



Management Committee Meeting

Cost Action 869 “Mitigation options for Nutrient Reduction in Surface Water and Groundwaters”

Seville, Spain
29 September 2010

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT

Jaroslav Antal	Slovakia
Elisabetta Barberis	Italy
Wim Chardon	Netherlands
Dana Daniela	Romania
Antonio Delgado	Spain
Bettina Eichler-Löbermann	Germany
Petri Ekholm	Finland
David Fanguero	Portugal
Csilla Farkas	Norway
Daniel Fiala	Czech Republic
Emmanuel Frossard	Switzerland
Chantal Gascuel-Oudou	France
Phil Haygarth	UK
Leszek Hejduk	Poland
George Hofman	Belgium
Ken Irvine	Ireland
Brian Kronvang	Denmark
Michael Litaor	Israel
Romulus Mocanu	Romania
Eva Oburger	Austria
Yiannis Panagopoulos	Greece
Oscar Schoumans	Netherlands
Istvan Sisak	Hungary
Christian Stamm	Switzerland
José Torrent	Spain
Barbro Ulen	Sweden
Ioanna Stavridou	<i>COST Office</i>
Anja Van der Snickt	<i>COST Office</i>



0 WELCOME

MC members from a number of countries (Austria, Czech Rep., Germany, Hungary, Norway, Portugal) could not attend the meeting, and were replaced by others. They received a special word of welcome.

1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without comments.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting on 10 September 2009, Magdeburg, Germany, had been sent to MC members before the meeting. The minutes were approved without changes.

3 MATTERS ARISING

For this MC meeting, no general invitation was sent to all MC members, although this is against the rules of COST. The reason for this is that, due to the limited budget for our Action this year, reimbursement for the WG1 and MC meeting was assigned to invited speakers during the IPW6 workshop, if coming from a COST-country, and to those giving an oral presentation during the WG1 meeting. As a consequence, no funds were available for extra persons that would only attend this MC meeting after receiving an invitation. For this reason no general invitation was sent to all MC members. Persons who were known to attend the IPW6 and/or the WG1 meeting were asked to replace their MC member where appropriate.

The Grant system started for COST 869 on 1 April 2010, which means that the budget of the Action was allocated to Alterra as “Grant holder”. Now Alterra has to do all administration dealing with payments, e.g., for meetings, reimbursements and STSMs. Fullfilling this took much more time than foreseen, also because Action members were not familiar with new procedures.

4 REPORT AND NEWS FROM THE COST Office

Ioanna Stavridou is the new scientific officer of our Action, and Anja Van der Snickt our new Administrative Officer. Anja presented news from the COST Office (the presentation is published on the Action website.) A number of new actions has started in the Food & Agriculture Domain or will start soon; countries can show their interest. There has been an open call for proposals for new Actions in March; due to the large number of proposals the chance of approval is now less than 10%. Future calls for proposals will be on 25/03/2011 and 30/9/2011. Explanations were given on the criteria for Early stage researchers, Short Term Scientific missions, Local Organiser Support, collaboration with South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, and Conference Grants. Also, several points of interest for the final year of our Action were addressed, e.g., reporting, final meeting, final publication, and the Final Evaluation report.

5 BRIEF REPORT OF PAST ACTIVITIES

- On 2-4 December 2009 a small meeting was organized in Ghent, Belgium, of an Editorial Committee within WG3. The purpose was to develop a report that will be an introduction to the database with factsheets on mitigation options. Also, the setup of a second meeting of the Committee was discussed.
- The second meeting of the Editorial Committee was organized on 23 and 24 March in Amsterdam. Decisions were taken on how the work on the report should continue.
- On 25-28 April 2010 a workshop of WG4 was organized in Ballater, Scotland, by Marc Stutter. The topic of the meeting was: *Riparian buffer strips as a multifunctional management tool in agricultural landscapes*. Report, abstracts and presentations of the meeting are available on the Action website. Work on publications (in J. of Environ. Quality), based on presentations given during the meeting, is in progress.
- On 14-16 June 2010 a workshop of WG2 and WG3 was organized in Jokioinen, Finland, by Eila Turtola. The topic of the meeting was: *Novel methods for reducing agricultural nutrient loading and eutrophication*. Abstracts and presentations of the meeting were placed on the Action website. A number of presentations will be published in a scientific journal. Work on a meeting report is in progress.

6 BUDGETS and PLANNING

6.1 Action budget

A budget (“grant”) was received for the period 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011 of 100 K€, while a budget was asked of 120 K€. The reason was a severe cut of 30 % in the budget of the whole COST domain for the current budget year (2010-2011). The consequences for our Action of the lower budget are a reduced number of participants that can be reimbursed (from 115 to 95), and that we have to choose a journal without page charges for publications that will come out of the WG1 meeting in September.

6.2 Action planning

According to the Minutes of the MC 2009 a number of workshops were planned (WG2 - Consequences of a large scale reduction in P application; WG4 - Monitoring; Final meeting including MC, with a Preparatory meeting of WG chairs). Including STSMs and Costs of the Grant Holder a budget needed of 133 K€ was calculated. It was concluded that the available budget would probably not be enough for all activities that were planned. The most probable consequence is that the WG2 and WG4 meetings have to be cancelled, and that the topics could be discussed during a special session during the final meeting.

6.3 Location of final meeting

Already in 2007 a proposal was received from Prof. Nemeth to have the final meeting in Hungary. Later, an offer came from Dana to organize this meeting in Romania. Thus, a choice had to be made between both offers. Short presentations were given by I. Sisak from Hungary, and by D. Dana from Romania, about their ideas on the meeting. However, the attendees felt that not enough information



was available to make a choice, and a written procedure was needed to vote about a choice between the two countries, based on additional information to be provided by Sisak and Dana.

***NOTE:** An email with a voting request and additional information was sent to all MC members on 10 November 2010. After the deadline for voting, on 25 November, a response was received from 33 out of 53 MC members, representing 24 of the 30 member countries of the Action. One member had no preference, 23 voted for Hungary, and 9 for Romania as location. When results are calculated on a country base (e.g. 2 votes for Hungary of MC members from the same country counts for 1 vote), the result was: one country had no preference, 17 voted for Hungary, and 6 for Romania as location. It was thus concluded that the offer from Hungary to organize the final meeting of COST 869 in autumn 2011 was accepted.*

7 SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION - STSM

Ken Irvine coordinates STSMs for our Action. Since the previous MC meeting 2 STSMs were finished:

- Clémentine Lévi visited Brian Kronvang, NERI, Denmark, and worked on the PLEASE model
- Caroline van der Salm visited Gitte Rubaek, Aarhus University, Denmark, and also worked on the PLEASE model.

No new application were received yet. Since four STSMs per year are required for each Action, it was concluded that STSMs should be stimulated as much as possible, e.g., by announcing it during the WG1 workshop.

8 Publications, reports and web news.

Reports, presentations, and abstracts were added to the Action website for meetings in Belgium, Scotland, and Finland. (see www.cost869.alterra.nl, Past meetings). Work on publications derived from the meeting in Scotland, and a report on Mitigation options are in progress.

9 Request for new members

No new requests were received. A researcher from Turkey showed interested but joining the Action was not approved yet.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

It was discussed how proposals for EU projects related to the topic of the Action could be stimulated. The following persons offered to work on this: Phil Haygarth, Brian Kronvang, Barbro Ulén, Oscar Schoumans, Emanuel Frossard, and Ken Irvine.

11. CLOSING