



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**28<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Fanø, 07-08 April 2016**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

The chair of the meeting, Henk Staghouwer, welcomed the participants on Fanø and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 07 April 2016. He thanked the municipality of Fanø for hosting the meeting and for the organisation of the excursion, which was a trip to some spots of the island to discover natural processes and management measures. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting adopted the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-28 is in **Annex 3**.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-27**

*Document: WSF-27 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-27 meeting on 05-06 November 2015 in Aurich. The final draft minutes of WSF-27 have been distributed by e-mail of 25 November 2015. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org).

**3. Membership WSF**

*Document: WSF 28-3.1 Membership list*

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

- For industry and harbour DK, Thorkil Hansen replaces Kristen Nedergaard Dreiøe
- For the Danish National Park Authority, Peter Saabye Simonsen replaces Thomas Holst Christensen
- For industry and harbour Niedersachsen, Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf from the Harbor business Wilhelmshaven replaces Hans Werner Rothkopf (for WSF-28 Mr. Schilling represented the sector)
- For the Dutch agricultural sector Alma den Hertog replaces Hilbrand Sinnema
- For tourism NL Cees van Roon replaces Janny Du Bois-Minholt
- For the Dutch local governments Mirjam Bakker replaces Pytsje de Graaf

The meeting noted the information.

#### **4. Announcements**

Kristen Fromsejer announced a Danish goose management meeting, which would take place on 12. April. Cooperation between the Danish part of the Wadden Sea Forum and the farmer's organisation would be envisaged.

Folkert de Jong informed about the latest developments within the Wadden Sea Board. A topic of common interest was news about the World Heritage Partnership Centre (PC).

The cooperation for the Wadden Sea World Heritage should be marked by the establishment of a Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center with a Steering Committee (StC) as its governing body, in which non-governmental partners are also invited to play a role and their full potential can be leveraged for the benefit of the Wadden Sea World Heritage. The strategic partners should play an active role and assume responsibility and contribute financial resources. All partners should commit to the World Heritage Strategy. It would be envisaged to install the Centre in Wilhelmshaven. The Partnership Centre would be connected to the proposed Wadden Sea foundation. A drafting group would work on steps to establish the PC, including the future tasks.

The WSF was very interested in these developments and requested to participate in the drafting group to bring in the interests of sectors and stakeholders. This request should be forwarded to the forthcoming WSB meeting in June.

The WSF Steering Committee should nominate the WSF representative in the drafting group.

Mr de Jong further informed that the CWSS would have recruited two new staff members, Simon Lobach as communication officer and Stefanie Fifelski as administration officer.

Albert de Hoop informed the meeting of the planned replacement of street lights in Ameland with green light, which does not contain infrared wavelength and does not confuse migratory birds. Furthermore, due to smart-LED lights, the street lights would only switch on when someone passes by. He expressed the hope that these efforts in Ameland would be shared as a best-practice example to inspire other Wadden islands in the three nations to take similar measures.

Pieter van Kuppenveld briefly informed about the venture on boat tourism in the Wadden Sea. The aim would be to provide current information about navigation and nature protection on trilateral level, preferably available on a common website. Existing approaches in the three countries could be used as examples. After having elaborated a basis for this, the WSF would be approached for further support. It was added that a transboundary harmonization of rules for the area of the trilateral World Heritage Site would be as a long term goal.

Herman Verheij informed that the Dutch government would be in the process of (re)assessing its responsibilities with regard to the Wadden Sea, after having shifted the responsibility to the provincial level. This could in theory lead to a change from the old "Planologische Kernbeslissing" to new forms of management.

He further informed about ongoing discussions regarding gas exploitation and salt mining in the Wadden Sea itself, as exploitation in the province of Groningen had led to earthquakes and damages to infrastructure. He also briefly mentioned a multi-year program to restore the Ems estuary, starting in June 2016.

Finally, he pointed to a trilateral conference on the Green Ports concept, to be held on June 20th. The formal announcement of this conference is available on the WSF website.

