



Wadden Sea Forum
24th Meeting
Rømø, DK, 13-14 May 2014

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: WSF-24-1 Draft Agenda

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants on Rømø and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 13 May 2014. He thanked the Tønder municipality for hosting the meeting. 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-24 is in **Annex 3**.

The participants were briefly informed about the program of the WSF-24 meeting, which included an excursion, guided by Thomas Holst-Christensen, around the island in the afternoon of the first day.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 23

Document: WSF-23 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-23 meeting on 31 October – 1 November 2013 in Aurich. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 24-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting about some changes.

Erling Krog has not been re-elected in the Fanø municipality and is therefore not the representative any longer.

Jürgen Rahmel from the National Park Authority Niedersachsen will replace Theo Schröder.

Vera Knoke from the government Schleswig-Holstein will replace Bernd Scherer, who has retired.

Monique van den Dungen from Groningen Seaports will replace Rene Genee.

Palle Menzel from the county Nordfriesland will be the representative for Dieter Harrsen and will replace Andreas Doll.

In the following, Gerd Töpken from Statkraft informed the participants that he had to abandon his active collaboration with the WSF as his new office would be in Oslo, Norway. He thanked the WSF for its work and pointed out that this platform for information and knowledge exchange, as well as for elaborating advice would be of high value and that the good work should be continued.

4. Announcements

The chair informed the meeting that he has sent a letter to the WSB to demand close cooperation and information exchange in general and collaboration particularly on two main issues.

a) The WSB is asked to support and cooperate implementing the Trilateral Goose Management Scheme

b) The WSB invites the WSB to work jointly on shipping safety, vessel traffic management, LNG in shipping, green ports, etc.

The meeting welcomed the initiative.

The secretary informed that the EUCC newsletter could be used to inform about the WSB work frequently. This newsletter would be published every two month and would get a section for WSB matters. This would mean that the WSB is committed to submit articles two-monthly and he requested the WSB members and the working groups to deliver contributions. The meeting welcomed the cooperation with EUCC-D and **agreed** to support the secretariat compiling information for the newsletter.

5. Results TGC-11 and WSB meetings at the Governmental Conference

Document: WSF-24-5.1 Ministerial Declaration

The chair referred to the minutes of the SC 2014-1 meeting, in which the main results of the Trilateral Governmental Conference of 3-4 February in Tønder were briefly described. On the first day, an exhibition with various themes was opened and in the evening the Wadden Sea flyway initiative was introduced and finally signed by the cooperation partners. Also a MoU Banc d'Arguin – Wadden Sea was signed. On the second day the sustainable tourism strategy, developed by regional governments, the tourism sector and green NGOs, was adopted and the council meeting with the adoption of the Tønder Declaration took place. Finally, the first WSB meeting in the new period was convened and the new chair of the WSB, Co Verdaas, was inaugurated.

Furthermore, he informed about the composition of the new WSB, also announced at the CWSS website

<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/trilateral-cooperation/organisational-structure>

6. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF 24-6.1 Minutes SC-E

WSF 24-6.2 Minutes SC-2014-1

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-E on 24 January and SC-2014-1, Hamburg, 10 April 2014. With regard to the proposed work topics by the Steering Committee and listed in the SC-E final draft minutes, the meeting **agreed** on the proposals made.

Furthermore, the plenary **agreed** to re-install the working groups ICZM, energy, cultural identity, agriculture and shipping & harbour. The elaboration of a work program and the composition of the work groups are in the responsibility of the working groups themselves. It was agreed that the WSB should be invited to join the working group shipping & harbour and to elaborate on a joint program (see also agenda item 4). Also the working group agriculture needs support from the WSB and its regional representatives to implement the goose management scheme. A strategy how to continue in this respect will be discussed within the coming weeks.

7. Election of Chair and Vice-chair

The Steering Committee **proposed** to elect Mr Henk Staghouwer from the province of Groningen as new chair. Henk Staghouwer is representative of the province of Groningen and responsible for agriculture, fisheries, nature conservation and rural development. He emphasized the need for sustainable development and environmental protection. A cross-sectoral as well as a transnational cooperation would be very important regarding these tasks. He made clear that he would represent the WSB with his power and that he

would support and promote the Forum in its activities as well as in his dealings as politician.

Following, the meeting **elected** Henk Staghouwer without any dissenting vote as new chair of the WSF.

Preben Friis-Hauge passed the chairmanship officially to Henk Staghouwer and the meeting thanked Mr. Friis-Hauge for his excellent work and commitment and enthusiasm for the WSF as chair in the period 2010-2014. He had guided the WSF through difficult times and has helped to form the WSF as legal entity.

Henk Staghouwer took over the WSF chairmanship and firstly requested to make any effort to nominate a vice-chair till autumn this year. This would also be important for having a second advisor of the WSF in the Wadden Sea Board. Preferably, the vice-chair should be a regional representative from Lower Saxony.

8. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 24-8.1 WSF progress report

The meeting was made aware of the progress report, which briefly describes the activities carried out since the WSF-23 meeting. Herman Verheij amended that a partnership with the Tilburg University had been settled to analyse the indicator tool and secondly, that the ICZM strategy and the WSF would be presented/introduced at the EU ICZM expert group meeting on 3-4 June in Athens. He further requested new members for the ICZM working group for being successful in implementing the defined work program. He himself would step back from chairmanship of the ICZM group and asked for support to nominate a new chair. Finally, he proposed to consider sustainable tourism in the work of the WSF as tourism would be an important economic factor in the WSR.

The secretary underlined the importance of broadening the working groups. For the implementation of the concerned work programs, not only experts would be needed but also representatives of the regions and green NGOs.

9. ICZM Strategy for the Wadden Sea Region

Document: WSF ICZM strategy (hand out hard copy)

As stated in former meetings, the ICZM strategy for the Wadden Sea Region will function as a roadmap for future WSF activities in the context of sustainable development. The implementation of the strategy requires commitment and collaboration of the members, the sectors and the working groups.

The meeting **welcomed** the ICZM strategy and received some hardcopies for further distribution and communication.

10. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

There were no reports of the Wadden Sea Advisory Boards available.

11. WSF Budget 2014

The secretary informed the meeting about the financial situation of the Forum and stated that in 2014 a balanced budget would be reached. The financial support of stakeholders, the increase of the budget of the Danish municipalities as well as the involvement of the WSF in EU programs had contributed to a better financial situation. Still, for 2015 and 2016 some 10.000 Euro would be missing. The meeting welcomed the balanced budget in 2014 and **agreed** to support the secretariat to reach also balanced budgets in the coming years too.

12. Climate Change in the Wadden Sea Region

Presentation Insa Meinke, HZG

The WSF cooperates with the North German Climate office of the Helmholtz Center Geestacht to get scientific expertise with regard to climate change and scenarios for future developments along the coast. An output is the climate atlas of the Wadden Sea Region, also placed on the WSF website.

Insa Meinke from the climate office presented new insights and facts of the coastal climate in the past as well as future scenarios. Recently, the climate office has analyzed climate data of the past 60 years for Northern Germany, which demonstrates the recent development of climate change measured so far. This analysis also strengthened the basis for the scenarios for the WSR.

By interactive participation, the meeting contributed to an analysis of the climate atlas regarding understanding, needs and further requirements. On the basis of the outcome, the atlas will be further developed, taking into account the requirements of the stakeholders. The results will be compiled within the coming weeks and distributed to the participants.

13. Next Meeting

The WSF-25 meeting will be held on 20-21 November and will take place in Schleswig-Holstein.

14. Any other business

No other business discussed.

15. Workshop risk management

Document: WSF 24-15.1 Outline risk management workshop

Due to climate change, increasing risks of natural hazards and its impacts on the society and environment could be expected. Therefore, it was agreed to focus also on risk management in the framework of climate change.

Beate Ratter and Birgit Gerkenmeier from the HZG gave introductions about definition, dealings and perception of risks and uncertainties in the Wadden Sea Region as well as a brief summary about the objectives of the Enhance project, in which the WSF is involved.

In the following, the meeting was split into 5 groups to elaborate on imaginable risks for the WSR, perceived by the individuals. The main results of the sub-groups were presented to the plenary and a priority list was defined to concentrate the future work on some main possible risks for the WSR. In conclusion, effects of climate change on sea level rise and storm surges as well as the demographic development with impacts on economy and society were seen as the highest risks for the future.

A short result report has been elaborated by the HZG and is in **Annex 4**, also as basis for a second workshop on risk management at the autumn plenary meeting.

16. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 hours on 14 May 2014.

