NORTH SEA COMMISSION

Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Minutes of the 49th NSC Executive Committee Meeting16th October 2008 at the Shetland Museum & Archives, Lerwick, Shetland, Scotland

NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark)
Vice - President	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland)
Vice – President	Cllr. Rinske Krusinga (Netherlands)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Harry Jensen (Region Midtjylland)
Dutch Representative	not represented
English Representative	Cllr. Kevan Lim (East of England Regional Assembly)
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	not represented
Norwegian Representative	not represented
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City)
Swedish Representative	not represented
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Culture and Tourism	not represented
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland)
	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City)
Sustainable Development	Cllr. John Lamb (EERA)
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
	Cllr. Josie Simpson (Shetland)
	Cllr. Harry Jensen (Region Midtjylland)
Transport	not represented

NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland)
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland)
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City)
Marine Resources	not represented
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder)

Supporting officers and Observers:

Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire)
Sally Spence (Shetland)
Cecilia Lagerdahl (Region Västra Götaland)
Hilde Donker (Noord - Holland)
John Didier Hache (CPMR)
Cllr. Leslie Angus (Shetland)
Austin Taylor (Shetland)
Cllr. Jim Henry (Shetland)

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John Maiat, KIMO
Tony Hawkins, NSRAC

Apologies:

Ann Bell
Henrik Ringbæk Madsen
Michael Nielsen
Henrik M Jensen
Michelle Armstong
Martin Kayenburg
Uwe Döring
Twan Janssen
Gisle Handeland
Anne Robertson
Annelie Stark
Leif Blomqvist
Tore Westermoen

The Vice - President Sandy Cluness started the meeting by welcoming everybody to Shetland. President Gunn Marit Helgesen thanked for the invitation.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

1. Minutes last meting, Herning, 13 June 2008.

Decision:
The minutes were approved.

2. Reports :

- from the thematic groups
- summary Brussels activities for the NSC
- from NSC-BSC cooperation
- from CPMR Energy group
- from Territorial Cohesion group
- from Aquamarina working group

All reports are available on the NSC website, **www.northsea.org**

- from CPMR General Assembly

CPMR General Assembly – John Didier Hache informed about the survey on the future of the CPMR and the discussions from Bayonne GA. The results of the survey are available on the CPMR website; **http://www.cpmr.org/pub/cr/58_exploitation_rponses_questionnaire_ag_2008-en.pdf**

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The Executive Secretaries will meet early December to prepare a paper for the Political Bureau in January 09 regarding the results and the process of recruiting a new General Secretary. In March 09 Xavier Gizard will retire and a new General Secretary will be approved at the GA on Gothenburg.

Members from NSC would like an early information on big issues to have time to discuss before decisions are made in CPMR.

Decision:
The reports with their recommendations were approved.

3. Elections of NSC Office bearers

Election of Vice-Chair for the Sustainable Development group.

There were tree candidates for the position for the Executive Committee to elect from.

Decision:
Cllr. Helge Jansen (Land Schleswig-Holstein) was elected as Vice-Chair for the Sustainable Development Group.

4. NSC Work Plans 2008 - 2009

The thematic groups were complimented on their work reflected in their Work Plans and that the groups now are more focused with fewer themes.

Decision:
The Work Plans were approved

5. NSC Finances,

The Executive Secretary commented on the financial status. Before the meeting all members except two had paid their members fee. The finances are under control and NSC will see a small surplus for 2008. This includes the costs of upgrade the website covered by this years budget. A overview of the budget of 14 Nov 2008 as asked for in the meeting are enclosed this minutes, Appendix 1.

Decision:
The finances were approved and an updated status will follow the minutes.

6. NSC Organisational issues

Follow paper up on reports “Promoting the Success of the NSC” and the follow up paper with recommendations from the Strategic Committee of 13.10.08..
Proposal for a Maritime policy pilot project
Draft programme for Maritime Week event, 18-19 May 2009
Letter from Aberdeenshire Council regarding Maritime week 2009

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The paper of 13.10.08 was divided into tree categories of action;

- Category 1: Recommendations easily implementable in short term, requiring no or few additional resources.
- Category 2: Recommendations to be implemented on medium term, requiring more preparations and resource allocations than category 1.
- Category 3: Recommendations for longer term, requiring principled policy decisions and resource allocations to be implemented

The suggestion for a Maritime policy pilot project came up at the GA in Herning. The Maritime policy pilot project was supported as an idea but must be worked on more to be more concrete, the Marine Resources group is responsible to make a draft project proposal.

