

Minutes of the CCB Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 (09:00-12:00 CET, coffee-break 10:39-10:45 CET)

Place: online, Zoom

Attending Board Members / Alternates

1. Chair of the Board: Aija Caune
2. Bettina Taylor, Germany
3. Jussi Laaksonlaita, Finland
4. Przemyslaw Smietana, Poland
5. Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska, Poland
6. Peeter Vissak, Estonia (from Agenda Item 5.2)
7. Elita Kalnina, Latvia
8. Eugeniy Lobanov, Belarus
9. Adriian Hrytsyshyn, Ukraine
10. Mia Svedäng, Sweden (until Agenda Item 8)
11. Nataliya Cholovska, Ukraine
12. Dmitry Filippenko, Russia
13. Edmundas Greimas, Lithuania
14. Irina Sukhy, Belarus (until Agenda Item 6)
15. Thyge Nygaard, Denmark (left 40 min during Agenda Item 5)
16. Robertas Staponkus, Lithuania
17. Anu Suono, Sweden
18. Maret Merisaar, Estonia
19. Susanna Knotz, Germany

Attending staff from the Secretariat:

1. Mikhail Durkin, Executive Secretary
2. Federica Pastore, Communication Officer
3. Per Abrahamsson, Financial Manager
4. Nils Höglund, Fisheries Policy Officer
5. Ida Carlén, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Officer
6. Camille Fraizy International Coordinator/Communication assistant

FORMALITIES

§ 1. Opening of the meeting

Aija Caune, CCB Chairperson, opened the meeting.

§ 2. Appointment of a person to verify the minutes

The Board appointed Mia Svedäng to verify the minutes.

§ 3. Adoption of the Agenda for the meeting

Aija Caune presented the agenda of the meeting.

She suggested to bring the Item 6 and 7 as first discussions for this meeting.

Maret Merisaar proposed to do a short report on the activities in Estonia during the agenda Item 7.

Decision: The Board adopted the revised agenda with 6 votes for, 5 abstain, 0 against.

DECISION ITEMS

11 persons entitled to vote.

§ 4. Adoption of the CCB Annual Financial report 2020:

- Per Abrahamsson reported that the auditors reporting on the CCB Annual Financial Report are not done yet. The report stays similar to the version presented during the last Board Meeting. The account needs to be approved once the report will be ready for the Annual Meeting.

Aija Caune, when the report will be ready?

Per Abrahamsson, within 3 weeks. It is possible still, to attach to this Board Meeting the report to the account without the signature of the auditor.

Aija Caune asked the Board if they agree to extend the decision for the next Board Meeting when auditors will be done with reporting.

Decision: The Board decided to extend the adoption of the CCB Annual Financial report 2020 to the next Board Meeting with 8 votes for, 3 abstain, 0 against

§ 6. Communication

– Federica Pastore presented the pilot website created with external consultants.

Nils Höglund informed that, the current website of CCB is difficult to update because it is too old. This new website would be more stable, functional, flexible and safe.

Adriian Hrytsyshyn asked if WordPress would be used, this platform is not so efficient, as it used to be in the past.

Federica Pastore, it wouldn't be WordPress, also less IT support would be needed with the new website.

Bettina Taylor would like to see the MOs higher in the home page. She asked how should MOs and the projects be shown on the Google maps page, it might be a lot of information.

Nils Höglund explained that layers can be created on Google maps, one layer with MOs and one with projects. Developers of the website will have to work on this.

Eugeniy Lobanov, congratulations for this website, it's a huge work. Visuals look nice compare to current website. For the structure, too much space lost and too much scrolling. Slides are too big, especially on mobile. More compact design and more information would be better. Too many pictures for too little text.

Edmundas Greimas, front picture should be changed, because it's not optimistic enough with dark colors. Would be better with more colorful picture.

Federica Pastore, it's only a test picture and not the final visual.

Peeter Vissak, first picture shouldn't be too attractive to make sure people focus on text, not on picture.

Aija Caune, it's more user friendly now. For publications' page layout, it would be better to see more publications at a time, not only 3 at a time. Too many clicks before going to a document or page. Is the mobile version also responsive? CCB is looking for interaction with the public, where would be petitions, statements, interactions, voting and Baltic Talks?

Federica Pastore, yes the website will be adapted to all devices. For petitions and statements, it's possible to add them in the highlight section and to add a box on the home page.

Mia Svedäng agrees, the structure is clear and user friendly.

Jussi Laaksonlaita, new website looks good, structure and layout are clear and modern.

Susanna Knotz likes it, responsive design works well on phone as well. Maybe header picture could be adjusted to the current news.

Thyge Nygaard, fine work, go forward.

Aija Caune asked the Board to vote on approval to continue with CCB's new website development.

Decision: The Board voted for continuation of CCB's new website development with 8 votes for, 3 abstain, 0 against.

- Federica Pastore presented the proposal for a new CCB Graphic Profile. She also mentioned that a new logo for CCB would be valuable to fit with the update of the website. It would also be possible to develop icons for each Working Area of CCB.

Aija Caune, the wave in the background should be either in right or left side, to stay consistent.

