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## **Minutes, Seagull Water expert meeting in Gdansk 2005-04-12**

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### **1. ERB Joint Transnational Development Programme**

Seagull Water has delivered an input (dated 2005-02-28) to the overall Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP). Most of the ideas from Seagull Water are also included in the draft JTDP, although expressed in other words or under other headlines. The draft JTDP contains 14 suggestions or measures, presented under five strategic areas. An executive summary of the JTDP is available on [www.eurobalt.org](http://www.eurobalt.org), in all languages except Russia. The draft JTDP is now open for comments until 10 May. Then the JTDP will be modified, according to the comments from the ERB partners and other organizations. The final JTDP is supposed to contain less than 10 concrete suggestions/measures.

Seagull Water will develop the memo from February 28, and present this as the final report from Seagull Water. Some changes were suggested at the meeting and some comments will be sent to Carolina within some days. After that a new (final?) version will be presented for the working group.

### **2. ERB Water Forum**

One of the suggested measures in the draft JTDP is about establishing an ERB Water Forum. The meeting discussed possible ways for implementation.

The main objective is to connect practice, science, policy and decision making about water within the ERB area, making it possible to exchange experiences, discuss common questions, priorities etc.

- ✓ Permanent expert competence with the main target to gather and refine the experiences from implemented actions among the ERB partners, promote the regional competences, mediate contacts and increase co-operation between administration, science and industry.
- ✓ External expert panel, to secure the quality of the performed activities.
- ✓ Special focus on establishment of river basin water management co-operation for **transboundary** basins and Water User Partnerships with great extend of private, public and academic participation (Triple Helix)
- ✓ Web site open to public

The Seagull Steering Committee has approved the idea to arrange a first ERB Water Forum conference within the frame of the ongoing Seagull project, i.e. latest October 2005. After discussion the today Seagull Water Expert meeting decided to plan for an ERB Water Forum “kick-of-meeting” in October, as a first step. During this kick-of-meeting we hope to reach an agreement about establishing an ERB Water Forum.

To reach results, it is important to involve the bodies from each region that are responsible for water management.

Poland: Regional Water Management Boards, Marshall Offices, Voivodships, inspectors of environment.

Russia: Central ministry → regional water authorities

Sweden: Regional Water Management Boards, County Administrative Boards, local municipalities.

Other important target groups are ERB politicians and officers, university sector, project leaders, business sector and NGOs.

There will be a big conference in Klaipeda October 4-9, the 2<sup>nd</sup> European conference about coastal lagoons. This means that many concerned researches will be at place. Boris will check the possibility to arrange an ERB Water Forum “kick-of-meeting” in connection to this conference and give an answer to Carolina a.s.a.p. Boris will also send some background information to Carolina. We need ½ day, to be able to present the ERB Water Forum idea, give time for discussion and (hopefully) a final agreement about continued work.

To be able to realize an ERB Water Forum it is important to co-operate with other projects and organizations, and identify in which areas there is a need of a new actor. BERNET is an important actor (Mogens Michael Möller and other). BSRP another (agriculture, Kaliningrad). Another example is the already existing Curonian Lagoon Water Forum.

The European Office in Kronoberg County has made an inventory of key persons. This inventory is a good base for an ERB Water Forum and will work as a “living document”. We will continuously add new persons and organizations.

The group discussed the possibility to built an ERB Water Forum as an INTERREG project. If so, there might be a possibility to apply for seed money in September 2005? Carolina will check this.

Seagull WP 2 will be able to cover the costs for the kick-of meeting itself. It will also cover

travels and accommodation for one representative from each region and for some experts.

Karlskrona Municipality will, in co-operation with the Seagull Water Expert group, be responsible for the planning of the kick-off-meeting. A first announcement has to be sent in June, the final invitation in August.

### 3. Environmental competence

Concerning Kaliningrad, Boris suggested to concentrate on low level, municipality staff (for example officers responsible for perspective review), NGO, academic. It is strategic important to concentrate on young people in the local administrations. They often know English and they are the future decision makers.

### 4. Other

Carolina and Boris discussed the edition "Transboundary waters and water basins in the South-Eastern Baltic. Boris will check the cost for language check. Preliminary 1000-1400 EURO for printing, which is possible to cover from Seagull WP2.

Timetable:

- April/May change of papers Carolina/Boris
- Texts ready 1 June
- Language control June
- Layout, last corrections August
- Print September
- Issue October