



**Wadden Sea Forum
22nd Meeting**

Eemshaven/Delfzijl, 23-24 May 2013

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: WSF-22-1 Draft Agenda

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Eemshaven and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 23 May 2013. He thanked Harm Post from Groningen Seaports for hosting the meeting on Thursday. Further, he specially welcomed Henk Staghouwer from the province of Groningen. The province was the overall host of the WSF meeting and Mr. Staghouwer is the new representative of the three Dutch Wadden Sea provinces. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting adopted the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-22 is in **Annex 3**.

The meeting was briefly informed about the program of the WSF-22 meeting, which included the excursion to the seaport of Groningen in the afternoon of the first day. The presentation about fracking under agenda item 9 had to be cancelled. In the morning of 24 May, Caroline Schrandt from the Dienst Landelijk Gebied would give an introduction to a Life+ project about marine invasive alien species.

Harm Post welcomed the participant on behalf of Groningen Seaports and referred to the 40th anniversary of the port of Eemshaven. The port, which stored the Dutch natural oil reserves, would focus on energy economics and would aim at connecting economy and ecology.

Henk Staghouwer also welcomed the WSF members and emphasized the importance of balancing economy and ecology. The area around Eemshaven/Delfzijl would be the energy valley of The Netherlands, closely to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. Therefore, a sustainable economy, taking care of the environment would be the challenge for the future.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 21

Document: WSF-21 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-21 meeting, Leck, 23-24 November. The secretary briefly recalled the agreements of the WSF-21 meeting. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks.

Herman Verheij amended that the tourism strategy of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) would be available as draft, also to be translated into three languages. The strategy would be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Conference for adoption and the WSF could play a role in implementation.

The meeting noted the information.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 22-3.1 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 Leck:

- Mr. Wiebe van der Ploeg has resigned his position as vice-chair of the WSF due to new political structures within the Province of Groningen;
- Mr. Henk Staghouwer will represent the Dutch Wadden Sea provinces;
- Ms Karen Boel Madsen will represent the Nationalpark Advisory Council of Denmark.

Further changes in Danish membership will be reported to the secretariat.

4. Announcements

Theo Schröder informed that Lower Saxony has got a new government, which would be a coalition of social democrats and the green party. An important focus would be on energy transition, including the implementation of a sufficient electric grid as well as on CO₂ reduction. Also new regulations regarding peat mining would be expected. The state secretary would visit the National Park Authority at the forthcoming advisory board meeting on 11 June.

Anne Husum Marboe informed the meeting that the application for the extension of the World Heritage Site with the Danish Wadden Sea and the enlargement of the area in Niedersachsen was submitted by the Danish Minister for Culture by 25 January. A decision by UNESCO would be expected mid-2014. The preparations for the Trilateral Governmental Conference on 4-6 February 2014 in Tønder were ongoing. A draft program would be forwarded to the WSB-8 meeting.

Manfred Vollmer announced that the website was redesigned and would provide now better menu navigation. He further introduced the new WSF flyer, available in English and German, which would give a nice overview of WSF objectives and all activities. Finally, he pointed at an article about the Planning Portal in the EUCC magazine "Coastal & Marine". Copies were distributed.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Document: WSF 22-5.1 Minutes SC-15

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-15, Bremen, 17 April 2013.

6. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 22-6.1 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: Herman Verheij emphasized the elaboration of the ICZM strategy, which would be discussed further on the following day. Also the contents and further developments of the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) Planning Portal would be introduced separately. With regard to the sustainability indicators, Mr. Verheij referred to the cooperative venture between the Waddenacademie, the Wadden Sea Forum and the WaLTER project. WaLTER has started with a first evaluation of the indicators on demography, employment and enterprises, tourism and housing. First results showed that compared to the national population the Wadden Sea Region had to cope in the last year with a decline of population. Only the Dutch municipalities recorded a slight population growth. The small share of young inhabitants could be experience almost in the entire region, only Groningen showed a higher share of young people.

Finally, he announced the necessity for a deeper dialogue with the EU Commission regarding ICZM and MSP. The ICZM group would approach the representatives of the Commission.

WG Shipping & Harbor: The secretary briefly informed about the further development and improvement of the resolution on shipping safety. The contents were introduced under **agenda item 11**.