Marco Brodde informed that the Danish parliament requested the Wadden Sea municipalities to focus more on nature protection measures than on tourism and other commercial issues.

Holger Wesemüller informed the meeting that the trilateral Wadden Sea has been established as a transboundary RAMSAR Site on 01 December 2015, composed of 13 Ramsar Sites included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

In addition he pointed out that at the end of January 2016 the Dutch-German-Danish Brown Shrimp fishery took up officially the process for a common evaluation after the MSC standard. An own management plan had been presented (see 'Industry Brown Shrimp Management Plan' <http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/bsfg/brown-shrimp-focus-group-19th-january-2016-utrecht/>).

He further reported that the decree for sailing / driving regulations for vessels (including motor boats, yachts and leisure boats) within the German range of the Wadden Sea will be amended this year.

Michael Zettlitzer referred to the media news about protest against exploration drilling in the Wadden Sea. He clarified that the formal application for the drillings had been submitted many years ago and would not be a new issue. Due to European law, an EIA would be undertaken, even this was not foreseen in German law.

## **5. Minutes Steering Committee**

*Documents: WSF 28-5.1 Minutes SC-2016-1*

The plenary took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2016-1, Hamburg, 22 January 2016. The secretary briefly referred to the most important items like the WSF future workshop in November last year, the progress of WSF activities and the proposed structure for the WSF. All these items were part of the WSF-28 agenda to be discussed in detail during the meeting. The meeting took note of the SC minutes to be included in the further debates.

## **6. Composition Steering Committee**

The SC prepares action taking and decisions for the plenary and oversees the work of the WSF. The SC plays a major role in communication and in representing the WSF to the outside world. The committee encourages the WSF members to contribute to the WSF objectives. Therefore, a representative group is necessary to fulfil the tasks. In its last meeting the SC proposed to extend the group by 3 more members, taking into account that Mr. Rothkopf stepped back from being a SC member. On proposal of the chair, the meeting nominated the following additional three persons as representatives of the WSF and SC members:

Jörn Klimant, County of Dithmarschen

Ingid Klinge, Energy Valley Groningen

Kristine Kaas Krog, Fanø Municipality Council

The candidates thanked the WSF for their trust and accepted the election.

## **7. Progress WSF Activities**

*Document: WSF 28-7.1 Summary progress report*

The meeting was informed about the progress of ongoing activities and project involvements. Only a few of the agreed actions at the WSF-27 meeting in November 2015 in Aurich did make progress. It was consensus to further elaborate on the defined ventures also in the light that these have been chosen as valuable stakeholder topics. Particularly the social media topic should get attention to make the WSF better known. Marco Brodde agreed to support the secretariat on this issue.

Also the shipping and harbour business was seen as an important issue to follow up. The foreseen implementation of a joint working with the Wadden Sea Board failed and the meeting requested to reactivate the WSF shipping and harbour group to elaborate on shipping safety, LNG in short sea shipping and green harbour concept. Albert de Hoop was tasked to elaborate Terms of Reference and the secretariat was requested to invite interested experts for a first meeting to discuss necessary actions.

A further action will be a new attempt to implement a meeting about compensation measures due to impacts on the Wadden Sea.

Further tasks and actions were discussed under agenda item 9, structure of the WSF.

## **8. Reflection of the WSF Workshop**

*Document: WSF-27 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting was invited to review the course of the last plenary meeting and to discuss contents and outcome with a view on future needs and responsibilities. The participants were very positive about the outcome of the workshop in November. Many new ideas had been addressed and new energy for the WSF work was experienced.

It was stated that the elaboration of contributions to almost all fields of interest would be too ambitious and could not be managed and fulfilled. It was agreed to focus on a few topical issues to be carried out in detail. Furthermore, the WSF should address more questions to decision makers and governments to initiate a debate on necessary changes and developments. The delivery of solutions by the WSF would not be the main task.

As the WSF is seen as an alliance of sectors and stakeholders with diverse interests, a consensus regarding objectives and actions would not necessarily be a first aim. The focus should be more on stressing deficits in coastal development and accompanying policies and measures.

