

GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

17th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners
to the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Introduction & Approval of Agenda**

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners, Ms. Inger Buxton, opened the meeting by warmly welcoming all participants and thereafter invited everyone to a round the table introduction.

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners continued by thanking the GWP Executive Secretary, Dr. Monika Weber-Fahr, and the whole GWP Secretariat for the morning's interesting, fruitful and well conducted Strategy Preparation session, where representatives from the GWP Steering Committee, Sponsoring Partners and Financing Partners were participating. Ms. Buxton also sincerely thanked Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren for her time as GWP Chair and warmly welcomed Mr. Ross Hamilton who will take on the position as interim Chair as of June 15th, until a new GWP Chair has been appointed.

The Sponsoring Partners not able to attend the meeting were Denmark, Jordan, Pakistan and WMO.

The agenda was then approved.

Decision: The meeting Agenda was approved.

The attendance list is appended to these Minutes.

2. **Matters arising from Minutes from the 16th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 20 June 2017**

According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 16th Annual SP Meeting had already been approved as of August 18th, 2017.

No further comments were raised related to the approved Minutes.

2.1: Update on decisions taken since last SP meeting

The SP Chair said that one decision had been made electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting:

- The Sponsoring Partners approved the appointment of three new Steering Committee members.

2.2: Update on progress with nominations of new members for the GWP Steering Committee

The GWP Chair and the Senior Legal & HR Officer gave an update on the status for nominating new members for the GWP Steering Committee. This time, 5 seats on the Steering Committee shall be filled with Regional nominations. Each of the 5 Regions have submitted, as required, female and male candidates to the GWP Nominations Committee. For 4 of the Regions there were no issues with the submitted candidates but for one Region, issues were put forward by the Region itself after the candidates were submitted to the Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee will take a final decision on how to go forward with this issue and thereafter the 5 nominated candidates will be made known to the GWP Partners, who have 3 months to give input on the candidates. Thereafter the profiles of the 5 nominated candidates will be sent to the GWP Sponsoring Partners for electronic approval. The new members of the Steering Committee will take seat as of the first day of the December 2018 Steering Committee Meeting.

2.3: Approve ToR and Profile for new GWP Chair

The GWP Chair opened this topic by saying that the GWP Steering Committee has the authority to appoint an interim Chair when the appointed Chair steps down before the end of a contract period. Since the present Chair will take on a position as Director of Global Affairs with the Green Climate Fund as of July 2018 and therefore leave her position as Chair of GWP before the end of the present contract period, the Steering Committee appointed Mr. Ross Hamilton (SC member since December 2016) to take on the position as interim Chair as of June 15th, until a new Chair has been appointed.

The ToR and profile for a new Chair was discussed in the Steering Committee meeting on June 12th and will be further discussed on June 14th after having received some further input from the Executive Search firm SRI on how the ToR can be further developed as well as on how other organisations set up the role of the Chair.

The meeting discussed the number of days to be spent by the Chair, considering that 15 days per year seemed low and around 30 days per year seemed more realistic; emphasis was given to the notion that flexibility was important to be able to attract the right people. Also, the importance of the relationship between the Chair and the Executive Secretary was discussed. Both roles should be complementary, and the relationship should be collaborative and supportive. The two personalities would have to match each other and clarity around representing GWP externally and do fundraising work would have to be agreed on.

Realistically a new Chair could be in place in December 2018 but it might be worthwhile to wait for the right person to come on board.

Action: Sponsoring Partners to provide input to the ToR of the Chair latest by June 20th (based on the updated version that will be circulated on Thursday June 14th). A final version of the ToR will then be circulated for the SP to approve electronically. The Sponsoring Partners were also asked to submit names of suitable good candidates to the Search firm SRI (contact details to be circulated to the Sponsoring Partners).

3. Information and Approval of GWP Reports

3.1: GWP Annual Activity and Financial Reports 2017

The GWP Head of Communications presented highlights from the Annual Activity Report *GWP in Action 2017*. New features in the 2017 report are the Interactive results map (web version) with links to impact stories and quotes from various stakeholders - from local beneficiaries to high profile representatives.

