



Minutes on meeting of the Regional Working Group on Environment / WGE Subgroup on water issues

Date: 25 April, 2013

Time: 09.00 - 12.00

Place: Rovaniemi, Hotel Santa Claus

Participants: Tero Väisänen, Raija Urpelainen, Ilona Grekelä, Lotten Sjölander, Mats Kullberg, Ruslan Kayumov, Bente Christiansen, Anna Prakhova and Jari Pasanen (chairman)

MINUTES

Opening and welcome

Jari Pasanen opened the meeting and representatives introduced themselves.

Adoption of the meeting programme

The meeting program was adopted

Adoption of the minutes from the last meetings

The minutes were adopted

Adoption of the action program 2013-2015 for the RWGE

Action program of the RWGE was dated and comments on the changes were asked beforehand. These changes are not very big comparing to previous version, but the new version is shorter and more focused on Finnish expertise during the Finnish chairmanship. Also climate change issues are listed in the action program.

Jari Pasanen presented the new version. Some comments were presented.

Bente Christiansen: Addition on ecosystems is needed and addition about Sami people. Also the impact of reindeer herding on the environment and biodiversity should be mentioned more closely. BAT (best available technique) work is also everyday cooperation between Finland and Norway, as well as between Finland and Sweden. BAT work is so important, that it should to be mentioned in also the program. Cooperation on land use plans should to be mentioned in the program. Bente Christiansen will send her comments on the text soon after the meeting.

The action program was adopted with these changes. The final version will be sent to the members of the RWGE and WGE Subgroup on water issues after the meeting.

Project list of the RWGE

A dated list of the environment project, implemented since 1995 by the background organizations of the RWGE, was presented by Jari Pasanen.

Bente Christiansen mentioned that participation in the project implementation should be written more clearly in the list.

Tero Väisänen raised up a financing question. Also the financial organizations should to be mentioned in the list, even if they are not implementing the projects. Regional environmental administrations will be also a financial organizations in the future.

Lotten Sjölander proposed an idea on connecting the table list with GIS map and making it more visual.

It was decided to develop this project table before next meeting based on the feedback from the participants.

New Barents Programme

The draft version of the Barents programme was sent beforehand to the members of the working groups. Environment issues are presented in the programme.

Barents cooperation has been continued for years and regional level is a important part of the Barents cooperation. It's also very important, that Russian regional representatives could participate in the meetings and also in the Barents cooperation in general.

Climate change has to be one of priorities in the new Barents programme. Bente Christiansen suggested an addition concerning biodiversity and maintain of ecosystems.

Kirkenes declaration II

The declaration is under updating. There should be a possibility to comment and to put regional main topics into the declaration.

New ENPI-program (ENI)

Jari Pasanen told about a new ENPI-program (ENI). Regional working groups have to be in cooperation with other regional actors during the preparation of the new ENI-program. A need of including Republic of Komi into the new ENI Programme was stressed in the meeting.

Coming activities in the groups work and project activities in the Barents area

In the previous meeting there were detailed presentations on the ongoing projects. Short overview was presented by Jari Pasanen on these projects:

- Interreg financed project (TRIWA) has got an additional money for field work, reporting and an international seminar.
- WFD – seminar was arranged in Murmasnsk last November with Finnish and Russian participation.
- Cooperation between transboundary water commissions: Bente Christiansen suggested to invite Finnish-Russian transboundary water commission to a meeting of the Finnish-Norwegian transboundary water commission.
- Arkhangelsk project: 17 persons from Russian environment authorities were visiting in Oulu, Helsinki and Luleå in spring 2013. The main topics of the project are waste water and drinking water. The group visited earlier in Komi, Karelia and Murmansk looking for experiment on the issue. During the trip to Finland the group visited in waste water treatment plants in Helsinki and Oulu, as well as drinking water plants. In Luleå the groups was especially interested in technologies on using artificial drinking water and removing organic material from the water. Experts from universities of Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Uhta are also involved in the project. The final seminar of the project will take place in September.
- TEC (ENPI): information on the project is published on BEAR webpage.
- Salmon project (ENPI): very good cooperation during the project is carried out using local tradition knowledge. Local fishermen have been participated in the project. The final seminar of the project will be arranged in December and the final report will be written in the end of this year.

New ENPI projects, which are not included into the action program, were presented:

Tero Väisänen told about environmental monitoring concept for pulp, paper and mining sector (EnMonCon-project). Lead Partner is EHP-Tekniikka Ltd, Oulu and total budget is 452 000 €. Environmental monitoring equipments will be developed in the project.

Bente Christiansen informed on food and health security project in the Norwegian, Russian and Finnish border regions. Lead partner of the project is Norwegian Institute of Air Research (NILU) and the project is approved by the RN commission as a part of the Commission programme.

Work on the Multiuse plan for Pasvik is carried out with ideas of revising the plan and checking its implementation on the Norwegian side.

Other business

No other business

Next meeting

Next WGE meeting is planned to be arranged in Oulu on September and the ministerial meeting in the end of this year in Inari.

Next RWGE/SWI meeting will be arranged back-to-back with WGE meeting in Oulu on September.

Closing of the meeting

Jari Pasanen thanked the participants and closed the meeting.