WG EII: With reference to the progress report the secretary emphasized the importance of the symposium implementation and the elaboration of recommendations for the political level. The program, which is in **Annex 4**, would encompass the main topical energy issues of the future as there were:

- CO₂ reduction as measure to develop the WSR to a climate friendly region in the near future;
- Energy systems in and around the North Sea for stable distribution and best efficiency;
- Economics of energy production to evaluate also the impacts on the society;
- Energy storage technologies to secure the consumption;
- New technologies to save energy and to protect our environment;
- Communication for stakeholder – policy – science interface.

The secretary urged the WSF members to participate in the symposium to support the elaboration of WSF recommendations for the Wadden Sea Conference in 2014.

WG Agriculture: Hilbrand Sinnema informed about the work of the Goose Management Group (GMG), which would have its next meeting on 18 June. The focus would be on formulating draft recommendations, which would be based on an inventory of policy developments, implemented measures and the knowledge about geese species. A trilateral management scheme as framework would be of great importance as the conflicts would increase. A full draft report would be presented at the next plenary meeting in autumn.

WG Cultural Identity: Following the progress report, the secretary pointed at the survey on cultural identity in Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. The evaluation of the survey results would be still on-going, but a presentation could be given at the next Forum meeting. He highlighted the organ exhibition, which would be worthwhile to be presented at the Wadden Sea Conference. The venues of the touring exhibition were announced on the WSF website.

Further activities and projects on cultural identity would continue as this issue would take the local people on board.

7. CO₂ Reduction and Neutrality

Presentation Henk Moll, Chairman Center for Energy and Environmental Sciences IVEM University of Groningen

The WSF is working towards a climate friendly Wadden Sea Region. In this respect, a reduction of CO₂ emissions is one of the most important challenges. The WSF energy symposium in June 2013 will discuss state of the art, innovative measures and policies with regard to CO₂ reduction. Henk Moll introduced the theme for the WSF as preparation to develop recommendation for the Wadden Sea Conference in 2014. He addressed the increasing CO₂ emissions, strategies for climate management, a regional approach for NW-Europe and CO₂ neutrality of municipalities. To reach the goals, an innovative process had to be started, which encompasses a shared vision, the adoption of common principles and the implementation of processes and practises.

The presentation will be available on the WSF website as pdf file.

8. Spatial Planning in the Southern North Sea

Presentation WSR Planning Portal

Herman Verheij informed about the further elaboration of the WSR planning portal. With the support of RWE Dea, the planning portal was extended and improved. New data layers on shipping density based on AIS data and fishery data of 2003 to 2011 had been implemented. The fish data also provide information on caught species by country. A tool to adapt the visibility of the layers as well as a Web Map Service (WMS) had also been

implemented. Till summer this year, the Planning Portal would be further amended and improved with a focus on socio-economic data, delivered by the indicator instrument. The participants very much welcomed the instrument which would give comprehensive information about the uses and protection in the entire Wadden Sea Region. The Portal would be available on the WSF website.

9. Challenges and Risks of Fracking in Gas Production

Presentation Michael Zettlitzer, RWE Dea

Presentation was cancelled.

10. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

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

Denmark: Erling Krog briefly informed about the main themes discussed in the Danish advisory board. Important topics were on challenges to deal with climate change, risk management and spatial planning. Further issues had been on the development of sustainable, high quality tourism as well as the application for the inscription of the Danish Wadden Sea on the World Heritage list. The meeting noted the information.

Guest Presentation:

Caroline Schrandt from Dienst Landelijk Gebied gave an introduction to a Life⁺ project about marine invasive alien species. The aim would be to elaborate a framework for a strategy managing invasive alien species. The focus would also be on practical measures as well as on prevention. She emphasized that it would be important for the application to receive letters of support in the coming weeks. The involvement of new partners would be possible after submission of the application.

The stakeholders welcomed the initiative and new contacts were already made. The interested organisation will contact Caroline Schrandt directly for further procedures. The presentation is available on the WSF website.

11. Shipping Safety

Document: WSF 22-11.1 WSF document on shipping safety

The working group shipping & harbor further elaborated on a resolution about shipping safety in the southern North Sea. Comments and advice of the Dutch coast guard and the German shipping authorities were integrated in the available document. The secretary introduced the shipping safety document and explained the contents in more detail. He emphasized the request for a comprehensive monitoring and the establishment of a transnational maritime operation center.

