



Wadden Sea Forum

19th Meeting

Norden, 15-16 November 2011

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda item 1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Mr. Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Norden and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 15 November 2011. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. He welcomed the mayor of Norden, Ms. Barbara Schlag, and gave a special welcome to the former head of the county of Aurich, Mr. Walter Theuerkauf, who hosted the meeting together with the county of Aurich.

Mr. Theuerkauf greeted the participants and briefly introduced the economic focus areas of the county of Aurich, which were on wind power and car industries as well as tourism.

Ms. Schlag welcomed the WSF members to Norden and highlighted the regional distinctions. Also Mr. Schrock-Opitz, spa administration director of Norddeich, welcomed the WSF members and informed about the local tourism business.

The meeting adopted the agenda without further amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-19 is in **Annex 3**.

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 18

Document: WSF-18 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-18 meeting, Den Helder, 17-18 May 2011. The secretary briefly recalled the agreements of the WSF-18 meeting. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks.

Agenda item 3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 19-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting about new members and changes since the last meeting in Den Helder as well as about the latest updates not considered in the document:

- DK Wadden Sea municipalities: Anne Krag Svendsen, Danish Wadden Sea Secretariat will replace Thomas Holst Christensen
- DK Wadden Sea municipalities: Erling Krog, Municipality Council Fanø
- DK Advisory Board: Bo Jessen, Tønder Municipality will replace Jens Andresen
- DK State Government Authority: Anne Husum Marboe, Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Nature Agency will replace John Frederiksen

- D Tourism and Recreation: new decision soon for Hans Janssen, Municipality Langeoog
- D Local Government Authority: Frank Ulrichs, City of Norderney will replace Ludwig Salverius
- D Regional Government Authority: Harm-Uwe Weber, Head of County of Aurich will replace Walter Theuerkauf
- NL Industry and Harbour: Andre Bruijn, Harbourmaster Eemshaven

Agenda item 4. Announcements

Tineke Schokker-Strampel announced that the government of the province Fryslân has moved to a new constructed building. Secondly, she informed the meeting that the Wadden Fund was now working under the responsibility of the provinces. Finally, she briefly informed about developments in sustainable fisheries and MSC certification.

Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 19-5.1 Minutes SC-12

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-12, Bremen, 12 October 2011.

Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 19-6.1 Summary progress report

Additionally to the information given in the progress report, the meeting was informed by the chairs and secretary of the working groups about further progress of the WSF activities.

WG ICZM: Mr Verheij underlined the value of the Wadden Sea Region Planning Portal for the development of a sustainable Wadden Sea Region and a proper management of the conservation areas. A presentation about the implemented basic package would be given under **agenda item 8**. He further referred to the sustainability indicator tool and announced a presentation about use and development under **agenda item 11**. Thirdly, he informed the meeting about the cooperation with the North Sea Maritime Forum, who had sent an application for co-financing to the Interreg program. In case of approval, the WSF would contribute with 21 work days a year.

WG EII: Mr Rothkopf deepened the issue of gas and oil storage and reported briefly about the excursion to the cavern project in Friedeburg/Etzel. A member of the company would also be a member of the working group EII. Secondly, he informed the meeting about a planned excursion to the coal fired power plant of GDF Suez in Wilhelmshaven. A pilot facility for CO₂ capture would be under construction at the second coal fired power plant of E.ON. He emphasized a possible benefit of CO₂ capture to be used for chemical processes as well as for processing methane by using CO₂ and hydrogen, the latter produced by wind power. Storage of CO₂ would make no sense. Mr. Zettlitzer from RWE Dea AG amended that also in his company the CCS technology would not be persisted.

WG Shipping: Mr de Hoop emphasized some topics of the working group, e.g shipping control mechanisms like AIS (Automatic Identification System), and radar as well as traffic management systems (VTM). He further reported about the latest developments of measures to reduce marine litter. Many organisations like KIMO, OSPAR and also the WSF do have the issue on their agenda, and recently the EU has launched a program to support projects working towards minimizing the amount of marine litter. Further information would also be available on the KIMO website.

WG Agriculture: discussed under 6.2 goose management

WG Fisheries: no activities so far

WG Tourism: no working group established, contributions to TG Tourism of TWSC to be defined.

Agenda item 6.2. Goose management

Document: WSF 19-6.2 Goose management

The chair introduced the document and recalled the proposals for a continuation of the goose management group. He emphasized the need for the support by the national governments who would be responsible to deliver the requested expert contribution. Under this precondition, the WSF would facilitate a reinstated goose management group to deliver a strategic framework for the implementation of a goose management plan. The framework would entail regional specifications, information about responsibilities and concrete management instruments.

The agricultural sector made clear once more that a common goose management plan would be of great importance for a satisfying cohesion between the sector and the governments to reach a balance between farming and nature protection.

The meeting **agreed** to this procedure and requested the secretariat to achieve commitment of the national government with regard to the delivery of expertise.

Agenda item 6.3. CO₂ review

Document: WSF 19-6.3 CO₂ review

The chair introduced the document, which was also discussed at the WSB-4 meeting. The elaboration of the CO₂ review study was very much welcomed and seen as most valuable for further activities to reach a CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region.

The WSF will await actions taken by the WSB.

Agenda item 7. Cultural Landscape and Heritage

Document: WSF 19-7.1 Summary Workshop Ribe and follow up

The meeting took note of the workshop results and the secretary explained the implementation of an expert group a bit further. At WSB-4 it was agreed that a discussion should be held and agreement reached on the implications of §§ 18-19 of the Sylt Declaration prior to a discussion on the establishment of an expert group. The WSF should await the clarification.

Besides the work of the trilateral expert group, the WSF will elaborate on cultural characteristic and identity like WaddenArt and organ culture. A meeting should be held in the beginning of 2012 to discuss activities on this issue.

WSF members strongly support the involvement of the WSF in cultural heritage and history matters.

Agenda item 8. Wadden Sea Region Planning Portal

Presentation EUCC-D: WebGIS progress and results

Holger Janssen from EUCC-D presented the WSR Planning Portal and explained the application with regard to policies, sector developments and public interest. The Planning Portal covered information of economic uses, nature conservation and planning decisions on 69 different layers, which could be combined due to requested information. He closed his presentation with an outlook on further amendments and improvements. A further step could be the integration of the sustainability indicators. The Planning Portal can be experienced on www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/wsr-gis.html.

The secretary briefly informed about the costs of maintenance and implementation of technical and content add-ons. Depending on the scope, the costs could exceed several 10,000 Euro.

The meeting **welcomed** the implementation of the Planning Portal, which should be better announced for a wider audience. It was made clear that the instrument would not be a tool for planning authorities who would need much more detailed information. The Planning Portal would be more an information source for stakeholders, political levels and the interested public with the aim to stimulate a debate about the developments, possible conflicts of uses and, as far reaching aim, about a common vision for the coastal region including the off-shore area.

Agenda item 9. Oil fields in the German Wadden Sea

Presentation RWE Dea AG: Exploratory drillings

The energy company RWE Dea AG has submitted an application to the responsible authorities for permission of exploratory drillings in the Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony. Mr. Zettlitzer and Mr. Oppermann from RWE Dea AG gave a presentation about the operation and potential impacts of the exploratory drillings.

The presentation is placed on the WSF website under http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html

Mr. Rösner from WWF stated that the nature organizations would oppose exploration and exploitation of oil in the Wadden Sea in general and in particular would not accept any expansion. More than that, for saving earth's climate, fossil energy use needed to be reduced, which obviously means that a considerable proportion of the world's fossil fuels must remain in the deposits to avoid a transformation into CO₂. Protected areas were good places to do so.

Agenda item 10. Wadden Sea World Heritage

Presentation: Wadden Sea World Heritage Site

Jens Enemark from the CWSS informed the meeting with a presentation about communication and marketing of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. He highlighted the value but also the responsibility of being partner in the World Heritage community. Also the international cooperation in awareness and nature conservation was emphasised. The presentation with more details about activities and campaigns is available on the WSF website http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html.

Agenda item 11. Sustainability Indicator Tool

Document: WSF 19-11.1 Documentation Indicator Tool

The chair of the working group ICZM gave a detailed introduction about the sustainability development of the Wadden Sea Region. The developments of the social, economic and ecological situation in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) were further explained by using the data base behind the indicators and it was made clear that a healthy economy would not necessarily have negative impacts on the natural environment. The indicator tool would mirror the trends in the Region and would provide detailed information from regional to local level. On the basis of the stored data and the assessed trends, policy makers could make adjustments to reach more sustainability in the region.