## **9. Structure of the WSF**

*Document: WSF 28-9.1 Proposal ICZM group for new WSF structure*

A very positive outcome of the WSF-27 meeting was the commitment of the members to play an active role in the future work. Several actions like the speed boats were defined for immediate implementation. These actions reflect ideas of topical issues to be dealt with within the WSF. The work on topical issues could be carried out by ad hoc action groups, who would operate for a defined period. The ICZM group will function as a permanent working group as integrated coastal development is the core business of the WSF. This group together with the secretariat will be responsible for the WSF instruments and will facilitate the implementation of actions (action groups) and projects. Furthermore, the ICZM group will elaborate proposals for topical issues, derived from coastal development needs. As a further permanent working group, a shipping and harbour group could be made operational. The WSF plenary still is the decision making body and is responsible to install working or actions groups as well as to decide on submitted proposals.

Considering the discussed structure, which was generally agreed, the meeting was of the opinion to concentrate on Wadden Sea Region issues and to emphasize the need for information and knowledge exchange about stakeholder and sector concerned matters.

In conclusion, it was agreed to continue the work on the speed boats (action groups) and to prepare two main topics to be discussed at the next plenary meeting in October 2016. The topics will be goose management (AEWA approach, damage overview, compensation schemes) and sustainable transport management (CO<sub>2</sub> reduction).

## **10. Theme: Risk Management**

*Presentation: DEA Deutsche Erdoel AG*

After having discussed various aspects of risk management in three workshops, Mr Zettlitzer from DEA Deutsche Erdoel AG informed the meeting about applied risk management processes in the oil and gas industry. In his presentation he addressed a specific risk management approach, the different levels, sources and categories of risks, and specified selected risks of the drilling platform Mittelplate in the Wadden Sea. The meeting very much welcomed the information. The presentation can be looked through at the WSF website

<http://www.waddensea-forum.org/index.php/forum/wsf-plenary>.

## **11. Theme: Economy and Ecology in Balance**

*Presentation: Provincie Groningen*

The province of Groningen is elaborating on a program to best integrate economy and ecology in the socio-economic development of the Ems-estuary between Delfzijl and Eemshaven. The meeting was informed about the developments by a presentation of Henk Staghouwer, chairman of the initiative economy & ecology (E & E) and chair of the WSF. E & E is a regional cooperation between NGO's, enterprises and governments and functions as a platform for permanent stakeholder dialogue, promotor for new solutions and as accelerator for implementation of measures. An agreement was reached to make joint efforts to improve nature quality by implementing coastal projects, decreasing silt concentration by innovative approaches and to start research on long term perspectives. The meeting very much appreciated the given information but also criticism was brought forward, particularly due to lacks of cooperation with the German side as well as with regard to severe dredging and dumping activities in the estuary. To really improve the ecological conditions in the Ems-estuary region a sound concept would be needed. The presentation can also be looked through at the WSF website <http://www.waddensea-forum.org/index.php/forum/wsf-plenary>.

## **12. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**

Representatives of the advisory boards informed the meeting about the proceedings within their boards and organizations:

**Denmark:** Preben Friis-Hauge informed that the four Wadden Sea municipalities would continue the cooperation with the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board. Main topics of the Board were CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality and coastal protection funding. The municipalities aim at a substantial co-financing part by the Danish government.

**Schleswig-Holstein:** Jörn Klimant briefly reported about the main topics of the Advisory Board. Dredging in the upper Elbe and related dumping sites close to Helgoland as well as the agreement between the fishery sector and the state government to close 300 ha for mussel fishery played an important role in the debates. Furthermore, the designation of areas for kite surfing and the dealings with sperm whales, which run aground, had been discussed.

**Lower Saxony:** Holger Wesemüller informed about topical issues in Lower Saxony. Sediment management would be of great importance in the future. In estuaries and all harbours and channels within the National Park area permanent dredging and dumping of sediments would be usual. To improve the state of the art a concept was missing and further scientific investigations were requested, especially about the effects and impacts of the so-called water-injection-technique. and further scientific investigations were requested. The Board also discussed possible cooperation at least between the German harbours along the North Sea coast and agreed to strive for a joint harbour concept. He offered to distribute the minutes of the Board meetings to interested people on request.

