

## GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners  
of the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Thursday, September 5, 2013

### MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Introduction & Confirmation of Agenda

The GWP Chair, Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss opened the meeting by expressing what a great honour and privilege it was to meet everyone and warmly welcomed all participants. Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss continued with saying that the year of 2013 - the International Year of Water Cooperation - has been a very interesting and challenging year so far.

Dr. Schaefer-Preuss continued by welcoming the new SP Chair, Mr. Hans Lundqvist, Director and Deputy Head of Aid Management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who replaced Mr. Torgny Holmgren, Executive Director of SIWI as of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

All participants round the table introduced themselves. The Sponsoring Partners (SP) not able to attend the meeting were Denmark, Sida and the World Bank. The attendance list is appended to these Minutes.

The GWP Chair then handed over to the SP Chair Mr. Hans Lundqvist, representing the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA).

**Decision: The meeting Agenda was confirmed.**

### 2. Matters arising from Minutes from the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 28 August 2012

According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a non objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual SP Meeting were already approved and no further comments received.

A clarification was given with regards to the "Decision: to renew Sweden as Chair of the Sponsoring Partners for another 3 years" under agenda item 3. Another 3 years means up until 2015.

### 3. Information and approval of GWP Reports

The GWP Executive Secretary (ES), Dr. Ania Grobicki, presented the GWP Annual Activity Report 2012 where some major achievements from each of GWP's 13 regions and at global level were highlighted.

**Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2012 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.**

The GWP Senior Manager Finance and Administration presented the GWP Annual Financial Report 2012, the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2012, the GWP Audit Report 2012 and the EUWI Audit Report 2012.

**Decision: The GWP Annual Financial Report 2012 and the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2012 of the Steering Committee were approved.**

**The GWP Audit Report 2012 and EUWI Audit Report 2012 were both received and considered.**

**Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members of liability for 2012 was approved.**

The GWP Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation to the Senior Manager Finance and Administration and her team for the excellent job they are doing with the GWP financing which resulted in a completely clean Management Letter from the Auditors.

*Presentations made on the above reports are appended to these Minutes.*

#### 4. **GWP Chair Annual Report**

Dr. Schaefer-Preuss started off by saying that this being her first meeting with the Sponsoring Partners as Chair of GWP she wanted to share her expectations and focus areas for the coming 3 years.

This year the present strategy has to be completed and the outcomes of this strategy will be incorporated as far as possible in to our Strategy Towards 2020. The Strategy Towards 2020 is under development and very constructive discussions took place during the GWP Regional Days in August and together with the GWP Partners in an open session during Stockholm World Water Week.

GWP is a rapidly growing network with now more than 2800 members and we have to look into how we more appropriately can serve our members on the ground. We have to consider entering into a consolidation phase in order to do our job properly, aiming at a water secure world.

Furthermore, in order to sustain high quality for our members and continue our work with partners in an ever growing complex and interconnected world we have to make sure our core funding is more sustainable and stable and that we do not end up with another financial cliff.

We also need to strengthen the expertise regarding our 6 Thematic Focus Areas and the cross cutting themes (gender and youth) in the Secretariat, otherwise it will be difficult to properly deliver our new Strategy in the years ahead.

Dr. Schaefer-Preuss continued to inform the participants about her major activities during the first 8 months as Chair of GWP and then ended by quoting the former Chair of GWP, Dr. Letitia A. Obeng: "We are work in progress and the best is still to come".

One comment made by the Netherlands representative was that it would be interesting to know about the major challenges for GWP. The GWP Chair responded that staff resources can be a challenge since covering many themes require more staff with the requested expertise.

The representative from Chile asked how GWP plans to interact more with the private sector and the GWP Chair said that we need to find the right partners to work with locally and offer them to use our tools and messages. The SP Chair added that it is very important to scale up new innovative ideas together with the private market at this point in time. The Hungarian representative mentioned the Alliance for Water Stewardship and asked if GWP is involved in this initiative but the GWP Executive Secretary said that GWP can't endorse this initiative since we have to be a neutral partnership.

*The complete GWP Chair Annual Report is appended to these Minutes.*

### **5. Completing the present Strategy period 2009-2013**

The GWP ES presented a progress report on completing the present Strategy period 2009-2013.

In 2009 a set of progress markers were defined for the 2009-2013 Strategy period and they have been measured every year. The pie charts presented shows:

White - activity not started, Pink - activity just started, Yellow - some progress made, Green - activity completed.

The SP Chair commented that it would be interesting to know what didn't work during this Strategy period and why to draw conclusions for future learnings. The GWP ES responded that GWP need to build and strengthen the personal relationship with global media as we haven't reached that audience as we would have liked to. Furthermore GWP needs to develop key strategic messages to strengthen its voice on all levels.

The representative from Netherlands suggested that GWP should build relationships with multinational players who are good communicators like Coca-Cola, Unilever etc and that GWP should build climate in to water areas rather than the other way around, then GWP would be attractive for Climate Funds. Also, it would be good to know who the really active and contributing GWP Partners are and who are just using the name of GWP. The GWP Chair said that the status of the active versus non active partners is something we have to look further into and consolidate. One suggestion to consider is to enter into fee-based membership.

The representative from WMO expressed his appreciation of the long standing relationship between WMO and GWP.

