



Wadden Sea Forum
35th meeting
Groningen, 09-10 May 2019

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Groningen at the Provinciehus. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. A special welcome was given to Mr Henk Staghouwer, representative of the province of Groningen and host of the meeting, who also welcomed the participants.

After a short round of introduction, the chair introduced the program and the draft agenda, which was adopted without any changes and which is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-35 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-34

Documents: WSF-34 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-34 meeting in Büsum, 1-2 November 2018, distributed by e-mail of 29 November 2018. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 35-3.1 Membership list

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

- Anna Schlag from Orsted Wind Power Germany GmbH will replace Rena Paziorek in the WSF.
- Arjen Kok from the Natuurmonumenten will represent the Dutch green NGOs in the WSF.

The members informed the meeting that Stefan Sievers from the IHK Flensburg has left the IHK. His successor Michael Lohmann should be approached to represent the industry sector in the WSF.

It was further announced that Durk Stoker will not be the representative for the Dutch coastal municipalities any longer. A replacement will be searched.

4. Election of WSF vice-chair

The Steering Committee proposed to elect Mr. Stefan Mohrdieck, head of the county Dithmarschen, as vice-chair of the WSF. With this, the WSF will have for the first time since 2010 a German member in the position of chair/vice-chair.

After a brief introduction by the candidate himself, the meeting elected unanimously Mr Stefan Mohrdieck as WSF vice-chair.

5. Announcements

Christian Lorenzen informed the meeting that the Danish Wadden Sea municipalities of Esbjerg, Tønder and Fanø have joined hands in creating a Danish Wadden Sea Destination based on the new Danish tourism legislation. Varde has joined Ringkøbing-Skjern Joint Destination, but remains and reaffirms its commitment to the Wadden Sea.

He secondly informed that the Danish Wadden Sea National Park had passed a new plan for development. The tourism and business emphasis had also been strengthened with this plan.

Alma den Hertog briefly reported about topical issues concerning the agricultural sector, a.o. there are pressures of salt water intrusion, nitrogen pollution and management of ecology and economy in balance.

Arjen Kok informed the meeting about the consequences of the containership accident MSC-Zoe in January this year, which lost 342 containers north of the Dutch Wadden islands. A vast amount of marine litter from the damaged containers was washed ashore. Currently, the litter is partly collected with help from many parties and volunteers. Up to now, 288 containers were found and salvaged. Besides bigger particles also (micro-)plastic had polluted the sea and the ecological effects for birds, other animals and the ecosystem for the short and midterm future will be mostly unknown.

A better protection scheme for the Wadden Sea should be in discussion also to improve communication and education and to implement clear responsibilities.

Hubertus Hebbelmann informed the meeting that Rüdiger Stempel, head of the CWSS will leave the secretariat by 1 August 2019.

Manfred Vollmer announced a workshop on marine litter, a joint event of the University of Oldenburg and the WSF will take place on 1 October in Oldenburg. The workshop addresses the challenges to deal with macro-plastic in the southern North Sea and possible management tools by involving key stakeholders.

He further reported about an envisaged project, to bring representatives of all Wadden Sea islands together to jointly work on challenges of climate change adaptation as well as on fostering the dark sky initiative.

Finally, Mr Vollmer recalled an invitation from the CWSS to produce a short video for the 10th anniversary of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. The video should be shorter than 90 seconds and delivered to the CWSS by 3 June at the latest (see any other business).

6. Minutes Steering Committee, Composition SC

Documents: WSF 35-6.1 Minutes SC-2019-1

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2019-1 on 06 March 2019 in Hamburg. An emphasis was laid on the future of the WSF and the involvement in the partner-hub of the World Heritage Partnership Centre. The items were put on the agenda of the plenary meeting for further discussion together with other relevant topics.

The chair further briefly announced the new composition of the WSF Steering Committee: Preben Friis-Hauge, Stefan Mohrdieck, Heiner Mattfeld, Erich Hinrichs, Christian Lorenzen, Ingrid Klinge, Pieter van Kuppenveld

7. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 35-7.1 Summary progress report

The secretary referred to the summary progress report and introduced a few activities in more detail. The work on the indicators will continue as the results provide an excellent overview of the developments in the regions. It is envisaged to cover the entire Wadden Sea Region.

The cooperation with AEWA with regard to knowledge exchange about goose management issues continues. The secretary will participate in an AEWA workshop on management plans regarding barnacle and grey-lag geese in June this year. The agricultural organisations in the WSF will finance the participation so that the WSF budget will not be financially burdened.

8. Climate Adaptation in the Wadden Sea Region

Document: WSF 35-8.1 Matrix of challenges

Presentation: Tamara Ekamper, climate adaptation in city and region

Ms Tamara Ekamper from Groningen gave an introduction to the plenary discussion about the policy paper on climate change adaptation challenges. She reported about challenges in urban planning and design with the example of Groningen as well as about the work of the Global Centre for Adaptation. The presentation covered the most important trends on sea level rise, heat waves, droughts and flooding, which were trialed by a stress test. The presentation is available on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/wsf-plenary>.