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 23**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Results TGC-11 and WSB meetings at the Governmental Conference**
- Agenda item 6. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 7. Election of Chair and Vice-chair**
- Agenda item 8. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 9. ICZM Strategy for the Wadden Sea Region**
- Agenda item 10. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 11. WSF Budget 2014**
- Agenda item 12. Climate Change in the Wadden Sea Region**
- Agenda item 13. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 14. Any other business**
- Agenda item 15. Workshop risk management**
- Agenda item 16. Closing**

ANNEX 3

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Decisions and Agreements

- The meeting agreed to support the secretariat compiling information for the newsletter.
- The meeting agreed on the proposals for work topics made by the Steering Committee at its extraordinary meeting on 24 January 2014.
- The plenary agreed to re-install the working groups ICZM, energy, cultural identity, agriculture and shipping & harbour.
- The meeting elected Henk Staghouwer without any dissenting vote as new chair of the WSF.
- The meeting welcomed the balanced budget in 2014 and agreed to support the secretariat to reach also balanced budgets in the coming years too.

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Stakeholder Workshop on risk management at part of the WSF 24 meeting

In cooperation with the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG), the WSF is part in the European research project ENHANCE that is focusing on “enhancing risk management partnerships for catastrophic natural hazards in Europe”. Cooperative activities are concentrated in a case study on risk management in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR). The common goal of this cooperation within ENHANCE is to assist the WSF to foster a common discussion and cross-sectoral sensitization of stakeholders towards different risks in the WSR and to enhance the transnational exchange of knowledge and experiences. Not the least there is a necessity to increase the awareness of stakeholders and the society at large towards cascading effects between different risks and to sensitize them for direct and indirect impacts as well as uncertainties related to these risks.

The half-day introductory workshop on 14 May aimed to start a dialogue between the members of the WSF about risks and uncertainties in the WSR. Beate Ratter introduced the topic “risks and uncertainties” in general and Birgit Gerkenmeier gave an introduction on the research project ENHANCE, its background and the intended collaborative actions between HZG and WSF. The main focus of the workshop was laid on the different perspectives of the stakeholders as well as on assessments of risks and uncertainties in the Wadden Sea Region. In this regard, working groups were asked to work on two questions:

- "From your personal, institutional and national perspective: what risks and uncertainties do you identify for the WSR?"
- "Are you content with the current management of the risk and uncertainties mentioned here?"

By using a table-set method, the participants were asked to answer these questions in written form. This method demands the participants not only to identify risks but also to comment on the input of other group members. This procedure supports the process of get in contact with each other and addresses different perspectives on risk and uncertainties. In the following discussion the presented statements had been synthesized within the working groups and were presented to the plenary. The results of the working groups were compiled in a list of risks in the WSR and following ranked by awarding priority points.

Results of the working groups

The main issues mentioned by the participants are presented in the following list which is in order of the awarded priorities:

- Storm surges / sea level rise: With regard to climate change, changes in storm surge patterns and an increasing sea level rise are expected; moreover, climate change is seen as a major risk for increasing inland flooding events, as well as for higher temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns. The diverse impacts on different sectors have to be recognized. In this context, the future development in coastal protection has to be adapted to the expected changes.
- Demographic change / aging society: Demographic changes within the WSR could lead to an aging society and strategies have to be developed to meet future needs

in order to keep the Region vivid; climate change will have impacts on the healthiness by introduction of new diseases or by an increase of diseases. These risks have to be taken into account and counteracted by adaptation measures in health care.

- Changes in society: Emigration of young people is expected to become a larger issue; risks on maintaining services are of special public interest; increased migration from other regions and countries to the WSR may have an impact on the regional cultural identity.
- Conflicting spatial uses between different user interest and especially with conservation issues will cause problems.
- Shipping and tanker accidents: Improvement of prevention measures is needed.
- Economic crises (on global and regional level) and their impacts on the economy of the WSR will lead to severe uncertainties (often linked directly to loss of jobs).
- Emissions (especially CO₂) and pollution of rivers and the North Sea (e.g. plastic waste) are expected problems to cope with.
- Loss of biodiversity and increase of alien species in the WSR (e.g. pacific oyster) will have impacts on the ecosystem Wadden Sea.
- Energy: Availability and management of sustainable energy supply will become a future challenge.
- Unexpected events like conflicts and wars as well as nuclear power accident (outside the WSR) could also have impacts on the WSR.

The compiled list of issues represents a wide range of causes and consequences of risks and uncertainties in the WSR. The questions remain if the current risk management strategy for each of these risks is satisfying or if there is room for new strategies and management. Is there openness for new ways to deal with risks? Can we learn from other regions? Is multi-stakeholder involvement an option to meet future requirements? These questions will be addressed and discussed in a further workshop.