

Third Management Committee Meeting Cost Action 869 “Mitigation options for Nutrient Reduction in Surface Water and Groundwaters”

Athens-Anavyssos, Greece, 17 September 2008

MINUTES

PRESENT

Jaroslav Antal (Slovak Republic)
Wim Chardon (Netherlands)
Daniela Dana (Romania)
Jean-Marcel Dorioz (France)
Petri Ekholm (Finland)
Kazimieras Gaigalis (Lithuania)
Chantal Gascuel (France)
Emmanuel Frossard (Switzerland)
Konstantinos Gritzalis (Greece)
Thomas Hein (Austria)
Leszek Hejduk (Poland)
Josef Hejzlar (Czech Republic)
Georges Hofman (Belgium)
Ken Irvine (Ireland)
Penny Johnes (United Kingdom)
Michael Litaor (Israel)
Ralph Meissner (Germany)
Romulus Mocanu (Romania)
Åge Molværsmyr (Norway)
Gregor Ollesch (Germany)
Moshe Shenker (Israel)
Antanas Sigitas Sileika (Lithuania)
Istvan Sisak (Hungary)
Nicolaos Skoulikidis (Greece)
Barbro Ulen (Sweden)

1. WELCOME TO PARTICIPANTS

The Action chair, Wim Chardon, welcomed the participants. For some countries (Austria, Hungary, Norway, and UK) the regular MC members did not attend, their places were (partly) taken by others.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Second MC meeting in Devon, 2007, were published on the website (www.COST869.alterra.nl). The Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. REPORT FROM THE SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

No news was reported from the COST Office or about the Status of the Action. Since the Second MC Meeting interest in participation was shown from the non-COST country New Zealand. By written procedure participation by delegates from New Zealand was unanimously accepted by the MC Members. The official acceptance by the CSO (Committee of Senior Officials) is expected in the near future, but participation in the workshop of WG2 by a participant from New Zealand was already possible. The total number of countries is now 28. The pay-as-you-go financing system will continue for the time being, since the Web-based-IT tool to be used by the grant holders is still not available.

5. ACTUAL BUDGET YEAR 2008-2009

For the period June 1st 2008 – May 31st 2009 a budget of ca. K€137 is available. It is foreseen that in the future the budget will be available per calendar year again.

6. SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) STATUS, APPLICATIONS

During 2008, only one application for an STSM was received by Ken Irvine, who coordinates the STSMs. The procedure for application is described on the website. One STSM was applied for by Andrea Wagner from Germany, who will visit Piet Groenendijk from The Netherlands. For 2009 again a reservation of 10 K€ will be made for STSMs. The procedure for application will be simplified, by making it possible to request for STSMs year-round, so hopefully more applications will be received.

7. PUBLICATIONS, ANNUAL REPORT

On the website of the action the following new documents are available:

- Presentations of the WG3 meeting in Devon, November 2007.
- Minutes of the small meeting of WG3 in Amsterdam, February 2008.
- Minutes of the meeting of WG3 in Rome, April 2008.
- Abstracts, presentations, and report of the WG4 Meeting in Austria, May 2008.

In this way an ongoing report of the activities of the and action is created on the website. A progress report is kept by the chair according to the official COST rules (see official COST action site http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=181&action_number=869).

8. EVALUATIONS

An evaluation for the year 2007 (and 2008) will be not earlier than November 2008.

9. REQUEST FOR NEW MEMBERS

A new request was received from Bulgaria (Dr. Dimitranka Stoicheva). Participation of Bulgaria was adopted unanimously by the MC.

10. NON-COST PARTICIPATIONS

No requests were received besides New Zealand (see above). Suggestions from participants are welcome.

11. WEB NEWS

As mentioned above, reports and presentations of meetings are placed on the website. Also, announcements of jobs are regularly made on the site, mostly for PhD positions. If a position is available a description can be sent to the chair for this purpose. The frequency of visitations of the site can now be registered via counter (bottom of left column of opening page). A new item was added on how to participate in COST 869.