Jens Enemark indicated that the proposal had been presented and discussed at the last TG-S meeting. The responsible shipping authorities had several objections, in particular the fact that the shipping safety was already in best condition. The meeting was aware of obvious obstacles like the costly implementation of the recommendations as well as the responsibility of the IMO for measures in international waters.

Herman Verheij pointed at the several ship accidents in the past months and doubted that everything would be best. He stated that a joint approach of the Trilateral Cooperation to increase shipping safety in the southern North Sea would also have effects on IMO regulations in the long run.

In conclusion, the meeting welcomed the work of the shipping group and emphasized the necessity to improve shipping safety standards. A decision of the three Wadden Sea countries would give a signal, also to the IMO, to implement sufficient safety standards. The WSF plenary **agreed** to officially forward the resolution to the TG-S to be integrated in the vision document. Further, the WSB will be informed about the WSF recommendations at the WSB-8 meeting on 26-27 June to highlight the position of the WSF with regard to shipping safety.

12. ICZM strategy

Document: WSF 22-12.1 Draft outline ICZM strategy

Document: WSF 22-12.2 ICZM strategy, objectives

Document: WSF 22-12.3 ICZM strategy, review Breaking the Ice

The WSF **agreed** to elaborate an ICZM strategy for the Wadden Sea Region, which would also function as the WSF strategic report for the Wadden Sea Conference in 2014. Herman Verheij and Manfred Vollmer introduced and further explained the strategy with a focus on the objectives. The aim would be to work towards a sustainable WSR by using the achievements of "Breaking the Ice". The strategy would encompass a review of the 2005 strategy report "Breaking the Ice", a new vision to be reached around 2030-2040 and sustainability objectives. European ICZM principles would be interpreted for the WSR. WSF instruments as well as cooperation would be analysed as possible measures to reach the statements of the objectives. Finally, the strategy would come up with recommendations on various fields like policy development, management and partnership. The review would be examined according to the statements and strategies made in 2005. The WSF was aware of the outstanding value of the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site. This would be highlighted in the description of the WSR as well as under objectives.

Jens Enemark commented that in his view the outline was unfocussed and insufficiently reviewed the progress of the Breaking the Ice report. Furthermore, he suggested that the work in the coming period should focus on specifically the issues in relation to the focus areas of the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.

The meeting **agreed** on the strategy outline and tasked the working group and Steering Committee to further detail the chapters and to submit a final draft to the October/November meeting. The outline will be forwarded to the WSB-8 meeting for information. The comments made at the meeting, to better include the indicator results and to elaborate a comprehensive analysis about the point of departure now, will be taken on board. Also further comments delivered in writing by end of July would be integrated in the final draft. The WSF plenary **mandated** the Steering Committee to oversee the elaboration of the ICZM strategy to be submitted to the WSF members by mid October 2013 at the latest. The final adoption would be done at the next plenary meeting.

13. WSB progress report

Jens Enemark informed the meeting about the progress of WSB activities with a focus on the preparation of the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014.

The deliverables of the Task Groups would feed into primarily the preparation of the Conference. The Trilateral Ministerial Council meeting itself would take place on 5 February 2014. The preparation of the program would be coordinated by the Danish colleagues. He also reported about the progress of the five Task Groups and the Experts Groups with a focus on the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative. In particular, he highlighted the progress made in the TG World Heritage with regard to the elaboration of a Wadden Sea World Heritage Strategy 2014-20 and the follow up of the Danish-German nomination as World Heritage Site. Further details are given in the presentation, which is available on the WSF website under WSF plenary meetings.

14. WSF budget 2013 and 2014

The chairman emphasized the urgency of safeguarding a sufficient financial contribution to facilitate and maintain the WSF. For 2014, a balanced budget would not be in place yet. Further financial contributions would be necessary to keep the WSF alive. He informed the meeting that a letter had been sent to the WSB as representatives of the national governments to inform them about the critical financial situation of the WSF. He further made clear that the WSF secretariat had to be liquidated by the end of 2013, if no adequate financial commitment could be reached.

15. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on **31 October to 01 November 2013** for the WSF-23 meeting, which will take place in Lower Saxony and probably be hosted by the county of Aurich.

16. Any other business

No other business discussed.