A draft version of the new NSC website was presented.

Decision:

- ***The Executive Committee supports the following recommendations in the follow up of the report Promoting the Success of the NSC and the recommendations of 13.10.08 from the Strategic Committee ;***
    - *Recommendation 1: Professional marketing experts (internal or external) are identified and commissioned to develop the North Sea Commission brand.*
    - *Recommendation 2: Publicity materials, including templates, presentations, banners, leaflets and a newsletter are updated/produced, based on the NSC brand.*
    - *Recommendation 3: A members survey of the current website is undertaken to guide the development of the revised NSC website.*
    - *Recommendation 4: The NSC brand should be supported through the website through strengthening the homepage and developing separate sections on the outcomes of the consultancy exercise and a link to the NSC corporate presentation.*
    - *Recommendation 5: A section of profiles on NSC Executive Committee members, Thematic Groups Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Advisers is included in the revised website.*
    - *Recommendation 6: The structure of NSC meetings should be examined to identify means of incorporating networking sessions with local Politicians, groups and media contacts in the hosting regions.*
    - *Recommendation 7: A North Sea Commission Communications Strategy, setting out protocols for publicising the organisation, is developed.*

  In addition;

    - *Joint organisation of thematic meetings in conjunction with Executive meetings (only Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Advisers)*
    - *All thematic groups meet on the Tuesday before the Annual Conference starts at the venue for the conference (all group members)*
    - *Organise Road shows in selected (non- or less active) regions to promote the work of the NSC*
    - *Assign national members of the Executive with specific responsibilities for:*
        - *Reporting regularly to Ex Com and General Assembly about NSC-relevant developments in their respective countries*
        - *Building awareness of the NSC and strengthen relations with the national*
        - *Leading ad hoc-groups and coordinating various investigations and studies, for instance on organisational matters*
    - *Seeking discussions with the INTERREG IVB North Sea Programme Secretariat on ways of strengthening the links between the NSC and the Programme.*

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- *Arrange a meeting with the NSP Secretariat to agree on common priorities and operational "modalities"*

- ***The Executive Committee asks the thematic groups for input before making decisions on the Category 2 actions.***

- ***The Executive Committee supports the Maritime Policy Pilot Project and ask the Marine Resources group to follow up the project idea.***

- ***The update on the Maritime Week 09 is for information. NSC will nominate one representative to Chair one of the sessions.***

- ***NSC supports the Maritime Week financially with maximum 4000 £***

- ***The work for updating the NSC website was for information***

7. NSC GA 09

The 18th General Assembly will be in Noord-Holland in 23rd. to 26th June 2009. This will be a joint conference with the Interreg North sea programme using the same setup as for GA 08 in Herning. Commissioner Borg is invited to speak at the conference Thursday.

The Executive Committee discussed the idea of joint meetings for the thematic groups in connection with the GA and supported the idea of inviting all groups to hold a meeting on the 23 June as one of the group's regular meetings. This to save costs and time for members to travel to NSC meetings.

Decision:
The set up for the GA 09 were approved.

The Executive Committee supports the idea of a joint meeting the day before the GA starts (23 June) for all thematic groups and asks the Adviser s and the Secretariat to prepare this for the GA09.

8. Next meeting

The Executive Committee is invited to Kristiansand in Vest-Agder, Norway late March 09.

The prepared papers for the meeting are available on the NSC website; **www.northsea.org**

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Appendix 1

Accounts for NSC of 14 November 2008.

	Submission	**Budget**
	pr. 14.11.2008	**for 2008**
INCOME:		
Membership subscription	132 950	135 906
INCOME:	132 950	135 906
EXPENDITURE:		
General Assembly Expenses	23 500	25 906
Promotional Expenditure	2 078	7 000
Travel, Accommodation, etc.	27 471	24 000
Thematic Groups, meetings	14 835	15 000
Co-ordinator Support	55 540	55 000
Telf. adm, internet, etc	4 476	9 000
EXPENDITURE	127 900	135 906
DISPOSAL:		
Surplus previous years	79 291	

The budget states an income of 135.906 Euro but are in reality 132 950 Euro. The difference is due to changes in the exchange rate. In this setup are all major expenditures for 2008 paid, there are expected expenditures for the rest of the year of approx.1500 Euro for travel costs.