Bettina Taylor likes the visual guideline.

Edmundas Greimas, it's a good proposal because CCB is still recognizable.

Thyge Nygaard, good consistent profile, that is a great work.

Aija Caune supports the new Graphic Profile. Printed documents should be environmental friendly, not using too much ink.

Bettina Taylor asked if the Board has to decide on one option on publications' layout.

Federica Pastore asked the Board to vote for a publications' layout.

Aija Caune asked the Board to vote on the approval of the Graphic Profile and to vote on templates for CCB's publications.

Decision: The Board approved the new CCB Graphic Profile with 9 votes for, 2 abstain, 0 against and the publications' template 1 has been selected as a new layout.

§ 7. Any other business

1. Presentation of activities in Estonia

- Presentation from Maret Merisaar about activities in Estonia.

RIVER (WFD) - Discussions on water quality in shallow marine bays have led to develop new water quality criteria by Marine Institute.

DANGER - Estonia is the only Baltic Sea country that permits ship to ship oil transfers (STS) for commercial purposes in the open sea. 1018 signatures were collected by 20 April to move the activity to ports where safety measures are closer. Parliament has 176 days to come to a decision.

BIO - Printed materials on Marine Protected Areas sent by Ida Carlén have been distributed to colleagues working on marine issues.

PLASTIC FREE OCEAN - Estonian Green Movement published articles on Facebook and organized a seminar for catering enterprises on single use plastic.

Estonian Water Association supported CCB's climate change campaign, but as for the next planned campaigns proposed just to publish an article.

Mikhail Durkin, the case of ship to ship oil transfers is not only concerning Estonia and that should be raised up more, as it concerns different countries.

Maret Merisaar: maybe it's time, as Estonian Parliament is discussing it, to raise the topic in Lithuania and St Petersburg to create a joint CCB protest. Bunkering is transferring oil to a ship that is in trouble and needs it for its own purposes.

2. Presentation of the GEM platform

– Camille Fraizy presented the GEM platform (see Appendix_7_2_Presentation_GEM_2021).
Aija Caune, if they have the videos, will they have the property rights?

Camille Fraizy, they will have the rights of the videos.

Peeter Vissak, positivity concept? How can we do it, if there is an issue?

Camille Fraizy, a good example is salmon's video from Eugeny Lobanov, it's a good way for CCB to show its work.

Aija Caune, can we use and share also their videos? Only one way at the moment, interaction is needed.

Camille Fraizy, not included in the contract, but we can ask and come back to it.

Aija Caune, yes, this would be necessary to know, and valuable to have.

Susanna Knotz, they pass on videos to other platforms and gain money from that? Who is watching that channel?

Camille Fraizy, videos are broadcasted in Europe and United States of America.

Bettina Taylor, quite skeptical about it, would need more time to discuss it internally and would like not to take a decision today.

Aija Caune agrees about the decision.

Mia Svedäng agrees, not clear what would be benefit for us, complicated to join. Do we really need this?

Thyge Nygaard: agrees. Needs more time. Problematic if we can't withdraw our permission.

Peeter Vissak, the point is in the negotiation also for stock images for the contract. Very good visibility in his opinion and we could try. It would be necessary to try to negotiate and then take the final decision.

Mikhail Durkin, more concerns than agreements, so maybe we should stop the discussion and take a decision later on when we will have more info.

Aija Caune: please Camille Fraizy remind us about it. The majority is skeptical, the decision is postponed.

3. Presentation of DAN

– Ida Carlén presented DAN proposal for a partnership with CCB (see Appendix_7_1_Presentation_DAN_Sustainable_Tour)

Aija Caune, is there a date when they'll present harbour porpoises?

Ida Carlén: on the 16th 2021 of May they'll compile some of the messages from CCB on their website.

Aija Caune, interesting initiative, she asked the Board to agree on this partnership.

Bettina Taylor is worried that their intention was not on a work basis, but after Ida Carlén's presentation it looks like their planning is relevant. Bettina Taylor would like to share the website with her colleagues.

Ida Carlén, yes for example, they'll visit companies, partners and policy makers, including the UN offices in Geneva and the European Commission in Brussels.

Aija Caune, that would be a great way to reach new people and raise awareness about harbour porpoises.

Decision: The Board accepted to have a partnership with DAN to raise attention about harbour porpoises with 10 votes for, 1 abstain, 0 against.

§ 5. CCB's organizational development

- Aija Caune introduced the work done on organizational development and CCB revitalizing process. She asked Bettina Taylor to provide a background on CCB's process on the proposal for a new structure.
- Bettina Taylor presented the proposal for a new structure in CCB and mentioned some questions still pending, a brainstorming might be needed.

Nils Höglund, the process presented is linked to theory of change and we should focus on where we want to put the change in CCB, e.g. how we work together, how we engage each other.

Bettina Taylor, this process is a step by step approach. Also all MOs should take part in a Working Group.

Mia Svedäng (Sweden), it's important to have a simple structure. The working groups should be mandatory for each MO to have contacts with all. General Meeting should be more than once per year. Would be interesting to discuss in Board Meetings more environmental questions. For this, need maybe to delegate some issues (e.g. website, guideline) to the Secretariat.