## **13. WSF Budget 2016**

The secretary informed the WSF members about the budget for 2016, which would be balanced. From 2017 on, quite a big deficit would be expected due to missing revenues from EU projects and sponsors. The meeting noted the information and was aware about the consequences for the work of the Forum if a balanced budget for the coming years would not be reached.

**14. WSF Communication**

At the plenary meeting WSF-27 it was discussed how the Forum could be more visible in the regions, also to better involve the society in future dealings. As a result of today's discussion, the meeting agreed to continue the communication on Facebook. This would only be successful if WSF members contribute with articles and blogs to be delivered to the secretariat. Furthermore, press releases of meetings should be launched. The responsibility is on the local and regional members who have contacts to the local press.

**15. Next Meeting**

The meeting agreed to hold the next plenary meeting, WSF-29, on **13-14 October 2016**. The regular host will be the county of Nordfriesland. The Steering Committee and the secretariat will also sound out alternatives, but Nordfriesland should be approached first.

**16. Any other Business**

Anne Husum Marboe from the Danish government made her farewells from the WSF business as she will change to another job within the ministry. The WSF thanked her for her engagement and contributions and wished her well.

Ingrid Klinge announced the "North Sea Energy Symposium" on 15-16 June in Rotterdam and invited interested WSF members to participate.

**17. Closing**

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 hours on 08 April 2016.

**ANNEX 2**

**Wadden Sea Forum  
28<sup>th</sup> meeting  
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**A G E N D A**

- Adenda item 1. Opening**
- Adenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-27**
- Adenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Adenda item 4. Announcements**
- Adenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Adenda item 6. Composition Steering Committee**
- Adenda item 7. Progress WSF Activities**
- Adenda item 8. Reflection of the WSF Workshop**
- Adenda item 9. Structure of the WSF**
- Adenda item 10. Theme: Risk Management**
- Adenda item 11. Theme: Economy and Ecology in Balance**
- Adenda item 12. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**
- Adenda item 13. WSF Budget 2016**
- Adenda item 14. WSF Communication**
- Adenda item 15. Next Meeting**
- Adenda item 16. Any other Business**
- Adenda item 17. Closing**

**ANNEX 3**

**Wadden Sea Forum**  
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**Decisions and Agreements**

- The WSF **requested** to participate in the WSB drafting group for the World Heritage partnership centre to bring in the interests of sectors and stakeholders. This request will be forwarded to the forthcoming WSB meeting in June.
- The WSF Steering Committee will **nominate** the WSF representative in the drafting group.
- The WSF **nominated** the following additional three persons as representatives of the WSF and SC members: Jörn Klimant, County of Dithmarschen; Ingid Klinge, Energy Valley Groningen; Kristine Kaas Krog, Fanø Municipality Council
- Marco Brodde agreed to **support** the secretariat to further elaborate on the social media topic.
- Albert de Hoop will elaborate Terms of Reference to reactivate the WSF shipping & harbour group.
- The secretariat will invite interested experts for a first meeting to discuss necessary actions after having received the TOR.
- Michael Zettlitzer in cooperation with the secretariat will start a new attempt to implement a meeting about compensation measures due to impacts on the Wadden Sea.
- The WSF **agreed to focus** on a few topical issues to be carried out in detail and the WSF will elaborate and address more questions to decision makers and governments to initiate a debate on necessary changes and developments in coastal development and accompanying policies and measures.
- The WSF **agreed** on the proposed new structure of the future work as outlined under agenda item 9.
- It was **agreed** to continue with the defined actions (speed boats) and to discuss two topical issues at the next plenary meeting: goose management and sustainable transport management.
- As part of communication, the meeting **agreed** to continue the communication on Facebook. The WSF members will **contribute** with articles and blogs.
- **Press releases** will be launched in connection with WSF meetings. The **responsibility** will be taken by the local and regional WSF representatives.