The meeting appreciated the work done so far and agreed on further steps to improve and to communicate the indicator tool. The availability of data should be improved and new resources (manpower, expertise) for the further elaboration should be made available. Due to the important role of energy in the WSR, energy related indicators should be added. The WSF website should be used to communicate the developments and trends in the WSR.

The working group ICZM was tasked to further elaborate on the indicator tool.

Agenda item 12. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Representatives of the advisory boards informed about topical issues and latest developments within their boards.

Preben Friis-Hauge informed about the new structure and responsibilities in the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board. The chair of the board is Preben Friis-Hauge, vice-chair is Bo Jessen from the Toender municipality. Representative of the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board in the National Park Council is Erling Krog from the island Fanoe and representative of the Danish Municipalities is Anne Krag Svendsen.

Klaus Koßmagk-Stefan informed the meeting that both advisory boards had regular meetings in March and September 2011.

An additional meeting would be held late December due to the discussion of the mussel fishery programme (see below). The focus of the September-meeting had been on mussel fishery. The early extension of the mussel fishery programme, which would normally end at the end of 2016 is in Schleswig-Holstein in preparation due to planning reliability for investments from the fishery sector. There would be some changes compared with the existing programme. It was planned to finalize the negotiations between the ministry, the fishery sector, the advisory boards and the NGOs until the end of 2011. On the basis of this programme fishery licenses (permissions) would be granted (valid for a period of 5 years) provided that NATURA 2000 impact assessment studies have a positive result. The advisory boards would discuss the draft of the new programme as well as the results of the environmental impact assessment according to Art. 6 of the habitat directive in late December.

Walter Theuerkauf briefly presented the issues discussed in the advisory board Lower Saxony. A topical issue was the perspective for the regional fishery sector and the certification of shrimp and mussel fisheries. The certification according to the standards of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) would be a step to a sustainable fishery in the WSR. Secondly he informed that the plans for compensation measure "Langwarder Groden" for the construction of the Jade-Weser-Port in Wilhelmshaven had been settled after a long discussion. Thirdly, Mr. Theuerkauf informed about a new education program and communication concepts for the information centers Wadden Sea, taking into account the new status Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

Margreeth de Boer informed the meeting that after 30 years of working on advices to the Dutch government, the Raad voor de Wadden would have its last meeting in December 2011. The Dutch government had decided to terminate the Wadden Sea Advisory Council but probably some tasks would be taken up by a statewide council. This was stated as insufficient as the Wadden Sea had just reached the highest acknowledgement by the UNESCO. A last advice for the government would be on the ecological situation of the Wadden Sea.

Agenda item 13. Topical Issue Energy

Presentation: Grid off-shore wind parks

Presentation: Reduction of light emission in off-shore areas

Mr. Dirk Hansen from TenneT gave a presentation about off-shore grid connections and technical requirements. Also challenges of the offshore grid and methods for cable laying were introduced in detail. Mr. Hansen emphasised the obstacles in implementing a quality offshore grid. There would be only little experience with AC cables and the construction of converter stations. The technical facilitation would be insufficient for reaching the aim to install the planned capacity of wind power. The available vessels were too small, bigger ships must be built first to facilitate the construction of converters. Further obstacles concerned the cable market, which is working to capacity, and the designation of cable corridors through the Wadden Sea. The presentation with more information is available as pdf on the WSF website http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html.

The plenary intensively discussed challenges and obstacles of an offshore grid. The meeting stated a big interest in this matter. According to the growing number of installations in the wider region, the issue of "limits of growth" was raised and shortly discussed, whether it would be an option for the WSF to further work on this. It was agreed to task the secretariat and the working groups to use international contacts (e.g. North Sea Commission, Federal Network Agency in Germany) to collect more information and to further elaborate on the grid issue.

Mr. Heiner Mattfeld from RWE Dea AG gave a presentation about new concepts to reduce light emissions in off-shore activities with the example of "Mittelplate". The concept was partly based on a study which analysed the impacts of different light sources on the environment. The best results were achieved by dismantling light sources where ever

possible without affecting the safety standards. The presentation is available as pdf on the WSF website http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html.

With regard to light emission, the meeting recalled the achievements made by NAM from the Netherlands. NAM had several years of experience to minimize bird collisions by using green light on their offshore facilities. The study about the results will be made available for the WSF through the secretariat.

Agenda item 14. Cooperation

The secretary informed the meeting that a WSF presentation has been given to Dutch Wadden Academy mid-October in Eemshaven. At that meeting it was agreed to continue cooperation, particularly with regard to socio-economy. The cooperation, respectively involvement, in the North Sea Maritime Forum (NSMF) would be intensified, when the project would get its approval.

The meeting welcomed the cooperation on national and international level and proposed to increase the collaboration with the North Sea Commission and KIMO.

Agenda item 15. WSF Budget

The meeting was informed about the expenses and income of the WSF. A balanced budget until 2013 would be ensured but a budget for individual projects would not be available. For further continuation, additional financial commitment would be necessary to cover the costs for the facilitation of the WSF. Besides third party money for projects, a constant support would be crucial.

The WSF members promised to investigate in searching for the requested resources. This should be an agenda item at WSF-20.

Agenda item 16. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on 22-23 May 2012 for the WSF-20 meeting, which will take place in Denmark.

Agenda item 17. Any other business

The secretary informed the members that Mr. Klimant will not be able to attend the next two WSB meetings in March and June. In order to hold office in the WSB, the meeting agreed to appoint a new WSF representative for the Wadden Sea Board and agreed on Mr. Albert de Hoop as new delegate.

Furthermore, the secretary announced the latest publications of the TWSC:

- The Wadden Sea Quality Status Report - Synthesis Report 2010.
- Migratory Waterbirds in the Wadden Sea 1987- 2008. Trend, Phenology, Distribution and Climate Aspects

Copies of both publications were distributed.

Agenda item 18. Closing

The chairman **summarized** the main topics discussed at the meeting (see also decisions and agreements in Annex 3), thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:00 on 16 November 2011.

Add on: Excursion Organ Culture

The Wadden Sea Region is equipped with a tremendous number of organs, even small churches call famous organs their own. Nowhere else in the world, such a density of organs can be found, which makes it unique. In 2012, several events about organ culture will take place in the WSR.

Mr. Konrad Küster, Professor for Music History, University of Freiburg im Breisgau, introduced the organ culture in the trilateral Wadden Sea Region with an informative presentation. He emphasized the common history and identity as well as the uniqueness of the exceptional density of organs in the WSR. The presentation is available as pdf on the WSF website http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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A G E N D A

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 18**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 7. Cultural Landscape and Heritage**
- Agenda item 8. Wadden Sea Region Planning Portal**
- Agenda item 9. Oil fields in the German Wadden Sea**
- Agenda item 10. Wadden Sea World Heritage**
- Agenda item 11. Sustainability Indicator Tool**
- Agenda item 12. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 13. Topical Issue Energy**
- Agenda item 14. Cooperation**
- Agenda item 15. WSF Budget**
- Agenda item 16. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 17. Any other business**
- Agenda item 18. Closing**

ANNEX 3**Wadden Sea Forum****19th Meeting****Norden, 15-16 November 2011****Decisions and Agreements**

- 1) The meeting agreed on the proposal to install a new goose management group and requested the secretariat to achieve commitment of the national government with regard to the delivery of expertise.
- 2) Besides the work of the trilateral expert group, the WSF will elaborate on cultural characteristic and identity like WaddenArt and organ culture. A meeting should be held in the beginning of 2012 to discuss activities on this issue.
- 3) The WSR Planning Portal should be better announced for a wider audience.
- 4) The working group ICZM will further elaborate on the indicator tool to improve the data sets, to add energy related indicators and to communicate the instrument to a wider audience.
- 5) The meeting tasked the secretariat and the working groups to use international contacts (e.g. North Sea Commission, Federal Network Agency in Germany) to collect more information and to further elaborate on offshore electric grid issues.
- 6) NAM elaborated a study on impacts on the environment by light emissions. The study about the results will be made available for the WSF through the secretariat.
- 7) The meeting proposed to increase the collaboration on national and international level, particularly with the North Sea Commission and KIMO.
- 8) The WSF members promised to investigate in searching for the financial resources to guarantee a continuation of the WSF facilitation. This will be an agenda item at WSF-20.
- 9) The meeting agreed to appoint a new WSF representative for the Wadden Sea Board and agreed on Mr. Albert de Hoop as new delegate.