Following the presentation, the meeting discussed the challenges of climate change adaptation with regard to surface water in the hinterland of the Wadden Sea.

Frank Ahlhorn and Manfred Vollmer introduced the draft document and the tasks to complete the elaborated matrix of challenges.

As it turned out that a prioritization of challenges among the four regions would be too difficult, the meeting focused on challenges and causes to complete the proposed list. In three national sub-groups the contents were discussed and the findings were reported to the plenary. Amended issues were a.o. lack in taking responsibilities, missing sufficient insurances, increasing effects by urbanization and sealing of soils.

Even though in most cases technical solutions would be available, political decisions for changing life styles and traditional landscape perceptions were considered as options to meet future challenges.

Based on the delivered input, the ICZM group will further elaborate the draft policy paper until mid-June. A further stakeholder consultation round will take place and a final draft is planned to be available after summer holidays.

9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Representatives of the advisory boards were invited to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organizations.

Denmark:

Preben Friis-Hauge reported that the municipalities are examining the application by the Danish Botanical Association before the next meeting in the autumn.

The National park informed about supporting breeding birds in the Danish Wadden Sea, e.g. through copying the German rescue project.

Further information was given about the Margrethe Koog, a 450 ha nature project with the purpose is to bring the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) back as well as about the wild boar fence between Denmark and Germany. Also a presentation about the historic landscape of Fanø was on the agenda of the Danish advisory board.

Lower Saxony:

Manfred Vollmer briefly informed that mainly the topics climate change and sea level rise in the Wadden Sea and hunting regulations on the Wadden Sea islands were discussed at the advisory board in Lower Saxony.

Manfred Vollmer also briefly informed about the topics of the WSB 27 and WSB 28 meetings:

WSB 27 on 13 November 2018, Copenhagen

- Progress World Heritage issues
- Initiative of Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI)
- Brief discussion on sustainable fisheries, should be included in SIMP
- Preparation 10th WH anniversary (30 June 2019)
- Status discussion about partner-hub
- TWSC review process (Tasks CWSS, ToR for TGs, EGs)
- WSF report

WSB 28 on 14 March, Berlin

- Progress World Heritage issues
- Status development SIMP
- Reports Task and Expert Groups
- Further discussion Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), task of EG-Climate
- Discussion about actions on shipping safety, NL lead, will involve WSF
- Science cooperation, establishment of program committee, involvement of WSF
- Progress preparation 10th WH anniversary
- Further discussion about partner-hub, WSF as strategic partner with first MoU
- TWSC review process, ToRs adopted
- WSF report

10. Single Integrated Management Plan

Presentation: Soledad Luna

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation is going to elaborate a Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. It is envisaged to integrate stakeholder views in the development of the plan. Soledad Luna from the CWSS gave a presentation on objectives and processes of implementing the plan.

The meeting very much welcomed the presentation, which is on the WSF website <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/wsf-plenary>.

11. Future of the Wadden Sea Forum

Documents: WSF 35-11.1, Communication and achievements of the WSF

WSF 35-11.2, 2nd draft MoU Partnership TWSC - WSF

The secretary briefly recalled the history of the WSF with the different tasks throughout the entire period and introduced the documents for the meeting. The WSF will enter a new phase of responsibilities, tasks and cooperation when taking commitment under the umbrella of the World Heritage Partnership Centre.

In a communication coaching process with the secretariat it was recommended to use the "Golden circle of communication" to reach a wider audience and steer a more intensive discussion. The circle starts, first, with the important step to communicate the "Why" of the Forum (see document) in order to address senses and disclose and reassures what the WSF stands for. In further steps, communication about "how" the WSF is doing its work and "what" are the concrete activities to be addressed.

In a vivid and intensive discussion, the WSF members presented their personal opinions and thoughts about the need for cross-sectoral and transnational cooperation and the gained added value through the work of the WSF in this regard.

Information and knowledge exchange across the regions, perceiving different approaches of meeting future challenges and bringing people from the entire Wadden Sea Region together to learn from each other are considered to be special assets and achievements of the WSF. Personal contacts and trust building among the stakeholders contributed to collaboration **and** conflict resolution. Respect for different motivations and driving forces, which have not necessarily be accepted by all members, led to constructive contentions, networking and team building.

With these assets, the WSF has elaborated and delivered sound products, which unfortunately were often addressed not to the right target groups.

The meeting **agreed** to continue the WSF work on the basis of the mentioned values, addressing the whole Wadden Sea Region. Besides the Wadden Sea Board, other political levels and organizations should also be approached and directly addressed with WSF's issues, e. g. the regional governmental levels would be important recipients. To proceed, it was agreed to compile a list of relevant addresses for WSF's issues and inquiries.

