

GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

10th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners
to the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

MINUTES

1.

Welcome and Introduction & Confirmation of Agenda

The GWP Chair, Dr. Letitia A. Obeng opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. All participants round the table introduced themselves. The Sponsoring Partners (SP) not able to attend the meeting were Jordan and WMO. The attendance list is appended to these Minutes. Dr. Obeng also took the opportunity to highlight the fact that this year GWP celebrates its 15 year anniversary since the establishment of the GWP Network in 1996.

The GWP Chair then handed over to the SP Chair Mr. Torgny Holmgren, representing the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting Agenda was confirmed.

2.

Matters arising from Minutes from the 9th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 7 September 2010

According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a non objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 9th Annual SP Meeting were already approved. The SP Chair asked for an update in relation to the GWP Ambassador concept and Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary (ES) explained that so far 2 prominent and knowledgeable persons have been invited and accepted their roles as GWP Ambassadors. Mr. Suresh Prabu from India was invited in 2010. He has a background of serving the Indian Government as a Minister at federal level not less than 4 times. Mr. Prabu has also served as Chair of GWP South Asia. Mr. Johan Holmberg from Sweden was invited in 2011. He was the first Executive Secretary of GWP, has served as an Ambassador for Sweden, and is now an independent consultant working internationally.

The SP Chair also asked for an update regarding the establishment of a Fundraising Task Force and the GWP Chair replied that there is an established Task Force within the GWP Steering Committee working on fundraising issues. In addition we also have GWP Ambassadors and GWP Senior Advisors working on opening doors for funding options.

3.

Information and approval of GWP Reports

The GWP Executive Secretary, Dr. Ania Grobicki, presented the GWP Annual Activity Report 2010 where some major achievements from each of GWP's 13 regions and at global level were highlighted.

The GWP Annual Activity Report 2010 of the Steering Committee to the SP was received and considered.

A question was raised regarding private sector involvement with GWP, since GWP could be a good broker between the public and private sector engagements in water services, irrigation etc. The GWP ES said that 12% of GWP's Partners are from the private sector and that GWP is working on establishing stronger relationships with private companies and organisations for fruitful cooperation. Comments from SP members on the new operational strategy for Water Financing to be developed will be warmly welcome.

Dr. Grobicki also informed the SP Group that a Mid Term Review of GWP is taking place at present. Two independent consultants are looking at GWP's Strategy implementation during the first 2,5 years of the strategy period 2009-2013 to assess progress, look at the future and make recommendations

for possible changes in operation that may be needed. The Mid Term Review (which is funded by some of our financing partners and GWP) is a review which has both retrospective and forward-looking objectives.

The GWP ES then presented the GWP Annual Financial & Audit Report 2010 and the EUWI Annual Financial & Audit Report 2010.

The GWP Annual Financial Report 2010 and the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2010 of the Steering Committee to the SP were received and considered. The GWP Annual Audit Report 2010 and EUWI Annual Audit Report 2010 were both approved.

The GWP Head of Finance, Ms. Catharina Sahlin-Tegnander and her team were complimented on a very good result.

Furthermore, the GWP ES presented the GWPO Management Letter and was pleased to be able to inform the SP group that the long standing issue of the UNDP claim is now put to rest. UNDP has agreed to accept a 50% settlement, in writing, and hence this issue will not appear in next year's Management Letter.

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

4.

GWP Chair Annual Report

Dr. Obeng presented some highlights from her activities during 2010, in addition to what is presented in GWP in Action 2010. Dr. Obeng explained that her second term (a 2 year term) as Chair will end by December 2012 to enable the next Chair to be fully engaged in the preparation of the next Strategy during 2013. Dr Obeng ended her report by restating two points that she has made to the Partnership:

- To fulfill our mission and achieve our vision, water using sectors need to have ownership of the sustainable water management agenda, more so than the water resources professionals. How are we making this happen?

- We need to engage seriously with the decision-makers and water professionals of tomorrow, i.e. the youth - they have a big job ahead of them.

A question was raised about GWP's cooperation with IUCN and GWP ES replied that GWP and IUCN work closely together in some regions and with some partners and two of our regions are hosted by IUCN. There might be further options for closer cooperation on the ground, in implementing IWRM.

5.

Implementing the Strategy 2009-2013, Mid Term Review and Funding situation - update

GWP ES, Dr. Ania Grobicki made a presentation which is appended to these Minutes.

At present GWP is under an austerity budget but several new funding agreements will most likely be in place within the next few months.

A question was raised regarding GWP's strategic goals - are the goals aspirational, or are they what the regions/countries are already doing and will be measured on? The goals need to be consistent. Dr. Grobicki said that the goals were built upon the regional strategies so this is what is being done.

The overall theme for the GWP's Consulting Partners meeting 2012 will be Transboundary Water Management which also will be the theme of the World Water Week 2013.

6.
Steering Committee recommendation on broadening the base of the GWP Sponsoring Partners Group

A proposal for broadening the base of the GWP Sponsoring Partners Group was circulated to the SP members before the meeting. The GWP Steering Committee recommends that the Sponsoring Partners broaden the base of the Sponsoring Partners group by inviting the Governments of China and Brazil to accede to the 2002 Agreement, and if they do so, by approving their inclusion as Sponsoring Partners.

Questions were raised as to why the two countries were selected, and whether other countries had been considered. The GWP ES explained that the report to the Steering Committee included more countries to be considered, but China and Brazil were selected as they have shown the greatest interest to join GWP as Sponsoring Partners. SP Chair said that looking at the continents represented in the Sponsoring Partners, an African country should be considered to receive an invitation in the future.

