

Minutes from the 5th regular meeting of the Joint Working Group  
held on 29-03-2007,  
from 10.00am – 01:00pm  
in the room 301 of the Water Directorate

Present: Arpad Varga (Srbijavode), Dragana Milovanovic (WD - replaced Valentina for the co-chairing), STE Peter Kessler, Milica Nadezdic (RHMS), Olivera Gavrilovic (Vode Vojvodine), Sanja Pantelic (Vode Vojvodine), Claus Heuberger, Christian Ebel, Ivana Ivkovic, Jovana Nastasijevic

Introduction into the 5th meeting of the JWG – no addenda to the submitted agenda.

1. Presentation of the STEs – Claus: this week, there are 6 STEs, but only Mr Peter Kessler present since the others are rather busy.

Peter: explained his activity (1.3.3 - Upgrading administrative structures for enforcement) and the purpose of his mission. In December, he and Mr Mayer have had a mission concerning the activity 1.1.1 – Analysis of the administrative structures and have made a report. In 1.3.3, it is to go more detailed into the subject.

1st part of the job includes the depth analysis of the RHMS, WD present tasks and also tasks of the other institutions involved (less detailed, since not directly in the Contract) – SEPA, EPD of the Ministry of Science and Env. Prot., Ministry for Agric., Forestry and WM, Vode Vojvodine and Srbijavode. J.Cerni is also to be included into this, but we are not sure about the exact position of this institution.

2nd part includes the shortcomings of the present situation – overlapping tasks, no clear division of responsibilities, hierarchy lines, etc.

3rd part is concerning the water permitting process and enforcement of them as well – issuing, control – since it is a very important moment of the law enforcement.

4th part – proposal of the structure.

5th part – for the future is valuable to know that the admin. structures can't be changed in a day, so the German part will propose a procedure, a step-by-step approach with an ideal construction „how it should be“. Peter explained it as a two-pillar process, whereby one of the pillars represents the structure itself – hierarchy and who does what; and the 2nd pillar stays for the ways, i.e. „how to do“, all together with the communication paths within each of the institutions and between them. This construction should also be the part of the report concerning this activity.

Smaller block is dealing with the river basin districts. According to the Contract, there should be an Action Plan developed as a result of this. Comments from the Serbian part are welcome.

A. Varga said it was an excellent draft, and will be successful if the corresponding instruments for its enforcement are found.

P. Kessler said that the implementation is the task of the Serbian part. We know it is a

political issue and it can be made easier exactly by applying the step-by-step approach, whereby the accomplishment of the 2-3 out of 10 steps all together will also be concerned as success. The admin. structures are hard to change in any country, that is a common fact. Regular meetings between the various institutions (like this one, e.g.) should also be the part of the proposal for this activity – committees, working groups, etc., horizontally and vertically.

2. News of the project – Claus announced that

a) the German PL is to resign from this function due to the change of the position in his institution, and it is still uncertain who is going to replace him (from April this year on.)

b) the web site of the project is finally functioning, so it can be visited (the participants also introduced into the use of the private part of the web page). Dragana proposed some changes in the texts on the web, concerning the Serbian institutions involved in the project.

c) as for Claus' component, the activity 1.1.1 is more-less done, being finalised together with the Serbian part. 1.1.2 – JWG itself; working well; 1.3.1 – is almost over; 1.5.2 – will be finished in the last week of May; 1.3.2, 1.4.2, 1.5.1 – are ongoing, considering the organisational structures – Peter has already explained it. Also financial analysis has begun.

Christian

As for his part of the project, the work on the intra- and inter-institutional data flow and communication is ongoing, for both GW and SW data. Now the ideal structure (how it should be) is being drafted, and a workshop is foreseen for the 24th of May upon this issue. The findings should be represented and also the results of the component.

We are also active with the development of the technical implementation concept for 4 automated monitoring stations. Thanks to the efforts of the RHMS and WD, we tried to contact with the EPD, but the meeting never took place. Micun Stanic (EPD) is planning together with his Director to implement the 4 stations – we had a conversation on the subject on Thursday (after the meeting he didn't take place in). Christian offered him expert's help from the side of the Twinning Project with the development of a technically sound concept, which was basically declined, saying that they will make a draft of the concept themselves and further on send it to the experts for revision.

STE Werner Blohm has already made a tender; it is implemented into the official pattern of the EAR. The proposition will be presented to Simon Davies and Branko Mikasinovic at one of our regular meetings. Mr Blohm has visited the station in Grdelica (one of the 3 that should be reconstructed) the tour was very successful thanks to the colleagues. It has a good perspective for implementing the automated equipment.

Yesterday (27th Mar) the 4 experts (P. Seel, N. Sommerwerk, U. Schmedtje, S. Henneberg) have made an agreement on the assessment document on the monitoring situation in Serbia and the steps which are to take to redesign the monitoring program. They delineated the tasks among themselves for next months. The steps should be formulated on the basis of the needs and financial possibilities. Although the activity is well on track, the finalising of this redesign activity is not expected any time sooner than

end of October (6 mth.s delay).

We have to define the new visiting slots of the STEs, knowing that July and August are the most problematic months. Christian announced that he will be absent during April due to vacation.

