



B7 Baltic Islands Network

Åland Chairmanship 2013

P.O.B. 1060

AX-22 111, Mariehamn

Tel +358 18 25 104

E-mail: pamela.baarman@regeringen.ax

Tel +358 18 25 186

E-mail: jessica.josefsson@regeringen.ax

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

MEETING: September 5th, 2013

Venue: Conference room Utbådan at Ålands landskapsregering, Strandgatan 37, AX-22 111 Mariehamn

Date & Time: September 5th, 2013 at 08.30-11.00

Politicians:

Island	Name		Position
Åland	Gun-Mari Lindholm (GML)	Yes	B7 President 2013 Minister of Åland Government
Gotland	Lena Celion (LC)	Yes	
Hiiumaa	Riho Rahuoja (RR)	Yes	Hiiumaa County Governor
Öland	Tommy Eliasson (TE)	Yes	Öland Association of Municipalities
Rügen	Uwe Ahlers (UA)	Yes	Member Council Vorpommern-Rügen
Saaremaa	Kaido Kaasik (KK)	Yes	County Governor
Bornholm	Winnie Grosbøll	No	Mayor of Bornholm

Officials:

Island	Name		Position
Åland	Pamela Baarman (PB)	Yes	B7 Board Chair 2013
Gotland	Anne Ståhl-Mousa (ASM)	Yes	B7 Board
Hiiumaa	Piret Sedrik (PS)	Yes	B7 Board
Öland	Anders Nyholm (AN)	Yes	B7 Board
Rügen	Martina Schwinkendorf (MS)	Yes	B7 Board
Saaremaa	Jaan Leivategija (JL)	Yes	B7 Board
Bornholm	Henrik Eybye Nielsen (HEN)	No	B7 Board
Åland	Jessica Josefsson (JJ)	Yes	B7 Secretariat 2013



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STRATEGY MEETING with Ulf Johansson (UJ) from Sweco:

GML: This meeting has taken a different turn because of Bornholm's (and maybe Åland's) decision to leave B7. But the strategy may be used no matter how big the group is.

UJ: This strategy was written with the help of three working group meetings with the Board.

One key problem is that as it is now, your international work is not integrated with you every day work. Instead it's just one task. Your great challenge is to go from noise to workshop to result.

All member islands do not have the same kind of problems. What you need to do is find areas where you share problems. It's not always about "what's in it for me" but more about co-operation. It's a question of room for action vs. ability to act. Furthermore, success is not always what you see. You need to decide what you think is a good result and look forward.

B7 Strategy 2014-2020

Increased focus

- Focus on issues of relevance for the future of the islands and their populations.
- Projects should only be run if they are in line with the island's own development.

Increased learning

- More civil servants should be able to share experiences with colleagues on other islands.
- Sharing success stories and discussing failures in order to develop.
- Politicians should meet more often to discuss important future challenges.
- Exchange ideas beyond everyday work.

Increased transparency

- Communication
- B7 can only be successful if we increase the communication with the inhabitants.

Island benchmarking

- Thematic benchmarking
- This is to be a focus area during 2014-2020.

Increased commitment

- Expected results have to be clear to follow up.
- The SC and Board have to take on a larger responsibility.

The future:

UA: The workgroups are important and should remain, B7 is nothing without them

LC: With Bornholm not along anymore we have to get a new start. We should look into the idea of thematic years for the B7. B7 Games are important to keep. It's also important to have the highest civil servants + politicians involved.



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TE: We cannot ask anybody else, we have to do it ourselves. We need higher engagement. It would be good with one theme a year but the result has to be visible when the year is over. It's not so much a question of money as about motivation. This all needs to be discussed at the Annual Conference.

LC: Challenges are awaiting all islands in the future. If you look at the BSPC for example, each member there take on more responsibility for the costs for each meeting. Could this be an idea for B7?

GML: During our meeting in Bornholm in March we discussed new thinking. We observed that everyone wants to keep B7 alive but with less meetings etc. Åland did not withdraw from B7 earlier because of the chairmanship. Meetings on certain themes is a good idea, however, we still feel that it's a problem with meetings that takes away work power that's needed elsewhere. It's not so much a question of money, but of resources needed for preparation of the meetings, travelling etc. Maybe we could have fewer WGs and projects, only focus on a very few projects.

So what we need to do is to go back to our islands and discuss our future. Do we need membership fees? The Åland Government still thinks that Åland should withdraw from B7 but we can think about staying if the level is lowered.

UJ: You can get less travelling with the help of technique (Skype etc). B7 should explore the possibility of web meetings – web meetings would mean no costs, and you could maybe even have a monthly meeting.

