022-2, online meeting, 19 April 2022, which are also available at the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org).

**3. Announcements**

Erich Hinrichs announced that in these summer weeks a sufficient energy supply for economy and citizens is of highest priority in German policy. Especially the high dependency on Russian gas for industrial processes and for house heating is of serious concern. Gas users are asked to reduce gas consumption, wherever it is possible. The closure of the three last German nuclear power plants that was planned in the end of this year is in discussion. The use of gas for electric power stations will be reduced and instead coal fired stations will be reactivated, despite of all ambitious plans for climate protection and CO2 reduction.

Currently, in the German Wadden Sea Region three LNG-terminals as Floating Storage Regasification Units (FSRU) are planned at Wilhelmshaven, Stade and Brunsbüttel to substitute Russian Gas. This gas will be much more expensive. A special law, now decided by the Bundestag, accelerated the permitting process and made it possible that in Wilhelmshaven the first piles for the anchorage were already driven. The construction of the necessary gas pipeline, 28 km of length, will connect the terminal with the gas storage

caverns, which are part of the European gas net. The construction starts already in these days. Hopefully, the LNG Terminal will be in action at the end of the year.

NGO's fear environmental dangers for porpoises by underwater noise and may probably go to the court. Today, it is already clear that marine traffic in the Wadden Sea will increase by LNG-imports and in future by hydrogen import. To get more independent from fossil energy, renewable wind and solar energy is needed urgently. More offshore wind farms will come that will be connected by cables crossing the World Heritage site Wadden Sea.

Preben Friis-Hauge informed that the Danish government has proposed new positions of test wind turbines. One of the proposed locations is in the middle of the Danish Wadden Sea. The plan arouses local opposition.

The government will remove some of the compensation to farmers in connection with the establishment of wetland projects. This causes many farmers to get out of the projects.

Pieter van Kuppenveld announced that the minister of Stikstof en Natuur (Nitrogen and Nature) produced a plan with a map to reduce Nitrogen in the surroundings of Natura-2000 areas. It was only addressed to farmers and then especially to farmers with animals (milk cows, pigs, chicken etc.). They should reduce the nitrogen level up to 90%. This announcement brought very much commotion/agitation to the farmers and we now have severe protests from the farmers.

Furthermore, he added in relation to new members that last year the Dutch Wadden Islands decided to appoint Caroline van de Pol -major of Terschelling- to the WSF. Later, he asked her if she would be willing to represent all the island municipalities (NL, D and DK) in the SC. First, she answered that she had to discuss this with the secretariat of the Dutch Wadden Islands. As Mr van Kuppenveld, after her meeting about this subject, asked her what her decision was, he never got response.

We had announcements from:

- Derek -> ship provider Mittelplate H2, new coalition in SH
- Ingrid -> New Energy Coalition got a new managing director from TNO
- Stefan -> FRSU Terminal in Brunsbüttel

#### **4. WSF-42 Agenda and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

*Document: SC-2022-3 4 WSF-42 draft agenda*

The SC meeting acknowledged the draft agenda put forward by the WSF secretariat. The WSF-42 plenary is split into two parts: Day1, 28 September 2022, is starting at 13 hours with part 1, i.e. presentations on the current projects and topics of the WSF. A detailed list is in **Annex 3**. After part 1, the WSF secretariat proposed to reserve time for part 2 the welcoming words of invitees. The SC meeting discussed the proposal and concluded that an optimisation of welcoming words would be appropriate. The updated version of part 2 of Day 1 is in **Annex 3**. The SC suggested offering the submission of video message. The WSF will send the invitation to the WSFs 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the offer to give a welcoming speech of max 5 minutes to every important institution. Suggestions for speakers are mentioned the revised list in **Annex 3**.

Day 2 of the WSF-42 will be a normal WSF plenary with a normal agenda, see **Annex 4**.

Proposed dates for WSF-43 were:

- 3 and 4 May 2023
- 8, 9 or 10 May 2023
- 15, 16 or 17 May 2023

As the WSF-43 will take place in the Province of Friesland (NL), The WSF secretariat proposed to combine the WSF-43 with a meeting of the OBW. The SC asked the WSF secretariat to get into contact with secretariat of the OBW in order to fathom whether the meeting schedule of the OBW is appropriate.

## **5. Draft WHV Declaration and SIMP**

*Document: SC-2022-3 5 Draft WHV Declaration May22*

*Reminder: The WSF was invited by the DG MCD to provide feedback to the first version of the WHV Declaration in March 2022. Afterwards, the CWSS provided the revised version of the WHV Declaration to be discussed at the WSF-41. At the WSF-41, a thorough discussion about the expectations of the participants towards the WHV Declaration was executed. The WSF secretariat prepared a statement on behalf of the WSF membership and set a deadline for feedback mid-June 2022. Finally, only two members sent feedback.*

Thus, the SC decided on June 28 not to prepare a statement solely based on the WSF-41 discussion and these two feedback. Based on the discussion at the SC meeting, the WSF secretariat prepared a new statement taking into account both the WSF-41 input by the plenary meeting and the input by the SC. The draft statement of the WSF is in **Annex 6**.

