

04/2006 NEWSLETTER



To the Reader

A few days ago the European Water Directors met in Santa Claus Country (Lapland, Finland). We don't know, if he attended the meeting, but among other things, the Water Directors expressed the following "wish" concerning the WFD and rural development (the paragraph is an abstract from the Water Directors' Declaration on WFD and Agriculture, Inari Dec. 2006): "We, the European Water Directors consider that national funding for rural development should contribute to meeting WFD objectives in the short run and especially in areas where urgent action is needed to address water issues. However we recognise that the current funds under the EU Rural Development policy for the establishment of such co-operations and the set up of more environmental friendly production practices will not be sufficient due to competing priorities and the magnitude of agricultural pressures. In order to achieve additional funding sources and mechanisms at the national or regional scales, sufficient transfers from CAP direct payments (pillar 1) to funding for rural development (pillar 2) either by EU or by Member State decisions could be made. We also believe that intensifying the dialogue and the co-operation with the farming sector and the administrations in charge of agriculture and the environment is one key condition for the achievement of EU water policy objectives. We strongly express our willingness to continue this dialogue."

Although agriculture is no municipal task, this approach is appreciated by the municipal level, which would benefit from such funding options as well.



*The whole ENMaR Team is wishing you
a contemplative advent season
and a merry christmas.
All the best for the year 2007.
We are looking forward to
cooperate and work with you again
within the next year.*

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ENMaR Seminar on "Biogas and Water Protection" 25th September 2006 on the OOWV Organic Farm Bakenhus



On September, 25th, 2006, more than 50 participants discussed the topic of "biogas and water protection" within the scope of an ENMaR seminar very interested and lively on the OOWV (Water Board of Oldenburg and East Frisia) organic farm Bakenhus. Speakers from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Environment in Lower Saxony as well as employees of authorities (Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Defence and Nature Conservation Agency, rural district and Chamber of Agriculture), the University of Kassel/Witzenhausen, and the industry put their point of views of the topic biogas up for discussion using highly updated presentations.

The EU, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Federal State of Lower Saxony encourage regenerative energies. On the one hand via cultivation bonuses for energy crops, on the other hand via the energy feeding input law, which provides farmers a financial incentive and calculable general conditions to invest in biogas plants. Furthermore, the plants will be supported with low priced public loans. These funding instruments

led to a flood of applications at the administration of the rural districts. Rural districts count on 600 plants in Lower Saxony before long.

What seemed to be designed very future-oriented, effective, and climate politically wise, in reality turned out to be problematic with regard to water protection and, with that, to the achievement of objectives for the European Water Framework Directive, especially for the region of Weser-Ems. In the frame of the risk assessment (report 2005) a nitric-surplus of 100 kg/ha was detected in the intensive agricultural managed Northwest of Germany. Overall it is forecasted that the objectives of the WFD will not be reached by 2/3 of the water bodies in Lower Saxony.

While listing these possible negative consequences of spreading biogas plants for the parameters of landscape ecology and water protection (see box, "critical aspects of current practice"), we must not disregard that the "principle biogas" with regard to the balance of CO₂ and the necessary alternative that has to be cre-



ated for fossil energy reserves with limited availability should very well find great support (see box, "positive aspects in general").

The general conditions only have to be adapted in a way that makes sure that public funding of these plants does not thwart other public funding and that the objectives of water protection and the WFD can still be obtained. During the seminar urgent political need for action was demanded.

Presentations can be downloaded at www.enmar.org → regions and partners → Weser → agriculture/forestry.

Dr. Christina Aue
Waterboard of Oldenburg and East Frisia

List of summarised points of discussion, which were mentioned during the ENMaR seminar on biogas and water protection:

Positive aspects of biogas plants in general

- New income perspectives for agriculture
- Promotion of the downstream sector (increasing added value, new employment)
- Neutral production of energy with regard to CO₂ balance
- Independency of imported, fossil energy sources will be further encouraged
- Burst of development for biogas technology
- Theoretical concepts for cultivating crops for biogas plants with respect of water protection are available
- Multifunctional applications (high range of capacity of the plants)
- Multifunctional options of utilisation (power generating heating plant, fuel, gas distribution system, hydrogen)
- Utilisation of areas not needed for food production