Next mission concerning the component 2 begins on the 16th April, when the GW team (Mr Domroese, Mr Neumann and Mr Berthold) is coming to BG – they will have a redesign seminar on the 20th at the RHMS. As for the training plan, one seminar is already scheduled in date – Mr von Keitz and Momir Paunovic (IBISS) – about the reference conditions and delineation of the water bodies (18th May). It will always include one Serbian and one (or two, if needed) German experts.

Dragana clarified that the documents currently available on the web page should be considered as a draft version, or *working version*, since there are some amendments to be made from the Serbian side. Dragana and Christian agreed to jointly hand over the tender for 3 automated stations to the EAR, once it is finished. It should be done a.s.a.p., since the Government is going through changes and we don't want to be „caught in a gap“. Christian said he will submit it on Thursday. Dragana qualified the meeting from the 28th as an excellent one, it was very useful and all relevant parts concerning the SW monitoring were present and very active. So it should be done also with the other activities – make concrete proposals, realistic approaches and open conversations, respecting the Contract but also having in mind that many things must be *adapted* to the current situation.

Christian added that yesterday the spirit of Twinning has become obvious. Same approach will be followed also for the GW. Christian will not be present, but the team from Germany knows the Serbian colleagues very well and he thinks they won't have problems. He brought up the question about the CORINA Land Cover maps, which are existing in SEPA but not available. Dragana explained that the director of SEPA Karadzic, also has a problem with those maps, since they are not authorised for public use. She also said that the major role in the scope of the GW issues has the Geological Institute of Serbia, which should be contacted and included into the Twinning activity.

Mr Kessler asked weather this institution should also be analysed concerning the administrative structure. In Germany, they are included into the Ministry for Environment and strongly participating in the implementation of the WFD.

Dragana said that formerly, the Geological Institute was included into the Ministry of Env. also in Serbia, dominating in the GW issues (apart from the tasks of the Hydromet – only the first GW layer, the deeper layers are within the responsibility of the Geol. Inst.) This Institute was also very active in the ICPDR meetings concerning GW.

Dragana and A. Varga explained the status of the J.Cerni Institute. Basically, it is to be state owned in total.

As for the permitting process, Dragana said there is the link on the web page of the Ministry – for both issuing and enforcement. As for the task overlapping between the different institutions, it is to consult the Law on Ministries. Job description and positions in the institution – there is also a link dedicated to that.

A. Varga made a remark that changes in the state institutions occur each time the Government changes (more-less). At least the „Oberschicht“ changes, whereas the lower levels of the administration stay the same.

Dragana said (a propos water permitting procedures – weather they should be analyzed in this project, since it has not been clearly defined as a task in the Covenant), that it might as well be necessary, since the new Law on Environmental Protection is already out and an overview should be made. Together with the EPD, within the Sava River Commission, the comparative analysis is being carried out as part of the draft formulation of the documents relevant for transboundary influences (together with Croatia and BiH) – they should make a compact document which would cover all relevant details.

She also said that some important aspects and functions of the WD were omitted during the preparation of the project tasks and formulation of the Contract. The role of the WD in the water sector and implementation of the Water Law should be revised in order to have a better overview over the current state and to plan the future activities.

O.Gavrilovic brought out the IPPC issue – P. Kessler said that it covers only the permits for the large industrial facilities and plants, not less than WFD relevant.

M. Nadezdic said that, according to the current law, whenever some water object is planned to be constructed, it is always necessary to analyze the mutual influence between the facility and the water regime. RHMS issues the water conditions, including the opinions of the PWCs, as defined in the current Water Law.

Kessler has found out that sometimes the provisions of the law are not consistent with the praxis. O. Gavrilovic has agreed with him that it definitely needs remodelling and enhancement in some segments, such as shortening the procedure, making it less complicated.

A. Varga said that out of total number of provisions from the water licences concerning the water regime, those referring to water quality are the least respected.

Dragana added that in case they know about the pollution, WD has no right to close the factory down but they can cut the outlet of the waste water. New objects do respect every provision, because they are well equipped, but the old ones are hard to modify since they never had such treatment plants.

Christian agreed that licensing procedure, including the emission issue, requests large efforts from all parts involved and therefore should be a subject to another project for itself.

Claus has made a positive remark on the workshop held on the 26th of January 2007 concerning the training plan, thanked everyone for their participation.

Christian has represented shortly the training plan, and all seminars (1-day-seminars) which are to take place. The final product of this activity should be the River Basin Management Plan for Kolubara river catchments – all participants should be well acquainted with all the aspects of it. All training materials will be submitted to the relevant participants in time. The JWG should delegate the participants, based

(eventually) on the proposal of the German side.

Further on, Dragana proposed the inclusion of some more participants for the part concerning the delineation of the water bodies (not only biologists), as well as the inclusion of the staff from Vode Vojvodine and Srbijavode.

All agreed that the constant attendance to all seminars should be the optimal request for all. Also, all participants of the JWG agreed about some of the dates for some seminars – 18th April (Wed) and 24th May (Thu) as cornerstones. Thursdays should basically be taken into consideration for planning the other seminars too, since they are the most convenient for all.

Next JWG meeting was scheduled for May 29th (Tue) 2007, 10:00 h.