17. 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 hours on 24 May 2013.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
22nd Meeting
Eemshaven/Delfzijl, 23-24 May 2013**

A G E N D A

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 21**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 7. CO₂ Reduction and Neutrality**
- Agenda item 8. Spatial Planning in the Southern North Sea**
- Agenda item 9. Challenges and Risks of Fracking in Gas Production**
- Agenda item 10. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 11. Shipping Safety**
- Agenda item 12. ICZM strategy**
- Agenda item 13. WSB progress report**
- Agenda item 14. WSF budget 2013**
- Agenda item 15. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 16. Any other business**
- Agenda item 17. Closing**

ANNEX 3

Wadden Sea Forum
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Decisions and Agreements

The WSF plenary **tasked** the Steering Committee to propose a new vice-chair for election at the WSF-23 meeting.

The WSF members **asked** the working group ICZM to continue the cooperation with the Waddenacademie and the project WaLTER to analyze the indicator tool.

The WSF plenary **tasked** the working group EII to elaborate recommendations on energy transition and CO₂ reduction to be forwarded to the Wadden Sea Conference.

The WSF plenary **requested** the GMG to continue the fruitful work and to finalize an integrated goose management scheme, including recommendations, till the WSF-23 meeting.

The WSF plenary **agreed** to forward the resolution on shipping safety to the Task Group Shipping and to inform the WSB about the position of the WSF with regard to shipping safety.

The WSF members **adopted** the ICZM strategy outline and will **deliver** further comments, in particular on objectives and review "Breaking the Ice", in writing by end of July.

The WSF plenary **mandated** the Steering Committee to oversee the elaboration of the ICZM strategy to be submitted to the WSF members by mid October 2013 at the latest.

Interested WSF members and organisation will **contact** Caroline Schrandt to support the project application under Life⁺ on invasive alien species.

ANNEX 4

Energy Symposium on 3rd June 2013

Challenges in Energy supply

Venue: Groningen Seaports, Information Centre Eemshaven,
Nijlicht, Schildweg 16, NL-9979 XR Eemshaven

Programme

8:30 – 9:00	Registration / tea and coffee	
Welcome and Introduction		
9:00 – 9:05	Preben Friis-Hauge (WSF Chair)	Opening speech
9:05 – 9:15	Harm Post (Groningen Seaports)	Welcome speech
9:15 – 9:30	Manfred Vollmer (WSF Managing Director)	Introduction to the Symposium
09:30 – 10:10	Dr. Karin Jahn (Bremer Energie Institut)	Sources of CO ₂ and its shares of total CO ₂ emissions e.g. traffic, industry, energy production, households...
10:10 – 10:50	Prof. Hans-Peter Beck (Energie-Forschungszentrum Niedersachsen)	Introduction about status quo and developments in energy production and consumption in the Wadden Sea Region
10:50 – 11:10	COFFEE BREAK	
Topic: Economics of energy production, cost benefit analysis, drivers of energy transition		
11:10 – 11:30	Dr. Evelin Lückerath (Statkraft)	Electric power markets
11:30 – 11:50	Anton Buijs (GasTerra)	Hydro carbons
11:50 – 12:10	Prof. Frans Berkhout (VU Amsterdam)	Economic impacts on society
12:10 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH	
13:30 – 13:50	Gerd Schröder (RWE Innogy GmbH)	Wind energy
13:50 – 14:10	Thomas Ehrhardt-Unglaub (TenneT)	Grid connection to the mainland
14:10 – 14:30	Carsten Reekers (IVG Caverns GmbH)	Energy storage in salt domes
Topic: CO₂ neutrality with a focus on Wadden Sea Islands		
14:30 – 14:50	Prof. Rien Herber (University Groningen – RenQi Project Flexiheat)	Flexiheat, a multidisciplinary project to achieve re-use of waste heat via a ring-line in the Eemshaven
14:50 – 15:10	Albert de Hoop (Island of Ameland)	Best practise examples Wadden Sea Islands
15:10 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
15:30 – 15:50	Geert Jan Reinders (Groningen Seaports)	Energy related developments in shipping and harbour business
15:50 – 16:10	Prof. Cees van Woerkum (University Wageningen)	Information and open dialogue, science – social/economic interface, consumer /society acceptance, civic participation
16:10 – 17:00	Discussion and Summary	
17:00	End of Symposium	