A decision was taken that the SP Chair will, on behalf of the Sponsoring Partners and in his capacity as representing the Government of Sweden, invite the Governments of China and Brazil to accede to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation. The Governments of China and Brazil then need to make a formal application which then needs to be approved by the Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners.

A question was raised concerning the possibility of combining the Sponsoring Partners with the Financial Partners Group (FPG) to streamline the organisation and to stimulate more substantive discussions instead of running the SP meeting on a "no objection basis". How can we make sure that FPG is fully involved in GWP matters without taking on the leading role? GWP Chair and ES explained that SP is the ultimate governing body of GWP whereas the FPG is not a formal entity within the GWP statutes. The FPG meets twice a year to discuss substantive matters with GWP and has a permanent observer position on the GWP Steering Committee.

The SP requested the Steering Committee to look into the possibility of structuring the relationship between the FPG and GWP in a more regulated manner and what if any Statute changes would be needed to effect this. This issue will be brought back on the agenda for the SP meeting in 2012.

7.
Revision of GWP Statutes

GWP Chair went through the proposed amendments to the GWP Statutes. The proposed amendments are primarily minor in nature and are appended to these minutes. The GWP Chair informed the SP that during the GWP Network Meeting on August 19th the eligible participants voted yes to electronic meetings. This will enable our GWP partners to take greater ownership and to participate in decision-making in the Partnership. For the amendments to be come into force, they must be adopted unanimously by the Sponsoring Partners, and by a two-thirds majority of the Network Meeting. The amendments then enter into force one year after the decision of the Meeting

of the Sponsoring Partners to adopt the amendments, unless one-third of the Sponsoring Partners declare an objection to the amendments within 9 months of the Meeting.

The SP took a unanimous decision to approve the proposed amendments.

GWP Partners will vote on the amendments electronically between September 15th -30th .

7.1 A decision was made to include Section 4.2 in the NC By-laws, concerning the renewal of the term of the GWP Chair, as follows :

By that the SP revised its decision from its Annual Meeting in 2010 (Minutes, September 7, 2010, item 6)

4.2 Renewal of term of GWP Chair

(1) A GWP Chair serving his/her first term should inform the SP Chairperson and NC Chair of his/her interest serving for a second term, one year in advance of the Sponsoring Partners Meeting at which renewal or appointment of the GWP Chair is to be made.

(2) Provided the GWP Chair is interested in serving for a second term, the NC Chair will seek extensive stakeholder feedback to determine if renewal of the GWP Chair's term should be recommended. The NC Chair will, based on consultations with the NC summarise the results of the stakeholder feedback, and present his/her recommendation to the SP on whether to renew the appointment of the GWP Chair.

8.

Nominations for the GWP Steering Committee

All SP members received a document prior to the meeting, presenting the five candidates being nominated to the GWP Steering Committee. Ms. Ruth Meinen-Dick, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented (via conference call) the candidates and the rationale for their nomination:

Ms. Shaden Abdel-Gawad, Egypt - Regional candidate

Mr. Oscar Cordeiro, Brazil - Regional candidate (re-election)

Mr. Kenzo Hiroki, Japan - Global, water candidate (re-election)

Mr. Eugene Stakhiv, Ukraine/USA - Global, water candidate (re-election)

Ms. Meera Mehta, India - Global, non-water candidate

Decision : The five candidates were appointed to the GWP Steering Committee by the SP meeting.

For future nominations, the SP requested that the Nominations Committee looks into bringing younger candidates onto the Steering Committee.

9.

Search process for next GWP Chair

The term for the present Chair ends in December 2012. The Nomination Committee Chair informed the SP group that the search process for appointing a new Chair as of January 1st, 2013 needs to be launched . It was noted that the Terms of Reference (ToR) should include possible candidates with a

high political profile - at present the ToR are quite technical. The NC Chair will lead the process and report to the SP Chair. *The following documents are appended to these Minutes :*

- *Recommended Search Process for GWP Chair*
- *The current GWP Chair ToR*

A decision was made to launch the Chair search process. The Terms of Reference for the new Chair will be approved electronically at the latest by 31 October 2011.

10. Summary of Decisions, date for SP meeting 2012 and meeting closure

The SP Chair summarized the meeting decisions as follows:

1. The GWP Annual Activity Report 2010 of the Steering Committee to the SP and the GWP Chair report was received and considered.
2. The GWP Annual Financial Report 2010 and the EUWI Annual Financial Report 2010 of the Steering Committee to the SP were received and considered.
3. The GWP Annual Audit Report 2010 and EUWI Annual Audit Report 2010 were both approved.
4. The SP Chair, Mr. Torgny Holmgren will, on behalf of the Sponsoring Partners and in his capacity representing the Government of Sweden, invite the Governments of China and Brazil to accede to the **Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation.**
5. The SP requested the Steering Committee to look into how to formalise the relationship between the FPG and GWP and what if any Statute changes would be needed to effect this. This issue will be brought back on the agenda for the SP meeting in 2012.
6. The proposed amendments to the GWP Statutes were unanimously approved.
7. The inclusion of a section 4.2 in the NC By-laws relating to the renewal of the term of the GWP Chair was approved.
8. Five new Steering Committee members were appointed. They will start their terms as of the November 2011 Steering Committee meeting.
9. The term for the present GWP Chair will end on December 31st, 2012. The decision was made to launch the search process to find a successor Chair. The Terms of Reference will be approved electronically latest by 31 October 2011.

The next SP meeting will be held on **Tuesday 28 August 2012** (i.e. during the World Water Week) at the GWP offices, in Stockholm.

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



Torgny Holmgren

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners

Attachments:

- Agenda : Sponsoring Partners Meeting 2011
- Participant list 2011
- Presentations made by Dr. Ania Grobicki
- Recommended Search Process for GWP Chair
- The current GWP Chair ToR