

Seagull Water expert meeting in Kaliningrad March 24th 2004. Minutes.

Participants:

Mr Boris Chubarenko, Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Russia.
Mr Janis Jurgis, Kurzeme Reg. Development Agency, Latvia
Mr Andrzej Lewandowski, Director GEOMOR, Poland
Mr Nerijus Nika, Klaipeda University, CORPI, Lithuania
Ms Carolina Gunnarsson, project leader WP2, Sweden
Mr Lennart Gustavsson, chairman of The Lyckeby River Water Ass. Board
Mr Karl-Erik Hällstrand, secretary of The Lyckeby River Water Ass. Sweden.
Mr Artem Shibin, ABIORAS, Russia
Ms Inga Igoshina, ABIORAS, Russia
Mr Feliks Alekseev, Kaliningrad regional public organization “Ecological union Right to life”, Russia

Welcome

Boris opened the meeting and wished everybody welcome to Kaliningrad.

Presentation and background

The meeting starts with an introduction of the participants. Carolina expresses her satisfaction that all of the member-countries for the first time are represented in one meeting.

We have three main issues to discuss.

1. How to finish our status-report to the ERB council
2. How to form our input to Seagull.
3. How to present different part of Seagull and discuss the time table for the continuation.

At the moment we have two pilot areas, one in Russia – Primorska River, and one in Sweden – Lyckeby River.

Reports so far in WP 2:

1. The Lyckeby River. An attitude investigation.
2. The Lyckeby River Water Management Association.
3. Water management and water protection. Co-operation in Southeast Sweden.

Russia.

Kaliningrad started the work with WP 2 – Seagull adjusted to Russian conditions.

Concerning river basin management or catchment area management Kaliningrad could apply “local laws”. Russian law is not very well structured and some “gaps” in the legislation can be filled with local regulations.

Water within the ERB – description of the situation of today. Carolina has got a file with information.

Practical example. The Primorska River has started working on volunteer basis. Workshops and seminars are planned. One workshop was carried out yesterday. Cooperating with Poland on educational level.

Latvia.

All data is presented on central level. Up to now monitoring activities were centralized. From this year 5 districts are formed.

Peoples attitude to water is changing. They now want to know what and how to do. Plans for actions will be taken next year. A number of questions remains to be answered.

No pilot area will be established. Perhaps a smaller area in cooperation with other part. A Phare project was started in -03 connected to Seagull and concerning the same three sectors, Water management, Innovative environments and Rural development.

Sweden.

Pilot area Lyckeby River. The school project is carried out and leaflets with information, suitable for a school lesson by the River is available at the homepage of Lyckeby River Water Association, www.lyckebyan.org.

The Swedish working group has made a SWOT-analysis. The group also arranged a seminar mars -03 about the EU water directive, and is now working with the coming international meeting in Karlskrona May -04.

Lithuania.

The EU framework is being bedded into national law. No Phare money has been allocated to the Seagull project. Don't know yet how to inform citizens about the Water directive. Two representatives, working with the implementation, come from the CORPI institution, which is a very strong part of the University.

Poland

Several regional boards are dealing with water issues. No pilot area is determined.

Experiences from cooperation between Poland and Kaliningrad in Vistula region will be shown. No earlier experience from public participation. No economical support from Phare or Seagull so far, probably next year. An application has been accepted.

Kaliningrad

A working group started this year discussing how to cooperate. Local economy plans do not include environment. Social and working issues have higher priority.

Draft strategy for ERB

Carolina presented a draft long term strategy for development of ERB, which has been worked out by Seagull WP 1 (re-drafted 2004-03-11). The working group has the following comments, which will be forwarded to the project leader.

- Area 1. We suggest the use of “*sustainable growth*” instead of “economically sustainable development”. “Sustainable growth” is the generally accepted expression for an economic growth that also considers social and environmental effects.
- Area 1. We suggest the following addition; , but also as regards *environmental issues* as well as social and regulatory transparency and stability.

- Area 3. The question was raised – *why just public health/health care sector?* Maybe there is a need of a short explication?
- Area 4. *Concordance* headline and text? Tourism in the headline, innovation in the text.
- When talking about energy, there is a need of clarifying that one of the objectives is to *decrease the discharge of greenhouse gases*.
- The interaction with the *national level* in each country is important, if we want the goals to be realized. Anyhow, the national level isn't mentioned at all in the strategy?

Status report about water within ERB

Andrzej:

We must point out what is the most urgent problem at the moment. There are different problems in different areas. The draft must be firm and make clear what should be the main goal in each area.

Carolina:

There are a lot of empty headlines in the draft report. How do we make our part in this project the best way? Should we work according to the model or otherwise?

There was quite an intense discussion around the table about the structure of the document and how to unite on common conclusions.

Andrzej:

Kaliningrad has problems with eutrophication in rivers. The same problem has Poland and the other member countries. There are also problems with point sources. We should focus on these common problems without caring for rates and figures.

Janis:

Another common problem is lack of monitoring. Coordinated monitoring could be interesting as well as a summary of specified problems from each country.

*All present representatives agree to working in accordance to the presented document. First deadline is **April 15**, finale deadline (information from each region to Carolina) is **May 7**.*

Report nr 2, about strategies and priorities, will be discussed after the conference in Karlskrona, May 27-28. A first discussion followed, some items were mentioned:

- 1 Drinking water
- 2 Eutrophication – Vistula Lagoon
- 3 Citizens participation
- 4 Monitoring
- 5 Transboundary management

Future work

April 15	First input from each partner to the status report to Carolina.
April 19	Carolina sends a revised draft of the status report to WWG.
May 7	Final deadline, input to status report.
May 10	Carolina sends a revised draft of the status report to WWG. This text will also be used as a base for the conference May 27-28.

May 27-28	Water within ERB. International conference in Sweden. Invitation will be sent within some weeks.
September 22	Seagull Water expert meeting in Poland
September 23-24	ERB conference in Poland
Nov 29 – Dec 3	Seagull Water expert meeting in Kaliningrad.

/Karl-Erik Hällstrand and Carolina Gunnarsson