Critical aspects of current practise with regard to water protection

- Acreage of maize will continue to increase, even in water protection areas of regions with intensive farming
- Danger of increasing N-discharges by new nitrogen intensive maize species
- Set-asides will be increasingly farmed (with maize)
- Change of characteristic landscape
- Increasing transition of grassland (grassland is very positive with regard to biodiversity, water storage, Co₂-fixation and erosion)
- The level of nitrogen in the liquid manure of biogas plants is, according to fertilizer ordinance, only chargeable with regard to the bestial origin (no duty for analysing). The problem of the nitrogen-acreage excess of currently 100 kg/ha will continue to rise in the region of Weser-Ems
- The control of the biogas plants and the nutrient flows can only be insufficiently secured
- Strong increase of prices for tenancy and land
- Cultivation alternatives enhancing water protection and other compensation measures could become much more expensive for consumers
- The achievement of the objectives of the WFD can be locally and regionally affected by an increasing spread of biogas plants.

Regional workshop on impacts on water resources from agriculture and forestry at the Gauja River Basin District (Latvia)

Farmer consultants from municipalities of Gauja RBD participated at the workshop held on 23th November in Nītaure (Cēsis district). The objective of this meeting was to discuss development opportunities in agriculture and forestry and restrictions concerning related environmental impacts, especially on water resources. 24 participants took part in the meeting.

Experts from state institutions (Latvian Environmental, Geological and Meteorological Agency, Valmiera Regional Environmental Board, State Plant Protection Service) and consultancy companies, involved in development of River basin management plans (Grupa93) and farmer consulting (Latvian Rural Consultation Centre) were invited to share information about the Water Framework Directive, its implementation in Latvia and legal requirements concerning water protection.

Main issues discussed at the workshop included:

- information about ENMaR network, goals, objectives and activities of the project;
- requirements of the Water Framework Directive and overview on activities implemented in Latvia, including recent data on evaluation of risk objects, water quality, impact of agriculture and forestry;
- experience from pilot project in development of the Salaca River Basin Management Plan, with emphasis on evaluation of diffuse pollution sources from agriculture and forestry;
- control of plant protection agents, requirements for water protection in use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides;
- legal requirements for agriculture and forestry in protective belts around water bodies, requirements for manure storage;
- environment-related permits for farmers.

Best practice example from Latvia in the field of agriculture – organic farm „Lielkrūzes” was presented by owner Guntars Dolmanis himself. After his presentation participants discussed water and nature protection issues in organic farming, legal requirements and some problems to receive state and EU support for organic farming. Participants were truly interested to visit this farm for exchange of experience in environmentally friendly farming.

Participants of the workshop found water quality issues important in their everyday work and daily life. It was noticed that participants showed concern on potential impacts of agriculture and forestry on the water resources.

Jolanta Bara, Vides Projekti



The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the Water Framework Directive: exploring the linkages

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEAD) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) are two of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation to have been produced by the EU. The SEAD requires that an assessment of significant environmental effects takes place during the development and implementation of a range of plans and programmes. This comprises those that are likely to have significant environmental effects, and includes sectors such as spatial planning, forestry, tourism and water management. The results of the SEA process, which will include details of the likely impacts of the plan or programme and ways to mitigate against their impacts, are presented in an environmental report which must be considered by decision makers. The SEAD therefore opens up a route into strategic decision making for environmental considerations and has the potential, which has yet to be fully realised, to strengthen the content of plans and programmes in environmental terms.

The European Commission has noted that the SEAD should be taken into account when considering the implementation of the WFD. This is due to the strong links between SEA and water, which must be considered alongside a range of other environmental effects during the assessment of the impacts of plans and programmes. Moreover, the scope of the SEAD is such that plans and programmes produced in key sectors influencing the water environment must be subjected to SEA. In this way, SEA can help to encourage a more holistic and far-reaching approach to water management, therefore contributing to the achievement of the goals of the WFD.

It is significant that river basin management plans (RBMPs), which encompass much of the procedural activity of the WFD, will fall under the remit of the SEAD. The assessment of RBMPs according to the requirements of the SEAD provides a means of strengthening their content in terms of environmental issues (including water). However, the WFD legislation also includes assessment requirements. The WFD states that the impact of human activity on water status must be assessed and reported within RBMPs. This is in order to predict the likelihood that surface water bodies will meet the WFD's environmental quality objectives, and to enable steps to be subsequently included within the RBMP's programme of measures to close any gaps identified during the assessment.



There is clearly a dual assessment requirement placed on the preparation of RBMPs as a result of the SEAD and the WFD. An opportunity therefore exists to undertake an integrated assessment process. Indeed, the SEAD states that where overlapping assessment requirements exist, that coordinated procedures should be developed to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. There are several elements of the assessment of RBMPs that will be required by both the SEAD and the WFD. These could be undertaken in an integrated manner and include the collection of baseline data, the development of monitoring procedures and undertaking consultation and public participation.