Further, the deficits in representativeness in the WSF should be reduced to a minimum by attracting more stakeholders and organization to cooperate with the WSF. All members are asked to approach potential cooperation partners accordingly.

In a further discussion of this agenda item, the involvement of the WSF in the partner-hub was addressed. In general, the WSF appreciates the involvement in the partner-hub and is open to strengthen its network for taking responsibilities for the World Heritage Site and to foster sustainable socio-economic development in the Wadden Sea Region.

It was also agreed that the WSF should strive for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the TWSC and the WSF about future cooperation. In this respect, the WSF discussed the second draft of a proposed MoU and made several comments and amendments to the final draft version. The final MoU is supposed to be signed on 30 June at the event of the 10th anniversary of the World Heritage Site in Wilhelmshaven.

The main comments were:

- The partnership has to be about the entire Wadden Sea Region, including the Wadden Sea
- This should be stated somehow on the front page as well as under § 1, the partners.
- The shared vision of the Partner-hub as reflected in the MoU should be a joint vision of all partners and not only of the governmental level. The basis of the MoU goes beyond the Joint Declaration of 2010.
- In § 2, it has to be mentioned that the MoU also contributes to a sustainable WSR with socio-economic developments and vibrant communities.
- Also in § 2, a mutual respect should be stated not only respect for the Guiding Principles for nature conservation.
- § 5 can be deleted, as it not necessary here.
- In general, the text has to be proof-read, copy-edited and can be shortened in its endless repetitions.

The meeting was informed that the comments would be considered in a further discussion of the 2nd draft MoU at the OP-Team Partner-hub meeting on 14 May in Tönning.

12. WSF Budget 2019

The meeting was informed about the budget for 2019, which is not in balance yet. The secretariat further informed the meeting about expected deficits in the budget 2019. The meeting agreed to make any efforts to reach a balanced budget by September this year.

13. Next Meeting

The meeting agreed to hold the WSF-36 meeting on **18-19 November 2019**, which will take place at MARIKO in Leer.

14. Any other Business**Formal Vote of Thanks**

Beate Ratter, on behalf of the WSF plenary and members, expressed sincere thanks to Mr Michael Zettlitzer, former representative of DEA Deutsche Erdöl AG, for his long-standing commitment and active engagement in the WSF's activities, for enabling and fostering the progress of collaborative stakeholder engagement in the Wadden Sea Region so successfully.

The WSF plenary expresses its thankful appreciation and commonly agreed to inform Mr Zettlitzer in a formal letter.

Preben Friis-Hauge informed the meeting that national elections will take place in Denmark on 5 June 2019.

The participants of the meeting made a short video to congratulate the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site for its 10th anniversary in June 2019. The video will be forwarded to the communication officer of the CWSS as part of the WSF contribution to this event.

15. Closing

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 hours on 10 May 2019.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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DRAFT AGENDA

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|-----------------|---|
| Agenda item 1. | Opening |
| Agenda item 2. | Adoption of the Minutes WSF-34 |
| Agenda item 3. | Membership WSF |
| Agenda item 4. | Election of WSF vice-chair |
| Agenda item 5. | Announcements |
| Agenda item 6. | Minutes Steering Committee, Composition SC |
| Agenda item 7. | Progress WSF Activities |
| Agenda item 8. | Climate Adaptation in the Wadden Sea Region |
| Agenda item 9. | Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB |
| Agenda item 10. | Single Integrated Management Plan |
| Agenda item 11. | Future of the Wadden Sea Forum |
| Agenda item 12. | WSF Budget 2018 |
| Agenda item 13. | Next Meeting |
| Agenda item 14. | Any other Business |
| Agenda item 15. | Closing |

ANNEX 3

**Wadden Sea Forum
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Decisions and Agreements

- The meeting elected unanimously Mr Stefan Mohrdieck as WSF vice-chair.
- The ICZM group will further elaborate and improve the draft policy paper by mid-June. Comments made at the plenary meeting will be integrated.
- A further stakeholder consultation round will take place before summer holidays to finalize the policy paper on climate change adaptation challenges with regard to surface water in the Wadden Region.
- The WSF agreed to improve communication about the work and lobbying of the WSF's interests. It was considered to put together a list of potential addressee of a wider target group for future inquiries.
- The WSF members are requested to approach potential cooperation partners to attracting more stakeholders and organization in order to strengthen the WSF network.
- It was also agreed that the WSF should strive for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the TWSC and the WSF about future cooperation.
- The secretariat and the chair will send a letter of appreciation to Mr Michael Zettlitzer, former representative of DEA Deutsche Erdöl AG, for his commitment and engagement in the WSF.