12. PROGRESS REPORT OF WORKING GROUPS

WG1 - No meetings were organized this year. Participation of WG1 in a COMLAND conference in 2009 was discussed with the organizers of the conference (see below).

WG2 - The workshop in Athens-Anavyssos, Greece on N/P ratios and limitation was organized. The topic of the meeting was previously discussed at a small meeting in Oslo, May 2007.

WG3 - During the Devon workshop in 2007 the idea was born to create a database with mitigation options. This idea was discussed during a small meeting in February 2008 in Amsterdam. Categories of options were formulated, and the setup of factsheets was discussed. A meeting in April in Rome was prepared, and action members were asked to write first drafts of factsheets before that meeting. In Rome the setup of the factsheets and the categories of options was further discussed, and arrangement were made about the further process of writing and reviewing factsheets. A list of factsheets

with a links to a pdf-version can be found on the website under “List of options and factsheets”.

WG4 - A workshop was organized in May in Austria, the topic of the meeting was: Evaluation of Projects in Example Areas across Europe. Also, a workshop was organized on Trend analysis of long-term datasets of N and P concentrations in watersheds across Europe. A report and abstracts and presentations held during the meeting can be found on the website.

13. PLANNING 2008 AND 2009

2008

- A plan for a small meeting of **WG3** on 12 November **2008** in Wexford, Ireland, about options / factsheets on grassland systems was proposed. The meeting will be adjacent to the workshop on Sustainable grassland production (12-14 November) at Teagasc, Johnstown Castle Research Centre, Wexford, Ireland. The small meeting will be prepared by Wim Chardon and Oscar Schoumans (Netherlands).

2009

- A small meeting of **WG1** will be organized on 7 and 8 September 2009, combined with an International Conference on: “Land and Water Degradation - Processes and Management”. This is organized by the commission of Land Degradation and Desertification (COMLAND) of the International Geographic Union (IGU) (6-10 September). The conference will be organized in Magdeburg, Germany, by Gregor Ollesch and co-workers; for the small meeting representatives of WG1 will be sought.
- A plan was made for a workshop of **WG2** about Ecological response to system manipulation [aiming at restoring surface water quality]. The meeting will be prepared by Petri Ekholm (FI), Penny Johnes (UK), Ken Irvine (Ireland), Thomas Hein (Austria), Jean-Marcel Dorioz (France), and Wim Chardon (Netherlands).
- It was proposed to have a meeting of **WG3** about River Basis Management Plans (RBMP). The participants should preferably be active in the field of preparing RBMPs, or be acquainted with (problems encountered in) that process in their country. The meeting will be organized in The Netherlands by Oscar Schoumans and Wim Chardon. It will be held before 31 May 2009 (end of budget period), so the impact for writing the RBMPs will be largest.
- A workshop of **WG4** will take place on 24-26 June 2009, in Seminarzentrum Nottwil, Switzerland. The title will be: Evaluation of projects in example areas: The Swiss Midland Lakes. A decision to organize this meeting was already taken by the MC in Devon, 2007. An important aspect of the meeting will be the interaction with farmers in the region. The number of participants will be limited for practical reasons. For second or third participants from a country preference will be given to those who are active in projects dealing with interaction with farmers.
- COST 869 started officially in November 2006, and will end in November 2011. Therefore, it was proposed to have a Mid-term review in 2009. It was decided to prepare the review with the chairs and vice-chairs of the WGs, and discuss this further during a full-day meeting of the MC. The **MC meeting** will be held on 9 September 2009 in Magdeburg, Germany, after the small meeting of WG1 (see above).

For some meetings place and date have to be determined. The MC agreed to organize the meetings in 2008 and 2009.

14. GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE CHAIR

Support was received for 2008, this was expended on costs of the WG3 meeting in Rome, and on labor for maintaining and further expanding the website.

For creating and updating this website the MC agreed to allocate 2000 Euro in 2009 as general support to the chair.

15. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The fourth MC Meeting will be held on 9 September 2009 in Magdeburg, Germany.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No points were raised.

17. CLOSING