Aside from saving competent authorities time and money, there are several other potential benefits associated with taking a holistic perspective to the integration of the SEAD and the WFD. These include that availability and quality of baseline data on the water environment could improve, whilst integrated consultation and participation procedures could help to limit 'consultation fatigue.' Moreover, awareness of the impacts of plans and programmes on the water environment would also be likely to be enhanced amongst key stakeholders. Ultimately, the integrated implementation of the SEAD and the WFD could help to drive forward a holistic and sustainable approach to water management.

For further information on this topic please consult the following article: Carter, J. and Howe, J. (2006) The Water Framework Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: exploring the linkages, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 26 (3) 287-300.

Dr. Jeremy Carter
University of Manchester



ENMaR News

ENMaR meets Cycleau

In October, Caroline Riley from the Mersey Basin Campaign talked to Cycleau conference delegates about ENMaR as part of a 'Hands across the Water' sharing of knowledge.



Participants of the conference

Cycleau is a transnational project focusing on the rivers of SW England, Western France and Ireland, funded by the EU North West Europe INTERREG IIIB programme. It involves many partners and communities. The Cycleau Partnership held a conference in Quimper, France, on 12th and 13th October 2006, focusing on the European dimension of river basin management. The main objective of EUREAUTERRITORIALES was to encourage a learning culture and share know-how among European regions. In the plenary session, Caroline presented the ENMaR project to 370 delegates representing 18 different nations.

Conference in Manchester

An ENMaR International Conference is to be held on 23rd February from 9am to 5pm at the Manchester Conference Centre, in the University of Manchester's Weston Building. The conference will look at examples of initiatives from across Europe that help improve the water environment and the Water Framework Directive. It will include a site visit to Salford Quays, followed by another optional site visit the next day to Merseyside.

ENMaR at the EWA conference

On November 7th the European Water Association (EWA) organised its second conference in Brussels. 90 people from 21 countries attended this event and listened to a wide range of international lectures on the European Water Management Policy; for example on the outcome of the 4th world water forum in Mexico, the latest developments in European Water Management Legislation, the status of the implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive in the Baltic region, the purpose and implementation of the economic analysis as set out in Annex 3 of the WFD and the ENMaR project. With this conference and a reception the day before, the EWA celebrated its 25th anniversary. The European Water Association is an independent non-governmental organisation dealing with waste water and drinking water and it has members from most European Member States. All presentations of the conference are available at <http://www.ewaonline.de/journal/online.htm>

ENMaR Workshop dates

In January and February 2007 more workshops will take place in the partner regions. Please contact the respective partner for detailed information.

Gauja

regional workshop "Spatial Planning"

Miño

regional workshop "Spatial Planning"

regional workshop "Tourism"

regional workshop "Agriculture/Forestry"

Weser

regional workshop "Spatial Planning"



Other News

European Award "Our Waters" – Sponsor found

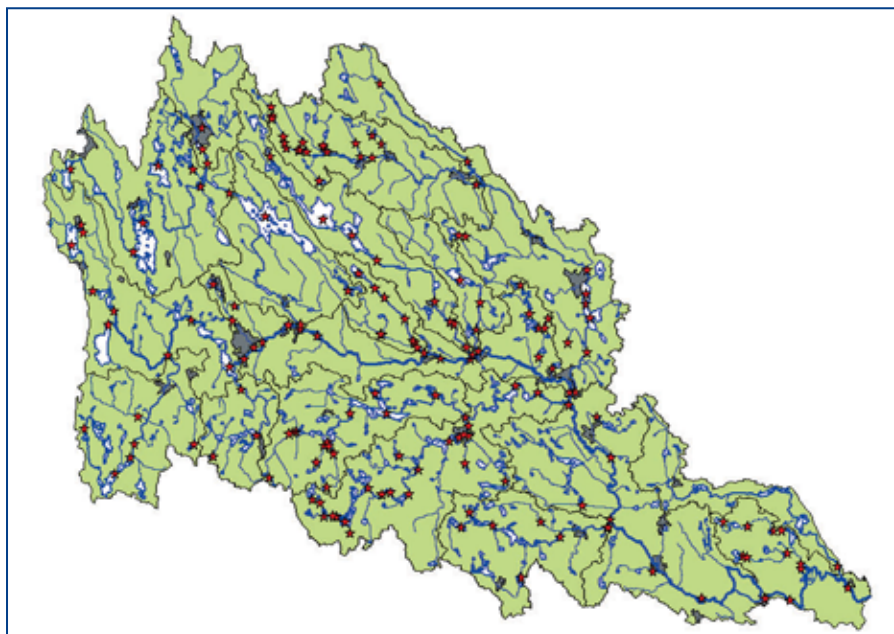
The deadline for tenders for the European Award "Our Waters" is coming to an end. 20 contributions have been submitted already. Captivating because of their wide range of ideas and methods, they show how to accomplish something for our waters with little as well as great funds. There is still the possibility of submitting contributions to the Kommunale Umwelt-Aktion U.A.N. till March, 30th 2007. Everybody who has an idea or knows of a planned or already undertaken measure contributing to the improvement of our waters may participate. The winners will be awarded with the "local environmental award" of the U.A.N. and a prize money of a total of 5.000 € sponsored by the foundation IntEF-U.A.N. (International Environmental Foundation of the Kommunale Umwelt-Aktion U.A.N.). Participate and do not miss out on the chance of contributing to the improvement of our waters and helping to build up a network of interesting water projects! For tender forms, already submitted contributions or further information see www.ourwaters.net.