Comments/questions from the Sponsoring Partners included:

- Congratulations to GWP for a very well-produced report
- The Interactive results map is very good
- The Indicator progress charts are greatly appreciated
- Would be good to systematically collect feed-back from the readers

The Head of Finance and Administration continued by presenting the financial status for 2017. The income for 2017 was €15m (compared to €14,2m in 2016). The locally raised funds came to €3m (compared to €1,3m in 2016). 78% of the core, designated and locally raised funds were used for programme activities. The GWP Annual Financial Report and the Audit Report had been signed by the Auditors on June 12th.

Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2017 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2017 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved.

3.2: GWP Audit Report 2017

GWP received a clean Management Letter and Audit Report.

In the audit of the Internal controls, GWP received a green light on 8 out of 10 items. A yellow light was received for archiving of contracts as well as for a VAT regulation issue. Both these items are now being looked into.

The GWP Audit Report 2017 was received and considered.

3.3: Discharge of liability of the Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary

Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2017 was approved.

Presentation made is appended to these Minutes.

4. GWP Chair Annual Report

The GWP Chair reported back from her various assignments during 2017. A comment was made by the Chair of the Sponsoring Partners that it is very important for the Regions to be visited by the Chair and to be in regular contact. The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners thanked the GWP Chair for being so visible and accessible for the Regions.

Presentation made is appended to these Minutes.

5. GWP - looking ahead

The GWP Executive Secretary introduced the topic by saying that within the present GWP Governance structure there are a number of aspects that could be improved to make GWP "fit for the future". Some of the current processes are heavy to deal with and do not reflect the current reality. The purpose of today's presentation is to ask the Sponsoring Partners to authorize the Secretariat to come back to the Sponsoring Partners with further developed proposals, timelines and suggestions for how some of the proposals can be implemented, specifically those that would require changes in the statutes.

The ES then continued with briefly presenting each one of the six proposals (proposal 2,3 and 5 requiring statutory changes):

1. Developing a proposal for reforming the GWP regional operational model

- A comment was made that it would also be important to look into the form, not only the function.
- Another comment was made related to that times have changed, and we are now facing an increased global agenda setting with more interactions between various entities and GWP's Governance structure therefore needs to be updated.

2. Developing a proposal for a reform of the GWP Steering Committee (membership, nomination process)

- A comment was made by the representative from Argentina who said that Argentina agrees to reduce the numbers of members on the Steering Committee but that regional representation should be kept as part of the Steering Committee.

3. Reforming the Nomination Committee

4. Reforming the Technical Committee (TEC)

- A comment was made regarding TEC being revised several times but no significant outcomes from these revisions seem to have materialized. The Chair of the Technical Committee responded that on several fronts things have started to move lately but that it indeed has taken some time to initiate.

5. Strengthening the Meeting of the Network Partners, and more generally the link to the Network

6. Expanding the Group of Sponsoring Partners

- The GWP ES said that thoughts on what the incentives are for being a Sponsoring Partner as well as on who would want to join would be appreciated.
- The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners said that it would strengthen GWP as an organisation to bring in more Sponsoring Partners.
- The representative from Argentina said that Argentina is open to receive the proposal on how to expand the group of Sponsoring Partners but would not like to link the role of being a Sponsoring Partner to the role of being a Financing Partner. Important to keep diversity and have Sponsoring Partners from different regions around the world.

Actions:

- GWP Secretariat to come back to the Sponsoring Partners with criteria on how to open up the Sponsoring Partners group to more interested parties.

- GWP Secretariat to send a text to the Sponsoring Partners, explaining what each individual Sponsoring Partner should check with their governments in relation to the requirements needed to change the present statutes and how long of a process that would be. The text should also state by when responses from the Sponsoring Partners are requested.

- Consider inviting potentially interested parties to attend the next Sponsoring Partners meeting as observers. The GWP Executive Secretary will confirm that it will be allowed according to the statutes to invite observers on behalf of the Chair of the Sponsoring Partners.

- At the next Sponsoring Partners meeting (or earlier) decide on who to invite to become a Sponsoring Partner.

Decision: The Sponsoring Partners agreed to that the GWP Secretariat will further develop the six presented proposals and send them, together with timelines and suggestions for how some of the proposals can be implemented since they would require changes in the statutes, to the Sponsoring Partners.

6. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2019 and Summary of discussions and decisions

AoB:

- Several of the Sponsoring Partners having an interest to become more familiar with what's going on within the GWP Network on the local level. The GWP Executive Secretary extended an invitation to all Sponsoring Partners to participate in the yearly GWP Regional Days. If a Sponsoring Partner will visit a GWP Region, GWP Secretariat will be happy to provide contacts with GWP Country representatives. A regional GWP representative can also be invited to the yearly Sponsoring Partners meeting.

- UN High Level Political Forum in New York July 9th - 18th:
On July 10th GWP would like to engage with Sponsoring Partners representatives present in New York. The GWP Executive Secretary asked if one of the Sponsoring Partners could host this event and if formal invitations could be passed on via the GWP Sponsoring Partners group? A comment was made for GWP to consider the date for this event since Expert Meetings are taking place July 9th - 13th and High-Level Segment Meetings on July 16th - 18th.

GWP would also like to provide the Sponsoring Partners with messages related to influencing the SDG 6.5.1 process, for the Sponsoring Partners to bring along to their respective countries during the HLPF meetings.

Actions:

- GWP Secretariat to send dates of GWP Regional meetings (Steering Committee -, General Assembly- etc meetings) to the Sponsoring Partners group on a regular basis.

- Sponsoring Partners to come back to the GWP Executive Secretary with a response to possibly hosting the above-mentioned event in New York on July 10th.

- GWP to provide Sponsoring Partners with messages related to influencing the SDG 6.5.1 process, to bring to New York.

Date for SP Meeting 2019:

- June 2019 would be the preferred month to conduct the Sponsoring Partners meeting. A joint Steering Committee, Sponsoring Partners, Financing Partners meeting could be considered also for 2019. GWP Secretariat to come back on dates when an overview of all the required meetings has been discussed internally. In addition, if there is an interest from the Sponsoring Partners to discuss the draft Strategy document which will be available by end February 2019, a virtual meeting can be called upon.

Summary of discussions and decisions:

1. The meeting Agenda was approved.
2. According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 16th Annual SP Meeting had already been approved as of August 18th, 2017.
3. One decision had been made electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting:
 - The Sponsoring Partners approved the appointment of three new Steering Committee members.
4. **Action:** Sponsoring Partners to provide input to the ToR of the Chair latest by June 20th (based on the updated version that will be circulated on Thursday June 14th). A final version of the ToR will then be circulated for the SP to approve electronically. The Sponsoring Partners were also asked to submit names of suitable good candidates.
5. **Decision:** The GWP Annual Activity Report 2017 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2017 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved.
6. The GWP Audit Report 2017 was received and considered.
7. **Decision:** The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2017 was approved.
8. **Action:** GWP Secretariat to come back to the Sponsoring Partners with criteria on how to open up the Sponsoring Partners group to more interested parties.
9. **Action:** GWP Secretariat to send a text to the Sponsoring Partners, explaining what each individual Sponsoring Partner should check with their governments in relation to the requirements needed to change the present statutes and how long of a process that would be. The text should also state by when responses from the Sponsoring Partners are requested.
10. **Action:** Consider inviting potentially interested parties to attend the next Sponsoring Partners meeting as observers. The GWP Executive Secretary will confirm that it will be allowed according to the statutes to invite observers on behalf of the Chair of the Sponsoring Partners.
11. **Action:** At the next Sponsoring Partners meeting (or earlier) decide on who to invite to become a Sponsoring Partner.
12. **Decision:** The Sponsoring Partners agreed to that the GWP Secretariat will further develop the six presented proposals and send them, together with timelines and suggestions for how some of the proposals can be implemented since they would require changes in the statutes, to the Sponsoring Partners.
13. **Action:** GWP Secretariat to send dates of GWP Regional meetings (Steering Committee -, General Assembly- etc meetings) to the Sponsoring Partners group on a regular basis.
14. **Action:** Sponsoring Partners to come back to the GWP Executive Secretary with a response to possibly hosting an event in New York on July 10th.

15. **Action:** GWP to provide Sponsoring Partners with messages related to influencing the SDG 6.5.1 process, to bring to New York.

Meeting closure

The SP Chair thanked everyone for their very constructive and active participation and closed the meeting.



Inger Buxton

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners