

Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Subgroup for Hotspots Exclusion

Telephone Meeting on 23rd of June 2011, at 13.00 – 14.15 CET

Agenda

- 1) The meeting was opened in time scheduled, with representation of Finland (Henna Haapala), Sweden (Åke Mikaelsson), NEFCO (Henrik G Forsström), Norway (Barbro Thomsen), and Russia (Ruslan Butovsky from Fund for Sustainable Development representing MNRE)
- 2) The Agenda was adopted, Åke Mikaelsson was appointed Chair of the meeting and Ruslan Butovsky Secretary
- 3) The Minutes of the SHE11 Meeting of May 26th, 2011, SHE12 on June 2nd, 2011 and from SHE13 on June 9th, 2011 were reviewed and adopted with minor comments.
- 4) Ruslan Butovsky reported that since the former SHE meeting in Syktyvkar no new information was received, but more information is expected during the Murmansk meeting.
- 5) SHE is still waiting for the detailed definition of the exclusion procedure from Andrey Peshkov including his presentations on Fast Track Exclusion done in Syktyvkar. It is important to get the format and parameters for the regional HEGs to present the environmental status and the environmental performance of the Hot Spots, in particular those to be excluded from the list. It is possible to involve Yulia Kovtun as MNRE staff member for collection of missing information from MNRE, Rosprirodnadzor and to present it to SHE. Another important issue is the use of relevant experts both in Russia (regional and federal levels) and other countries involved. As the Hot Spots cover different technical areas, there is a need to involve more than one expert from each country. Henna Haapala commented that we need more documentation and information before we put forward the exclusion applications to our respective experts. Barbro Thomsen echoed this and raised the point that there needs to be sufficient time for the experts to assess the applications for exclusion and give their recommendations. . It is important to develop a realistic roadmap (logical timeframe) for HS exclusion now, considering also the summer holidays.
- 6) a) Ruslan Butovsky reported about the regional SHE seminar to be held in Murmansk July 7th. The program and the list of participants are available and will be send to all SHE group members. The local organizers will do the best to invite the representatives of

Karelian SHE. Several SHE group members expressed their interest in participating in the seminar: Barbro Thomsen and possibly Ingrid Lillehagen Andersen from the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Åke Mikaelsson, Henrik Forsstrom. Also the information will be sent to Riitta Hemmi from the Finnish Ministry of Environment and to Jari Pasanen from the North Finnish Administration of Economy, Traffic and Environment..

b) The Arkhangelsk HEG is planned for July 22 and Åke Mikaelsson is waiting for the confirmation of the date from the regional Ministry. All SHE group members are invited to participate.'

c) All SHE will meet in Moscow in August 25-26, 2011 as a part of the joint regional HEG meeting organized by MNRE.

7) In Syktyvkar it was decided to develop a time frame (roadmap) for HS exclusion with setting up several deadlines. Åke will make the first draft of the procedure with deadlines, assuming that all documents should be ready by August 3, 2011 for those hotspots to be submitted for exclusion in November 2011. This also means that the technical experts should be involved in the assessment process from the beginning of September to mid-October. It is important also to update the SHE work program.

8) The summer vacations of SHE members are distributed as follows:

Mikaelsson -	July, 25 - August, 24
Haapala -	mid July - mid August
Thomsen -	July, 15 - August, 22
Forsstrom -	weeks 28, 30, 31
Butovsky -	August, 1-20
Peshkov -	July, 10 - August, 20

9) Henrik informed the SHE that Sweden agreed to finance Irina Nazarova for one more year, so she will be engaged in the International Barents Secretariat. Åke reminded SHE that Anna Lund in Syktyvkar asked for a contribution from the SHE (press-release) to be published on the website of Barents Observer. SHE members discussed this proposal, and it was decided that the best time for publication will come later, when several HS will be ready for exclusion from the list. However, it was agreed that Åke prepares a draft press-release with very basic information, to be discussed at the SHE 15 meeting.

10) SHE 15 is planned for July 8 in Murmansk and SHE 16 is planned for August, 25-26 in Moscow.