Co-ordinated recipient control programme in Emån river basin

Within river Emån basin, the most extensive monitoring programme is the "co-ordinated recipient control programme" which has been in progress since 1977. This programme has in several respects contributed to an increased knowledge about different pollutants impact and thereby a better basis for environmental management measures. Recipient control is compulsory (statutory) for all kinds of activities that are harmful for the environment. Hence all water service companies, industries (sawmills, papermills etc.) and large farms (more than 200 cattle) are members and financer of the programme.

The present programme was established 1996 and revised 1999, 2003 and 2006. It contains 72 sample sites for physical-chemical, sediment, bottom fauna and fish samples. The frequency of sampling varies between 12 times/year to 1 occasion/year (electric fishing and bottom fauna). The costs are divided by the members, due to their relative impact on the water quality. This means that the water service companies (sewage treatment works) have the biggest costs. The total annual costs for sampling, analysis and compilation is about 700 000 SEK. Emån Union serves for the contents, revision and compilation of the programme, while sampling and analysis is purchased by consultants every third year.

Thomas Nydén, Emåförbundet



Sampling stations for recipient control programme in river Emån basin.

Liaison Panels participating in the WFD

In England and Wales, there are 11 River Basin Districts for the Water Framework Directive, one of which is Northwest of England. The Environment Agency is responsible for implementing the Directive and has set up River Basin District Liaison Panels in each of the 11 districts.

There is now a Regional Water Framework Directive Liaison Panel for Northwest England made up of major stakeholders at a regional level. Each Liaison Panel has 16 members from key organisations involved in water issues and others who can both represent the public and help drive changes in behaviour. The water company in the Northwest, United Utilities, and the Mersey Basin Campaign both sit on the panel alongside representatives from business, local and regional government organisations and the voluntary sector. The next challenge is to engage the public in the process of developing the river basin management plan for the Northwest.

Caroline Riley, Mersey Basin Campaign

The NoLimp project enabled the OOWV to intensify public relations work on the Water Framework Directive

The German ENMaR partner OOWV has also been engaged within the NoLimp Project, to implement the WFD on a local level. With the support of

the project, a teaching trail for preventative groundwater protection for the public, especially for pupils has been totally redesigned to be more visitor relevant in recognition of current environmental education. In doing this, we have taken into account the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

In the project area, groundwater and surface water are closely related.

Groundwater protection has been the main issue on the organic farm "Biohof Bakenhus", one of the information centres of the water supplier OOWV for years. The issue Water Framework Directive needed to be integrated into the educational concept as well as surface water protection.

The main topic is: The problem of leaching and deposition, particularly of nitrates, because of the existing soil conditions and the intensive animal husbandry in the region of Weser-Ems.

The guided tour for agriculture and groundwater protection is very appealing to the region. Nearly 5000 visitors were counted only in 2005. Tours for bilingual classes are also offered in English.

The Teaching Trail contains five subject area:

- Formation of groundwater, abstraction and soil conditions
- Threats for groundwater
- The concept of groundwater protection and importance of WFD
- Organic farming using the example of the Biohof Bakenhus
- Successes in groundwater protection in the region

The WFD demands public information, public consultation and public participation.

