

World Wetland Network

MINUTES

March 14th / 15th 2011

March 14th - 15.00hrs US / 15.00 hrs Costa Rica / 21.00hrs UK / 21.00hrs Gambia
(220) 7748234 or 9946991 / 22.00hrs Netherlands / 23.00hrs Romania +40722459119

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March 15th - 6.00hrs Japan / 7.00hrs Australia

Participants:

Chris Rostron (Chair)
Baboucarr Mbye (Africa Rep)
Peter Lengyel (Co-chair and Europe
Rep) +40 722 459 119
Minoru Kashiwagi (Asia Rep)

Apologies:

Cassie Price (Oceania Rep)
Esteban Biamonte (Secretary)
Melissa Marin (Neotropics Rep)
Luc Hoogenstein (Technical support)
Julie Langenberg, ICF (North America
Rep)

1. Matters arising from last meeting

All expressed deep concern for colleagues in Japan after the recent disaster, and MK thanked everyone for their messages. The situation continues to be serious.

MM still to talk to BM about joint Africa / Neotropics projects. PL talked to the Governor at Danube Delta, and there is currently no activity to report on preparations for the Ramsar COP.

2. World Wetland Awards

All happy with the approach outlined that will simplify the voting process, increase WWN committee regional representation, and work with WWN members to increase the information and representation at the Ramsar COP. PL suggested more work in the field / training prior to the COP. BM and MK suggested better preparation for NGO's prior to the COP to help them take an active part. Also suggested that the next bid contain something to support exploration of the constitution of WWN and formation of a business plan.

3. WWN development

BM is working with colleagues in Africa to submit a bid for a WWN Africa meeting, to be held in Uganda.

JL has been working with colleagues to carry out an inventory of wetland NGOs in the US. Energising the membership. PL suggested adding people to the listserv to make them join. CR has already sent out invites, but few have joined. **CR to send PL the list which PL will add to the listserv.** Keep on sending out information via the listserv and that will get responses. BM – need to keep putting things on the website if we want people to look at it. How about video clips from members and sites? BM keen to get Africa colleagues using skype once a month to discuss, or even via mobile phone calls. Put notes from these chats on the website to show what we are doing.

Meeting with Ramsar, IUCN and WWF this month. Likely to be around the 29th of March. PL may be nearby, will check his itinerary. **CR to send note about content of meet to BM, including the cost,** who is an IUCN rep and could get funding possibly.

4. Constituting WWN

Feedback from CR on discussions with WWT. See additional notes on constitution. After meetings within WWT, it seems there are several issues. Firstly, that it is time-consuming and relatively expensive to constitute a group. Secondly, that we do not have an active enough membership to make this worthwhile at the moment. Thirdly, we have not yet created a business plan to show how we will be financially sustainable once we are constituted – without longer term funding, or our members paying, or a bigger sponsor, this will be difficult. The conclusion is that we should wait until after the Ramsar COP and then reassess our situation, as long as WWT is happy to continue hosting WWN (which it is currently).

5. Communication and membership

New regional member – Gidon Bromberg, Friends of the Earth Middle East. **KM will contact GB to discuss next steps, and then meet via Skype with GB and CR.**

6. AOB and date / time of next meeting

BM asked how the committee will continue at COP11, whether the members will be replaced by new ones. Is there a term of membership? This is not clear currently, but we will aim to keep the existing expertise and enthusiasm, and use COP11 as an opportunity to find additional members that can help us with our work. **BM to write letter of support for Japanese colleagues** after the recent earthquake and tsunami.

Date of next meeting: 5th / 6th April 2011 at usual times. NB to Chris, check daylight savings time!