Aija Caune agreed and would like to avoid too much bureaucracy during Board Meetings. She suggested to ask each country to comment on CCB's potential new structure.

Edmundas Greimas (Lithuania), supports the new idea to be less conservative and to try to improve CCB with new challenges. Would it involve a lot of bureaucracy with change of CCB's structure? With this change, we might need to change the Constitution.

Bettina Taylor, some parts of the Constitution would need to be changed indeed.

Edmundas Greimas, if we agree to continue forward on this direction for a new proposal, small details must be considered. Do an evaluation a year after to see, if the new structure is correct and improve it again, if needed.

Przemyslaw Smetana (Poland), proposal of change is fundamental, hoping that cooperation will be more open and effective with this new structure.

Aija Caune, asked Przemyslaw Smetana's opinion on having the right to delegate some functions of the Chair to Vice Chair.

Przemyslaw Smetana, Vice Chair role and opinion is to take decision, so he can take over some responsibilities. This should be clear in all organizations, to separate clearly area of responsibility and obligations, because that could have an impact on decisions making.

Aija Caune presented the current responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair in CCB. Having a geographical representation in CCB would be important.

Eugeniy Lobanov (Belarus), management team concentrates on executive abilities, but not on representing MOs. Composition of the power in CCB should consider representation of all geographical areas. Chair and Vice chair should be a united position for the whole network. Management team should

be small to deal with management in an efficient way. Big networks established the management team as executive committee which is elected by members who can devote time to management and administrative issues. But with doing so, they have to leave the Board. Better to have smaller Board with regulars' meetings, but with keeping the current structure of CCB.

Bettina Taylor, we should get away from the Board because some MOs are not involved in all discussions. Management team could involve all the Working Area leaders. One General Meeting is enough (in person) and a second one digital. Structure of the General Meeting might need to be rethink.

Eugeniy Lobanov, a lead by MOs would be beneficial to represent all MOs (with asking which one would like to be involved in decision making body). Only one General Meeting won't cover all discussion which must be discussed.

Jussi Laaksonlaita (Finland), as said in previous meeting, changes that decrease bureaucracy and enable us to focus more on environmental issues, are welcome. Structure suggested could achieve that.

Peeter Vissak (Estonia), less bureaucracy should be in CCB, but it should be important to consider if the time involved in changing the structure would be worth the results.

Thyge Nygaard (Denmark), supports the suggested structure, a new way to work is needed and we should act and try it and adjust it if needed (e.g. change how many meetings are needed).

Aija Caune (Latvia), supports this change with trying new things, it could be more effective and flexible. Maybe for general meeting it might be organized with less items to be more efficient.

Dmitry Filippenko (Russia), supports the proposals for organizational structure.

Susanna Knotz (Germany), suggests to state in the constitution that a management team is wanted, without more details on its creation and organization, details can be decided during the General Meeting.

Aija Caune explained that the General Meeting should decide on adoption of new Executive Committee and the duties. She asked the Board to vote on the approval *to continue the process to implement a new structure for CCB* and propose recommendations for the new structure for approval of the CCB General meeting.

Decision: The Board accepted to continue the process to implement a new structure within CCB. with 9 votes for, 2 abstain, 0 against.

- Mikhail Durkin presented a proposal to create two new separated working groups.
First working group focuses on youth engagement, through a platform linked to all CCB's activities.
Second working group focuses on communication, to have it formalized within CCB's structure.

Aija Caune, these 2 groups would not be dealing with specific issues, but would be more general. She asked the Board to vote on the approval of these two new groups.

Eugeniy Lobanov, should some persons be selected as representation of these two new groups?

Aija Caune, the selection of the representative of these group should be made later.

Mikhail Durkin, electing coordinators for these groups should be done in the future to make sure that they work in an effective and consistent way.

Decision: The Board decided to establish two new working groups focusing on youth and communication with 8 votes for, 3 abstain, 0 against.

Aija Caune, to move forwards with the new structure's proposal and groups, an Extraordinary General Meeting might be needed to change CCB's constitution.

Two months before proposition of changing the constitution, all the network should be informed.

Extraordinary General Meeting could be held in October.

Mikhail Durkin suggested to set up the Extraordinary General Meeting next to the Annual Conference which will take place in Germany, around 20th of October. Possible date would be on the 16th- 17th or 21rd- 22th 2021.

Bettina Taylor suggested to also mention the HELCOM dates in the Doodle.

The Board took note that a Doodle will be send to set up a date for the Extraordinary General Meeting.

FORMALITIES

§ 8. Next Board Meeting

The next CCB Extraordinary General Meeting will take place 16th 17th or 21rd-22th, of October 2021, a Doodle will be sent to decide on the date.

§ 9. Closing of the Board Meeting

Aija Caune closed the online meeting and thanked all the participants.

Taking the minutes

Verifying the minutes

Camille Fraizy
CCB International coordinator/
Communication Assistant

Aija Caune
CCB Chairperson

Mia Svedäng
CCB Board Member from Sweden