## **6. Next meeting**

The SC meeting proposed the following dates for the next WSF-43 meeting:

- 3 and 4 May 2023
- 8, 9 or 10 May 2023
- 15, 16 or 17 May 2023

Approx. six weeks prior to the WSF-43 date the next SC meeting will take place.

## **7. Any other business**

SC members had no any other business.

The WSF secretariat prepared a presentation on the status of projects on specific topics: sustainable shipping and ports, OUV (physical), goose management, water management, energy transition and cultural heritage. The WSF secretary explained the current work and situation in different projects linked with these topics. A prioritisation is necessary for future development of the WSF due to the required workload.

Although, the project situation is very good the financial situation of the WSF stays still fragile and critical. The SC proposes to convince new members e.g. Hamburg or to contact again the city and the county of Cuxhaven. The SC members suggested inviting more stakeholders to the Regional Round Table (RRT) on shipping in Lower Saxony.

The WSF secretary informed the participants that he together with Mr Hinrichs introduced the WSF at the planning and environmental board of the county Wittmund.

The SC meeting asked the WSF secretary to

## **8. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions, the comprehensive discussions and closed the meeting at 14:00 on 28 June 2022.

## Annex 2

### Wadden Sea Forum Steering Committee Meeting 2022-3 on 28 June 2022 in Heide

#### Draft Agenda

Agenda Item	Content
1 Opening	The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, opens the meeting at 28 June 2022 at 10:00 hours. <i>Invitation</i> to the members to adopt the draft agenda.
2 Adoption of the Minutes of SC-2022-2	<i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to adopt the final draft minutes of the SC-2022-2 (online), 19 April 2022. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website <a href="http://www.waddensea-forum.org">www.waddensea-forum.org</a> . <i>Document: SC-2022-2 Draft Minutes</i>
3 Announcements	<i>Invitation</i> to the participants to inform the meeting about relevant developments.
4 WSF-42 Agenda and 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	<i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to make amendments or provide remarks to the proposed draft agenda of WSF-42 and to further discuss and plan the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WSF. <i>Document: SC-2022-3 4 WSF-42 draft agenda</i>
5 Draft WHV Declaration and SIMP	<i>Information</i> of the meeting about the status of draft WHV Declaration and the SIMP. <i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to discuss the status and provide remarks or amendments. <i>Document: SC-2022-3 5 Draft WHV Declaration May22</i>
6 Next Meeting	<i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to agree on new meeting date before the <b>WSF-43</b> meeting on <b>??</b> , which will take place in the Province of Friesland, Netherlands.
7 Any other Business	<i>Invitation</i> to the participants to raise other issues, not addressed in the agenda
8 Closing	The meeting will be closed around 14:00 hours at 28 June 2022.

**Annex 3**  
**WSF-43 – Day 1**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

DAY 1 - Agenda Item	Content
<b>Presentations – Part 1<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TrilaWatt – Update</li> <li>- Crisis Management</li> <li>- WattFossilFrei!</li> </ul>
<b>Presentations – Part 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable Shipping and Ports</li> <li>- Water as leverage</li> <li>- Energy Transition in the southern North Sea</li> <li>- Accessibility and Mobility</li> <li>- EU Green Deal</li> </ul>
<b>Welcoming Words<sup>2</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BMUV -&gt; also for WSB</li> <li>- Institutions in DK</li> <li>- Institutions in NL</li> <li>- Coordination of German counties by Mr Mohrdieck?</li> </ul>
<b>Guided Tour through Exhibition</b>	
<b>Diner</b>	<p>Speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair of WSF e.V.</li> <li>- Long Member of WSF -&gt; proposal: Herman Verheij?</li> <li>- Short Member of WSF -&gt; proposal: Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf?</li> <li>- Short Rebus</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Yellow: to be determined, green: already fixed

<sup>2</sup> Organisations and institutions which financially support the WSF

**Annex 4**  
**WSF-43 – Day 2**

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<p>The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, opens the meeting on 29 September at 9:30 hours.</p> <p><i>Invitation</i> to the members to adopt the draft agenda.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Adoption of the Draft Minutes of WSF-41</b>	<p><i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to adopt the final draft minutes of the WSF-41, Breklum, 16 and 17 May 2022. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website <a href="http://www.waddensea-forum.org">www.waddensea-forum.org</a>.</p> <p><i>Document: WSF-41 Final Draft Minutes</i></p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Announcements</b>	<p><i>Invitation</i> to the participants to inform the meeting about relevant developments</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes Steering Committee</b>	<p><i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to take note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2022-3 on 28 June 2022 and to raise questions as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Documents: WSF-41 4 Minutes SC-2022-3</i></p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Active Role of WSF, WHV Declaration (WHV CD) and TGC-14</b>	<p>Presentation and discussion of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SIMP -Update</li> <li>➤ WHV Declaration - Update</li> <li>➤ WSF ideas to side-events at TGC-14 in Nov/Dec 2022 in Wilhelmshaven</li> </ul> <p><i>Documents: WSF-41 5 WHV Declaration</i></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards, OBW and WSB</b>	<p><i>Invitation</i> to representatives of the advisory boards, of the Omgevingsberaad Waddenzee and of the Wadden Sea Board to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organisations.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary WSF</b>	<p><i>Invitation</i> to the meeting to agree on the proposed meeting date for the <b>WSF-43</b> meeting on <b>3/4</b> or <b>8/9/10</b> or <b>15/16/17 May 2023</b>, which will take place in the Province of Friesland, Netherlands.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Any other Business</b>	<p><i>Invitation</i> to the participants to raise other issues, not addressed in the agenda</p>
<b>10</b>	<b>Closing</b>	<p>The meeting will be closed around 12:00 hours on 29 September 2022.</p>

**Annex 5****Action list**

No.	What?	Next steps
1	WSF-43 Day 1 – 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1) Drafting of invitation 2) Ask speakers 3) Ingrid Klinge to be decided if she is presenting or her colleague 4) Approach the City of WHV for supporting us financially with the diner (as host) 5) Prepare to register for Day 1: lunch and diner 6) Compile and inform members on hotels in WHV
	WSF-43 Day 2	1) WSF secretariat get into contact with the OBW secretariat to fathom a joint meeting
2	New SC members	1) Pieter van Kuppenveld -> Caroline van der Pol (Wadden Eilanden) 2) Preben Friis-Hauge -> participant of Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board from Tønder Kommune
3		
4		

## **Annex 6**

### **Draft WSF Statement to WHV Declaration**

***Based on the discussion at WSF-41 plenary  
and the discussion at the WSF Steering Committee SC-2022-3***

***Statement*** on the draft Wilhelmshaven Declaration

#### **Introduction**

The WSF is grateful to receive the invitation in the framework of the public consultation process for the Wilhelmshaven Declaration (WHV Declaration).

First, the WSF secretariat and the Executive Committee (EC) of the WSF have been involved in the consultation process in an earlier stage.

End of March 2022, the WSF secretariat and the EC got the chance to comment and discuss the then available version of the Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) with the Drafting Group of the MCD, now named Wilhelmshaven Declaration.

Second, at the WSF-41 plenary, a general brainstorming on the potential and expected content of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration was conducted. General and specific expectations of the participants towards the WHV Declaration were mentioned.

The draft version of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration was sent in time to the WSF secretariat prior to the WSF-41 in Breklum, but it was not disseminated to the WSF membership due to time limitations. Therefore, the WSF secretariat chooses to conduct a concise workshop and brainstorming on day 2 of the WSF-41 plenary meeting. In order to get an open and focussed discussion, it was avoided to read the existing draft line by line. The WSF secretariat sent the latest draft of the WHV Declaration as provided by the CWSS beginning of May 2022 to the WSF membership.

Third, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the WSF Steering Committee, 28 June 2022, further and in-depth discussion of the latest version of the WHV Declaration took place. Herewith, the final statement of the WSF will be provided.

#### **General expectations**

Besides the below mentioned items, the WSF-41 plenary kindly asks for a progress report on the former declaration (i.e. Leeuwarden Declaration from 2018), if such a report exists.

General expectations of the participants at the WSF-41 that should be part of the WHV Declaration were as follows:

- *Goose management*: the Ministers should commit to the appropriate management of goose population because farmers are experiencing severe harvest failures/damages and thus financial loss (partly existential). Therefore, the WSF Steering Committee is

kindly asking to reflect that it supports the work of AEWA-EGMP, including to make efforts for a common goose management plan

- *Tourism*: water sport should be recognised as part of tourism and in line with this the accessibility to small harbours along the Wadden Sea should be taken into consideration
- *Wadden Sea islands and Halligen*: The habitability should be safeguarded
- As mentioned in the "Call for Action" of the Wadden Sea Team the following topics are relevant: underwater noise, energy (transition/transformation) and sustainable shipping and ports
- The WSF-41 discussed a "change of mind-set" in order to be able to manage change (or transition) in different topics caused by changing (global and regional) circumstances
- The WSF-41 plenary requested to work on finding a trilateral position on the topic of energy transition and e.g. the connection of off-shore windfarms to the main land

### **Expectations linked specifically to WSF**

The comprehensive discussion of the latest version of the WHV Declaration at the SC-2022-3 meeting, 28 June 2022 taking place at Heide, revealed that the projects of the WSF, e.g. TrilaWatt and the DBU Sustainable Shipping and Ports should be adequately considered as substantial contribution of the WSF within the WHV Declaration. Furthermore, the WSF SC asks the WSB to consider the support and encourage for the continuous work on these topics/projects in the following period of the Danish presidency.

Due to the future challenges and potential impacts posed by a variety of sectors with regard to the Wadden Sea area and the Wadden Sea Region and, deduced from this, the necessity for comprehensive stakeholder involvement, the WSF Steering Committee would like to emphasise to take into consideration the adequate financial support the WSF.