With the support of the NoLimp project an existing information centre has been renewed in order to host a series of seminars to inform different stakeholders about WFD and all relevant issues. More than 200 participants already discussed presentations given by scientists and staff members of relevant authorities. Also the ENMaR project now benefits from the activities within the NoLimp project. Most of the seminars within the ENMaR project are held on the Biohof Bakenhus.

Dr. Christina Aue, Water Board of Oldenburg and East Frisia



Partner Interview

In the previous issues of the ENMaR Newsletter we introduced all partners working on ENMaR to you. With the introduction of the Kommunale Umwelt-Aktion U.A.N. (municipal environmental campaign) we would like to include this series of interviews. The U.A.N. is the lead partner of the ENMaR project and is located in the Weser river basin.



from left to right: Tina Neukamm, Wiebke Abeling

1. What's your function within your institution?

Joachim Vollmer: ENMaR project manager, manager of the U.A.N.

Wiebke Abeling: ENMaR project co-ordinator

Tina Neukamm: ENMaR project assistant

2. What gave you the reason to set up the ENMaR project?

Team: One day in October 2002 Joachim Vollmer sat together with Mr. Harms from the Waterboard of Oldenburg and East Frisia and Mr. Janning from the Environmental Ministry of Lower Saxony and discussed the municipal role in the implementation of the WFD and drafted the following questions: The WFD has long-term effects on the local level - What are the consequences for the municipalities? The WFD is a frame - Does the implementation take place in the different member states in a similar or in a different way? How can interactions between regional development and the implementation of the WFD be linked and support each other? To answer these questions the ENMaR project was born.

3. How would you define regional development?

Team: Every region has its own strengths and potentials. The first thing when speaking about regional development is to find out what these strengths and potentials are and also important is to analyse the weaknesses of the region. Having this knowledge people can start developing strategies to make use of the potentials and cope with the weaknesses. This should be a creative and open minded process. Regional development only works when the public is involved in all processes, this helps people to identify themselves with their region. Regional development should lead to the improvement of the current situation. However to also make achievements for the long term perspective regional development needs to build on the sustainable principles.

4. What are the development objectives/potentials for your region?

Team: Metropolitan regions are more and more in the focus of development policies in Germany. Among the eleven metropolitan regions announced in Germany, there are two in the Weser Basin, Hannover-Braunschweig-Göttingen and Oldenburg-Bremen. Those regions are aiming to establish, develop and promote international competitive sites in Europe. The other development concept is focusing on rural areas. Traditionally the rural area was characterised by agriculture. But due to the ongoing industrialisation of this field and the before mentioned trend, the

rural area need new perspectives. To facilitate the setting of objectives and development strategies, five types of rural areas are identified in Germany:

- rural areas in the commuter belt
- rural areas with high economic resources
- rural areas with good economic opportunities for farming
- rural areas with potentials in the field of tourism
- economically underdeveloped rural areas

Integrated rural development is the new key word and the federal government has set up different programmes to support regional management.

5. What do you expect from the WFD? What is the image of the WFD in your region?

Team: The WFD should help to develop a common understanding of water issues among experts of different fields and levels. It should make the public more aware of water issues, and the value of waters in their surrounding area. Through the WFD we hope to achieve the best possible for all our waters taking into account socio-economic aspects.

In Lower Saxony the administration on local level by now has quite good knowledge about the WFD, but there are still high uncertainties about the compilation of river basin management plans, their consequences and the correlation to other plans and programmes. And it is still not clear, which measures are necessary and how those will be financed.

6. Where in your opinion are the differences between the municipal and the European perspective in the implementation of the WFD?

Team: We think, that the main differences between the municipal and the European level are the different dimensions or scales both parties cope with and the discrepancy of the original assignments. Municipalities underlie a lot of different constraints and people in charge of the WFD especially in small municipalities are “amateurs” and not pro’s as in higher level water authorities for example. Therefore the “language” differs a lot. Municipalities have never talked about intercalibration, water bodies, ecological quality ratio et cetera before. Rather than technical guidance papers they need more practical advices. In spite of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS), and all the effort done so far, the municipalities are still uncertain where the WFD leads to. The link between the EU and local level and the contact for the Commission are the Member States, which need to reflect the local and practical level.



7. When was the last time, that you have been at or in some water body? Do you have a water related hobby?

JV: I’m a fan of the North Sea. The last time I have been there was during summer break.

WA: I don’t know the last time ☹, but the next time will be new year’s eve at the Baltic coast ☺. I used to row during my studies in Rostock.

TN: My parents live close to a lake and in summertime we often go swimming. I love to snorkel.

Imprint

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