UA: We should think about inviting a new member if we continue the co-operation. I would for example suggest Wolin in Poland. It might be an idea to maybe invite them to the Annual Conference?

ASM: it might not be such a good idea to invite new members in before we know where we're going with the organisation ourselves.

TE: UA can contact Wolin and hear what they have to say and then report back to us at the Annual Conference.

GML: But what do we have to offer them?

GML: A new budget model for the B7 is needed

MS together with ASM will look into it and prepare a new budget model.

MS: We'll still need at least a small membership fee, the meetings will cost some.

GML: All islands would finance their own meeting costs. We'd then have one meeting a year for example an annual conference. We would have meetings with a theme (benchmarking).

LC: Other meetings could be web based. Another possibility would be to get B7 invited to other organisation's conferences.



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§1. BORNHOLM AND THE FUTURE

Purpose of agenda item: To discuss and decide how to deal with Bornholm's withdrawal from B7.

-Tommy Eliasson will meet with Bornholm.

Decision: Agreed

- Hiiumaa will look into the possibility of taking over the responsibility for the website.

Decision: Agreed

- Saaremaa will investigate the possibility of taking over the responsibility for the budget/economy.

Decision: Agreed

§2. MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING: (Åland Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: Review and approve minutes of SC meeting in Bornholm March 5th.

Decision: Minutes approved.

§3. APPROVAL of AGENDA: (Åland Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To approve the agenda for the meeting.

Decision: Agenda approved

§4. ÅLAND CHAIRMANSHIP PROGRAMME UPDATE: (Åland Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To give an update on the Annual programme and dates for Chairmanship Programme 2013.

- There will be no representatives from B7 on UBC General Assembly in Mariehamn 30.9 – 4.10.

- The date for the Annual Conference is set for 7th-8th November. Everyone believes they will be able to attend.

§5. BUDGET & ACCOUNTS

Purpose of agenda item: Review status of the budget 2013.

7000 € has been added to the budget line "strategy" in order to finance the engagement of Ulf Johansson for the strategy meetings and for the writing of the new strategy. The sum has been transferred from budget line "facilitator". Money has also been transferred in order to pay Bornholm for taking care of the finances.

Decision: Approved

§6. WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE ISLANDS:

Purpose of agenda item: To give an update of the key political issues happening on the B7 islands.

Saaremaa:

-Election time on local level.

Gotland:

-Discussion about tourism and ferry traffic, who will traffic Gotland.



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- Health care co-operation with the Stockholm region.
- More money for high schools as well as a new high school.
- Transaction of elderly homes.
- New sports arena being built.
- Investment in a new harbour + pier.

Öland:

- Good tourism summer – even the farmers are happy with the summer.
- New tourism strategy, implementing it now.
- Merging of municipalities.

Rügen:

- Working hard to come together with the new municipalities.

Hiiumaa:

- Election of local authorities in October.
- Merging of municipalities (five municipalities are to become four).
- Development strategy
- Planning and rebuilding of harbour area in Kärddla, finished next year.

Åland:

- Budget work, less money than was counted on so some changing in the welfare system is needed.
- Reforms galore
- Proposed theme for B7 next year: Aging population

§7. PROJECTS and §8. WORKGROUPS

Purpose of agenda item: To give update on the on-going B7 projects on what is happening in the workgroups

§7.1. Sustainable development in schools and sustainable message from children and youth. Project leader WG people-to-people.

When all islands have sent in their answers we're going to put together the answers and start evaluating. Hopefully a follow up during next year.

§7.2. Photo exhibition about art project series. Project leader WG People-to-people.

Photos from Meet art projects from earlier years. Exhibition on Åland during AC. Bornholm won't be taking over the art project next year. The project has been popular, the artists want to do it next year again.

§7.3. The future of projects.

How should we go about with projects in the future?

Åland believe that we should strive towards fewer working groups and projects because that's where the biggest cost lays. It was also discussed that one should try to form a trust group rather than a chairman. Everyone will go back to their islands to discuss these issues. The art project could be enough for next year. It was agreed that we would try to keep B7 Games after Gotland informed that the budget was 8000 €/year with about 50 participants.



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§9. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ORGANISATIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA

TE: As there are many co-operations in the Baltic Sea area, how would the SC feel about having one meeting a year with BSSSC? There's a BSSSC-meeting on October 16th, TE can report back from it. Maybe a possibility to merge some of the organisations?

ASM: This is an old question. It has been voiced here today that we would have fewer meetings, not commit to more.

A possibility of having a meeting back-to-back with the Annual Conference?

Decision: TE gets in contact with BSSSC and reports back.

§10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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§11. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Annual Conference November 7th-8th 2013.