*The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.*

### **6. The new GWP Strategy towards 2020 - the way forward**

The GWP ES presented the way forward regarding the new GWP Strategy towards 2020. Very valuable input to the development of the new Strategy has been gathered through two Global Strategy Task Force meetings and four Inter-regional meetings. The GWP vision "a water secure world" remains but there is still some discussions ongoing regarding the mission statement.

A question was put forward by the Hungarian representative with respect to GWP's partnering with actors outside the water area and the GWP ES responded that GWP is working on categorizing all the partners in the partners database to get an overview of the various areas the partners work within.

The representative from Pakistan asked about GWP's role in sensitive areas of for example Transboundary Waters and the GWP ES responded that GWP's role is to be the informal, neutral convening platform, the facilitator.

The representative from Argentina asked about in which way the Sponsoring Partners can provide comments to the new Strategy and the GWP ES responded that comments from the Sponsoring Partners are very much welcome in written to the ES up to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

The representative from Netherlands asked about the logical framework and the implementation plan and the GWP ES responded that work is ongoing in looking into how to deliver the new strategy.

The representative from Chile asked if there had been an estimation done of the financial resources needed to implement the new Strategy and the Senior Finance and Administration Manager explained that work is ongoing to estimate the financial need for the next strategy period. GWP is however very fortunate to enter 2014 with 2/3 of the funds confirmed for planned activities and that shows a great trust in GWP. For the period 2009-2013 the whole GWP Network was run on 66m Euro.

In one of the charts presented to the Sponsoring Partners GWP foresee an increase in locally raised funds and the Pakistan representative put forward the question how GWP can anticipate the increased local funding. The GWP ES responded that a visible trend is for donors to allocate an increasing amount of funds directly to local level and GWP is working on advocating/encouraging regions to fundraise locally. One way is for Country Water Partnerships to contact Embassies of donor countries in their own respective countries. The GWP Chair also pointed out that GWP as a Network need to look into how we would like to tap funds.

A comment from the Netherlands representative was that GWP needs to put a price tag on what we want to achieve, be more pro-active, for donors to see what they will fund. The GWP Chair said that we need to present three scenarios - low, medium, high - for the Fundraising Strategy alongside with the Strategy Towards 2020 for donors to see what GW is aiming at.

Regarding the Governance Review the GWP Chair referred to the SP Minutes from 2012 where it was stated that it was an internal decision to postpone the Governance Review until 2014 due to limited resources at the time of developing the new strategy. The GWP Chair for see that the review process will start in the beginning of 2014 but that it will go on beyond the time frame of one year. GWP need to carefully look in to how the review will be done. The Sponsoring Partners will be further updated at the next SP Meeting in September 2014.

*The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.*

### **7. Nominations for the GWP Steering Committee**

All SP members received a document prior to the meeting, presenting the three candidates being nominated to the GWP Steering Committee and the GWP Chair presented the document again at the meeting:

- Ms. Alice Bouman-Dentener (The Netherlands) - Global pool, non-water candidate
- Mr. Surya Upadhyay (Nepal) - Regional candidate
- Mr. Bulat Yessekin (Kazakhstan) - Regional candidate

**Decision: The three candidates were appointed to the GWP Steering Committee by the SP meeting. Their terms will start with the second Steering Committee meeting of 2013.**

### **8. Accession of new Sponsoring Partners**

The GWP ES presented an update on where things stand with potential new countries signing up to become GWP Sponsoring Partners.

Brazil: the process of becoming a GWP Sponsoring Partner needs to go through their Parliament which can take a long time. The question is if the existing SP members want GWP to go through this process?

China: due to re-shuffling within the Chinese Government the Invitation for China to accede to become a GWP Sponsoring Partner need to be renewed from the SP Chair through the Government of Sweden. Will this be approved by the SP?

Mongolia: the Mongolia Water Partnership was established in June and the President of Mongolia who visited GWP in 2012 has been re-elected so there are good grounds for continuing the process.

There was a question from the Netherlands representative on why GWP wants to get more countries to become Sponsoring Partners since with a larger group decision making will be more difficult. The GWP Chair added that we need to look into what the added value would be of having more SP members on board. The GWP ES said that the Governance Review will take the issue of broadening the Sponsoring Partners base in to consideration. However, a decision was made earlier within the Sponsoring Partners group to move on with China and Brazil so this needs to be followed up.

**The paper on "Broadening the SP base" to be circulated to participants.**

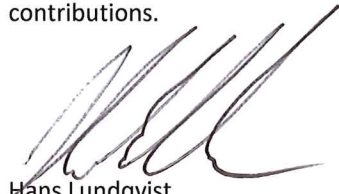
### **9. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2014 and Summary of Decisions**

The next SP meeting will be held on **Thursday 4 September 2014** (i.e. during the World Water Week) at the GWP offices, in Stockholm.

**The SP Chair summarized the meeting decisions as follows:**

1. The meeting Agenda was confirmed.
2. The GWP Annual Activity Report 2012 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and approved.
3. The GWP Annual Financial Report 2012 and the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2012 of the Steering Committee to the SP were received and approved.
4. The GWP Audit Report 2012 and EUWI Audit Report 2012 were both received and considered.
5. The Sponsoring Partners accepted the GWP Auditors recommendation to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members of liability and the decision was taken to approve the recommendation.
6. Three new Steering Committee members were appointed. They will start their terms as of the November 2013 Steering Committee meeting.

The SP Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their active participation and valuable contributions.



Hans Lundqvist

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners