

MINUTES
of the Steering Committee meeting no. IV

**Project “Monitoring Natura 2000 sites as a tool for effective management and protection
of autochthonous populations of crayfish”
(EHP-CZ02-OV-1-007-2014)**

Location: T.G. Masaryk Water Research Institute, PRI
Podbabská 30, Prague 6

Date: 15.12.2015, from 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mgr. Jakub Dobiáš, Ing. Jiří Pícek, Ing. Jiří Musil, Ph.D., Ing. Miroslav Barankiewicz,
RNDr. Jitka Svobodová, Mgr. Libuše Opatřilová

Programme:

- Extension of the project and schedule changes
- Information on preparation of interim annual monitoring report
- Suggestion and sample of the format of the results published in the online information system
- Work schedule and fulfilling indicators in the activity “Behavioural interaction of crayfish, fish, and significant predators”
- Information on work progress
- Discussion

- **Extension of the project and schedule changes**

It was agreed to extend the project to 31 December 2016 and in connection therewith the schedule of the project activities has been modified.

- **Information on preparation of interim annual monitoring report**

In connection with the extended approval of the first monitoring report, the sponsor postponed the deadline of submitting the interim annual monitoring report (the original deadline was 30 November 2015). Each activity which has an extended deadline in the modified schedule is required to indicate the reasons for such extension in the report. While monitoring crayfish several more locations were identified than indicated in the project proposal; this fact will be justified in the monitoring report as well.

- **Suggestion and sample of the format of the results published in the online information system**

Ing. Pícek showed current display of data on the project website, especially in the "DATA" folder.

J. Svobodová presented the possible appearance of the charts that will be placed on the website. The form of the charts, colour resolution and other settings were discussed. It was suggested to display the summary results in an Excel table and create summary charts only with selected parameters.

- **Work schedule and fulfilling indicators in the activity “Behavioural interaction of crayfish, fish, and significant predators”**

It is necessary to finalize the selection of three locations where monitoring will take place. Over the Christmas holidays, J. Svobodová will verify fishermen’s claims in literature that the main predator of crayfish in our streams is trout.

Fishermen need the fish in selected locations to be bigger than approximately 24 cm, so that they can have a transmitter placed in their body. According to the information on the monitoring from the group of fishermen, these fish can be found only on four monitored locations.

Regarding terrestrial predators, according to NCA CR monitoring they should occur everywhere, but J. Svobodová draws attention to the fact that only otter droppings were found on the locations, not mink. Monitoring predators will begin in January by observing droppings, possible traces in the snow and consequently placing camera traps.

Proposed locations for monitoring:

- Litavka (eastern crayfish) or Stroupínský stream (stone crayfish, noble crayfish)
- Ohrazenický stream (noble crayfish)
- Pšovka (noble crayfish)

At the beginning of January it is necessary to agree on the final selection of locations - Svobodová J. and M. Barankiewicz.

In January it is also necessary to incorporate into the overall schedule the work on calibration of crayfish monitoring methods in connection with the creation of crayfish monitoring methodology using snorkelling.

All postponed fieldwork has to end at the turn of September and October 2016!

- **Information on work progress**

Monitoring fish (outside SCI) was performed in 15 locations, one location remains – Třítrubecký stream – it is necessary to perform it next year.

Hydromorphological monitoring was performed in all areas of crayfish monitoring (according to NCA CR methodology) and at 30 selected locations (where all biological components are sampled + all matrix water, sediments, biota) according to HEM methodology (J. Langhammer et al., 2014). All hydromorphological monitoring will be available in Excel spreadsheets by the end of January 2016.

The results of crayfish monitoring (J. Svobodová) and fish monitoring (M. Barankiewicz) will be delivered as an Excel spreadsheet and then uploaded to the internal system (J. Pícek). The results from the monitoring of macroinvertebrates (L. Opatřilová) will be inserted into the internal system 'Labsystem', and subsequently exported and uploaded to the internal system WRI HEIS.

The analyses of pharmaceuticals in water were completed and project partner Povodí Vltavy invoiced these tasks with an in-house invoice, which will be a part of the expenses in the third monitoring report.

Project publicity - summary (J. Pícek):

- A calendar was printed with 2000 copies and is being successfully distributed
- Six out of the planned ten lectures were organized
- Web pages are constantly updated, e.g. rich photographic material for individual monitored locations can be found there

- **Discussion**

Analyses of PBDEs in biota

Mgr. Dobiáš raised the question of who will perform the discussed analyses of PBDEs in crayfish tissues (follow-up on the issue discussed at the last Steering Committee). Mgr. Dobiáš said project partner Povodí Vltavy would have several problems with the analyses. One is the aspect of time: the partner is now purchasing a new apparatus for these analyses and will not be able to calibrate it in time for the analyses required for this project; also, its employees have little experience with these types of analyses.

He also pointed out the issue of not always sufficient amount of sample weight for all planned analyses. From a mixed sample of caught crayfish muscle it is necessary to do the analyses of heavy metals, special organic analyses and the discussed PBDEs.

The project leader will confirm if the analysis can be done at their workplace. The project partner added rough calculation of the analysis done by an external supplier (approximately 4500 CZK / sample at the ALS laboratory by subcontracted work) and the Head of the project will examine the possibility of assigning the analyses to this supplier through a contract.

Analyses of pharmaceuticals in biota

The question has been raised at the project partner (Povodí Vltavy, State Enterprise) to clarify the implementation of the analyses of pharmaceuticals in biota. Technically, these analyses are feasible, provided that there is sufficient amount of sample weight of mixed sample of crayfish muscle. Furthermore, these analyses should be carried out only at the locations where pharmaceuticals were detected in surface water. The Project Manager will identify locations according to the previous results of flowing water analyses, the project partner will then try to carry out these assessments on selected locations according to the sample weight remaining after previous analyses.

Minutes taken by: L. Opatřilová

Checked by: J. Svobodová, J. Dobiáš