

Third ERB Water Working Group meeting in Elblag the 9th of June 2011

When: 10.00 – 17.00, 9th of June 2011

Where: Hotel Pod Lwem, Elblag

Participants:

Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski (ERB secretariat), Tobias Facchini (The Regional Council in Kalmar County), Valdas Langas (CORPI), Monika Oredsson (Region Blekinge), Heidi Samuelsson (Region South Småland), Carolina Gunnarsson (The Regional Council in Kalmar County), Mr Åke Nilsson (The Regional Council in Kalmar County), Mr Boris Chubarenko (Atlantic Branch of the P. P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology) present at item 3-5, Mr Jerzy Wcisła (Regional Office in Elbląg of the Office of the Marshal) only present at the start, Mrs. Teresa Witkowska (Office of the Marshall of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship) present at item 1-2, Ms Magdalena Kinga Skuza (Regional Water Management Board in Gdansk), Mr Sigitas Karbauskas (Mayor of Klaipeda District Municipality), Ms Egle Juozapaviciute (Klaipeda District Municipality)

1. Opening

Mr Åke Nilsson, new chairman of the ERB Water Working Group (ERB WWG) opened the meeting and wished each and everybody welcome. Mr Tobias Facchini, project leader for the MOMENT project, gave a short presentation of the MOMENT project. Ms Carolina Gunnarsson presented the ERB WWG with a historical view. All attendants presented themselves.

The ERB WWG consists of one regional politician and one regional expert from each ERB member. Today, some members hadn't the possibility to participate. Instead colleagues or employees were at place as observers, ready to bring the information home to the ERB WWG members.

2. Overview of ERB WWG responsibilities and assignments within the MOMENT project

5.1 Develop ERB WG to a political working group with new tasks

Part time implemented se above.

5.2 Scanning, existing WUPs and innovative projects. Report.

Completed

5.3 Comparison - "Evaluation of implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) within participating nations"

Ms Cecilia Näslund has had the overall responsibility to carry out a report that compares the implementation of the WFD within the countries that participate within MOMENT (Russia has though been excluded as they are not EU members and consequently do not have to implement EU directives). Pilot area coordinators Ms Kinga Skuza (Buada River) and Mr Valdas Langas (Akmene-Dane River) have assisted her with relevant information.

Tobias presented the draft report that was delivered to the participants a week before the meeting. Several interesting aspects about differences and similarities between the WFD implementation have been pointed out in the report. Among else;

- Differences in classification of ecological status
- Environmental objectives – *strength in permissions, control and enforcement*
- Concrete measures or not
- Different financial possibilities for measures

After the presentation the group discussed how the report can be used and if there are any further aspects that should be clarified/studied. It was agreed to look at the possibilities to add a Russian comparison to the study. The project manager will take contact with MOMENT Russian partners. It was also agreed to write an article highlighting the main conclusions from the report and spreading it to relevant forums, e.g. MOMENT website, EU-commission, HELCOM, other Baltic Sea stakeholders and relevant publications. A draft version will be sent to the ERB WWG for comments and remarks before the end of July.

5.4 Regular reporting and anchoring in ERB.

The group discussed the importance of regular reporting and anchoring in the home organisations. The politicians in the ERB WWG have the responsibility to bring the results and questions back to the boards at home.

The ERB WWG wants the MOMENT project leader to produce some power-point pictures presenting the MOMENT project, which then can be used by all working group members for presentations at home. The pilot area coordinators can be used to translate the slides from English to the national language if necessary.

It was also underlined the importance to, when implementing information activities at home, give a report to the MOMENT project manager. This is important for the dissemination and for our reporting to the South Baltic Joint Technical Secretariat.

Ms Heidi Samuelsson also mentioned that they had plans of inviting the project manager to come inform about the project at one of their board meetings.

5.5 C3 joint report - "Water management through WUPs"

5.6 C4 joint report "Best practice for decreased water pollution"

Report 5.5 and 5.6 will be based on inputs from the ERB WWG and the experiences and results from the MOMENT project, thereby allowing the ERB WWG to influence the content of the report if they consider that there are any specific statements or clarifications that need to be done. It was also mentioned that any specific request or suggestions concerning these two reports can at any time be sent to the project manager.

5.7 Political statement, based on the project experiences, signed by the ERB WWG and presented for the ERB board and member boards.

Will be based on the reports mentioned above. However, the ERB WWG can of course at any moment make a statement if there is a need.

3. ERB WWG statement to the forthcoming EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) revision

It was agreed that the ERB WWG will prepare a political statement concerning the revision of the EUSBSR. The political statement will be discussed at the ERB Annual Forum in September, and presented at the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Gdansk in October 2011.

The dialogue and aspects of the statement that were discussed during this meeting will be summarized and sent out to the group members for further consultations. It was also decided that regions of the ERB organisation that were not present should have the opportunity to give comments regarding the statement before it is submitted to the ERB Board.

4. Showcase Water – a new horizontal action within the EUSBSR

Ms Carolina Gunnarsson presented the new horizontal action named "Strengthening multi-level governance, place-based spatial planning and sustainable development" that Kalmar County together with the region of Västerbotten is responsible for. As a part of this work, a Showcase consisting of the ERB regions experience, both past and present, for a cleaner Baltic Sea is to be described as a way of working within the horizontal action. At present however, most of the described water activities, ongoing work, initiatives and good examples in the Showcase are in general from Sweden and in particular from Kalmar County. Therefore Carolina asked for more inputs from the other regions making it possible to develop the description so that it, in the end, will give a full picture on multi-level water governance in the ERB region. Russia is not a part of the EU co-operation. Nevertheless the co-operation between Kaliningrad Region and the other ERB members is well established and of high importance, which clearly motivates including Kaliningrad Region as an important part of this showcase.

5. Other

Mr Tobias Facchini presented ideas for a new project that would be built on the MOMENT project experiences. The main objective would be to develop a new modelling tool that takes cost-effectiveness, best practices and best location into account when implementing measures needed to improve the water quality in each pilot area. The platform for this work would be the already established Water User Partnerships. The ERB WG agreed on that Tobias could start working with an application for a new project.

It was agreed that the Danish region Bornholm should be contacted and once again invited to take part in the ERB WWG forthcoming events.

6. Next meeting

Next meeting will be held in connection at the ERB annual forum Tuesday 27th of September 2011, in Gdansk, Poland.

Tobias Facchini