



Wadden Sea Forum
43rd meeting
Harlingen, 28 – 29 March 2023

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1 Opening

The chair of the meeting, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed all participants in Harlingen (NL) at the Geementehuis on 28 March 2023 at 13:00 hours and mentioned that the last plenary in Harlingen was held in June 2009 and that we are happy being here again. He thanked the Municipality of Harlingen and their staff for their great support and hosting us for these 2 days as well as Mr Hannes Heijmering, Province of Noord-Holland, for his support to the meeting.

Due to many new participants in this meeting, a round of introduction took place. A list of today's participants is in **Annex 1**.

Then he asked to change the agenda and to postpone the agenda item 4 to March 29. The meeting agreed the proposal and adopted the new agenda (**Annex 2**).

2 Adoption of the Draft Minutes of WSF-42

Document: WSF-42 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-42, Wilhelmshaven, 28-29 September 2022, distributed by email on 15 November 2022. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website: www.waddensea-forum.org.

3 Announcements

Mr Hans-Joachim Uhlendorf stated that the LNG Terminal in Wilhelmshaven was launched end of 2022 and until now 10 ships have delivered LNG gas. The terminal is close to the Wadden Sea and National Park area. Critical voices are concerned about the utilisation of chlorine entering the water. Warm water is needed to heat up the frozen LNG gas. Currently, the water of the river Jade cannot be used at the moment due to the still cold temperatures, which means that up to now no chlorine was brought back into natural environment. There is a further application for approval for a second terminal close to the first one. A monitoring

system is in place to monitor potential changes in the waterbody of the Jade due to chlorine. There are discussions ongoing about avoiding contamination of the tubes by ultrasound.

Mr Preben Friis-Hauge informed the meeting that the Danish government has launched a planning and screening phase for test sites of offshore windmills on land. These windmills will be 450 meters high each and it is planned to build them close to the World Heritage Wadden Sea. Furthermore, he stated that the Danish population is in high favour of green energy but they are also asking to find another place for the installation of these windmills.

5. WSF Prospects for the Period of the Danish Presidency (2022 – 2026)

At the last Trilateral Governmental Conference in Wilhelmshaven, held in November and December 2022, the presidency changed from Germany to Denmark. Although, the Ministerial Declaration officially is not signed, but a Joint Statement by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands has been adopted and published. Nevertheless, it is planned that the official approval of the Ministerial Declaration will be done mid-May at the next Wadden Sea Board meeting in Esbjerg.

The WSF now is going to prepare for the period of the Danish presidency by getting many short presentations and introductions to different ideas on several topics that could be covered by the WSF:

- Land based Aquaponics and Biological Desalination, cleaning brackish water by algae's by Dr Stephan Ende (AWI)
- Brown shrimp fisheries by Amerik Schuitemaker (Nederlands Vissersbond)
- Good water environment, focus on nitrogen and phosphor impact (new Wadden Sea Coastal Water Board) by Stine Bundgaard (SAGRO)
- Landschapstriennale 2023-2025 by Els van der Laan (Wadden Delta)
- Programme Harlingen by Ellen Bruin Slot (Municipality Harlingen)
- WattFossilFrei by Christian Bahlke (Mellumrat)
- OBW Omgevingsberaad by Hannelore Strik (OBW)

After these presentations, the chair wrapped up day 1. The excursion was a guided tour through the city and parts of the port of Harlingen.

At Dinner, the chair introduced the participants to the invited guests attending the dinner:

- Mr Arno Brok, Commissioner of the King of the Province of Friesland and Chair of the OBW,
- Ms Ina Sjerps, Mayor of Municipality of Harlingen,
- Ms Caroline van de Pol, Mayor of Municipality of Terschelling and
- Mr Stefan Mohrdieck, Head of County (Landrat) Dithmarschen and Vice-Chair of the WSF plenary.

DAY 2 – 29 March

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed all participants again and opened the meeting at 8:30 hours.

Presentation of Mr Bart Beijloos from Waddenvereniging on their current work and prospects of future work.

4. Steering Committee Meeting

The last Steering Committee (SC) meeting took place on 25 January 2023 in Heide on invitation of Stefan Mohrdieck, head of the county Dithmarschen. Main items were the latest developments in the respective countries as well as developments within the WSF with potentially new topics, as some were presented and discussed yesterday. Furthermore, the SC meeting also discussed about the future involvement of the WSF within the processes of the TWSC. Finally, the SC meeting discussed and drafted the agenda of the WSF-43 plenary meeting.

The next SC meeting will take place approx. six weeks prior to the WSF-44 plenary meeting in autumn 2023. Proposed dates for the WSF-44 are 7-8 or 18-19 September. The venue might be at the county of Friesland, Lower Saxony, but is not settled yet.

6. Progress and Involvements of WSF in projects and TWSC

The WSF secretary gave a short summary of yesterday's presentations. Afterwards, the meeting discussed and decided on the future priorities of the WSF:

Topic	Priority	WSF role	Responsible, participating Organisations
Brown Shrimp Fisheries	high	Facilitation and support of dialogue process	Lead: WSF together with NL Vissersbond
Water as Leverage	high	Networking, support and facilitation dialogue process	Lead: Province of Friesland (NL) Support: WSF
Sustainable Shipping and Ports	high	Facilitation and support of dialogue process - Short advice to WSB41 - Elaborated advice WSB42	Lead: WSF together with WST, TWSP, (SDG House)
E-Boating	medium	Networking and support	Lead: Tbd Support: WSF
Aquaponics	medium	Networking and support (inform RRT)	Lead: AWI Support: WSF
Biological Desalinisation	medium	Networking and support (inform RRT)	Lead: AWI Support: WSF
Sediment small harbours	medium	Networking and support, facilitation of a project	Lead: SVN Support: WSF
Good Water Environment (DK)	low	Receive results and distribute (end of 2023)	Lead: Municipality Varde
High Wind Mills (DK)	low	Prepare paper for the discussion in RRT	Lead: ? Support: WSF
Landschaptriënnale and Wadden Sea Food and Products	Very low	Receive information and distribute	non

Moreover, short presentations about:

Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied (OBW): Mrs Hannelore Strik, secretary of the OBW, introduced the structure, the role and the funding of the OBW. The OBW is acting as Regional Round Table of the WSF and, therefore, looking for the upcoming period in order to get into a closer cooperation on specific topics.

Goose Management: The WSF secretary gave a short summary of the recent activities of the WSF at AEWA level. Three webinars have been conducted with the support of the WSF to inform a broader public on goose management. The first webinar attracted approx. 130 participants.

Sediment Solutions: The WSF secretary informed the meeting that a project application will be submitted by the WSF member SVN in early summer 2023. The proposal is about developing a solution for sedimentation in small harbours along the river Weser. The results of this project should be transferable to other small harbours in the Wadden Sea area.

TrilaWatt: The WSF project officer Zakaria Mohamed and Julian Sievers from smile consult gave an overview about the latest developments and further outcome of the TrilaWatt project. One conclusion was that data is missing on the Danish part of the Wadden Sea. A presentation early March at the RRT DK also asked for supporting the compilation of missing data from DK. Members of the RRT promised to support the TrilaWatt consortium and are trying to find a solution, soon.

SIMP: Soledad Luna presented an overview of the status of the SIMP and a draft document of the operational framework, which will be forwarded to the WSB meeting in May. The WSF plenary asked to get regular updates on the development of the SIMP within the TWSC.

Holwerd aan Zee: Jan Zijlstra introduced to the meeting the ideas of connecting the village Holwerd aan Zee (laying in the inland of the Wadden Sea Region) to the Wadden Sea area by retaining landscape. The project idea started in 2009 with many activities and many steps in order to achieve implementation of the project. In February 2023, an important decision of the Dutch Government built the fundament for the next steps; finally, some funding is missing. Nevertheless, the project shall start in 2025.

Decisions of the WSF plenary to submit papers to the upcoming WSB41:

Shipping: Marine Perrin, BUND Lower Saxony (WSF member), and Arjen Bosch, Spokesman of Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports, presented the results of two shipping projects conducted in the sphere of the TWSC. Both projects (one funded by the WSB, the other one funded by the DBU) led to the signing of 45 organisations of the "Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative (SustSPI)". Mrs Perrin and Mr Bosch asked the WSF plenary for advice on how to proceed after the ending of the Dbu project mid-May and with respect to this give advice to the WSB.

Decision: The WSF plenary decided unanimously to support this request. The WSF plenary instructed the WSF secretary to support the preparation of the short advice for WSB41.

TrilaWatt: TrilaWatt is aiming at compiling a comprehensive database that could be used for several purposes and should build a fundament for different tasks on trilateral level. Therefore, the WSF secretariat as part of the TrilaWatt consortium prepared a communication to the WSB. The aim of this communication is to raise the awareness of the TrilaWatt project and to invite the WSB to consider the processes and results of the TrilaWatt project in the

entire TWSC structure. Furthermore, The TrilaWatt consortium is inviting the WSB to cooperate on developing uses cases jointly and to support the compilation of trilateral data.

Decision: The WSF plenary decided unanimously to submit the communication about TrilaWatt to the WSB41. The WSF plenary instructed the WSF secretary to submit the communication about TrilaWatt in time to the WSB41.

7. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards, OBW and WSB

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

Denmark:

Mr Friis-Hauge briefly introduced the key topics discussed in the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board (DWAB):

- Introduction at the last meeting to become Regional Round Table DK by Preben Friis-Hauge together with a very good presentation by WSF secretary about the thoughts behind the RRT and info on current projects. DWAB agreed upon supporting the WSF to compile missing data for the TrilaWatt project.
- The DWAB got an introduction to the Centre for Wadden Sea Research. It is a new Centre and it could be interesting to follow.
- DWAB got news from the DK National Park Wadden Sea and information about the fish Snapple.

Netherlands: The OBW had given its presentation at day 1 (March 28).

8. Next Meeting

It is planned to have the next WSF-44 meeting on 7-8 or 18-19 September 2023. The venue of the WSF-44 will probably be in the county of Friesland, Lower Saxony, but is not settled yet.

9. Any other business

John Frederiksen, former founding member of the WSF and now retired, introduced his book "The Wadden Sea – nature and cultural heritage" about the entire Wadden Sea area in combination with natural and coastal environment as well as art, nature conservation and start of the trilateral cooperation: <https://friiskshop.de/produkt/the-wadden-sea-nature-and-cultural-heritage/>

Kristen Fromsejer asked about the progress of the planning of the A20 motorway from west to North-East Germany crossing the rivers Weser and Elbe.

10. Closure

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and contributions and closed the meeting at 12:00 hours on 29 March 2023.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of WSF-42**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. WSF Prospects for the Period of the Danish Presidency (2022 – 2026)**
- 5. Steering Committee Meeting**
- 6. Progress and Involvements of WSF in projects and TWSC**
- 7. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards, OBW and WSB**
- 8. Next Meeting**
- 9. Any other business**
- 10. Closure**

ANNEX 3

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DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Priorities of WSF work until 2026:

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*Decision about request to WSB41:*Shipping:

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