

MINUTES OF ANDROS LIFE+ NATURE PROJECT MEETING

2 August 2011, 11:30 a.m., Korthi Municipal Building

Meeting Attendees:

Isidoro Nikolaou, representing Mayor Ioannis Glynos, Andros Municipality

Tasos Dimalexis, NCC Ltd.

Jacob Fric, Hellenic Ornithological Society

Konstantinos Mentzelopoulos, Project Director Designate

Dimitri Zannes, Field Warden Designate

C.J. Alexander, Dissemination Coordinator Designate

Issues Discussed:

1. A project summary was presented for the benefit of project participants who were not involved in the project design.
2. Personnel positions were identified and approved. In addition, recent government policy changes associated with the imposition of austerity and control measures which impact the available means of hiring project personnel were discussed.
3. It was decided that the Andros Municipality will explore the possibility of a new project partner to facilitate hiring project personnel. Potential partner candidates (subject to Commission approval) include (1) BLUEnature (the bylaws of which, according to Mr. Nikolaou, were submitted to the Hellenic authorities on Syros in mid-June for registration as a Hellenic non-profit association NGO, and (2) the Andros Development Corporation.
4. In the interest of expediency and to ensure the timely commencement of the project on 1 September 2011, it was agreed that the project personnel will initially be hired with a 5 month contract. Salaries will be promptly paid upon the issuance of a monthly "expense receipt" to be issued by each project personnel member. It was agreed that Mr. Mentzelopoulos would be hired for the position of Project Director as an independent service provider under the direct supervision of the Coordinating Beneficiary and he would not be hired as a municipal employee with a permanent employment or short term contract status, especially in light of the recently enacted public sector hiring freeze.
5. NCC Ltd. will prepare the Partnership Agreement to be executed by the Andros Municipality, NCC Ltd. and HOS. The Project Director was requested to translate the project application action titles from English to Greek for inclusion in the

Partnership Agreement. Mr. Mentzelopoulos recommended that the Partnership Agreement require each member of the Steering Committee to be present in the event of any visits/inspections by the European Commission or its designated representatives because Steering Committee members should have first hand knowledge about the problems observed by the Commission and should be present to meet and decide upon the most expedient remedies. This recommendation was not supported by Mssrs. Dimalexis and Fric of NCC Ltd. and HOS, respectively, who failed to address the issue of expediently resolving project problems and remarked that the Project Director should be in command of all the facts and details sufficient to respond to Commission questions.

6. It was agreed that the Partnership Agreement funds disbursement provisions shall include the process whereby the Steering Committee must (i) first review the project budget and (ii) thereafter establish measures to ensure the timely and equitable purchases of all project equipment, including those equipment items listed in the project application as well as the equipment items listed in written response to European Commission questions.
7. The Steering Committee constituents were revised to include one representative of each project partner as well as the Project Director.
8. In September 2011, the partners will prepare a request on behalf of the Andros Municipality for project co-funding from the Environment Ministry's Green Fund. The proposed means and ability of the Andros Municipality to fulfill its co-funding commitment are an issue as the relevant subject of the Andros Municipal indebtedness to Mr. Mentzelopoulos for one year of unpaid salary remains unresolved. When asked at the meeting about the status of this unpaid salary, the Mayor's designated representative, Mr. Nikolaou, responded that he has no information about the subject and that Mr. Mentzelopoulos should direct this inquiry to the Mayor.
9. Mr. Nikolaou asked the Project Director about the purpose and use of the Andros LIFE+ Nature project bank account opened at the National Bank of Greece by the Andros Municipality. Mr. Nikolaou explained the Municipality's desire to commingle the European Commission funds with Municipal funds to conform to the Municipality's customary banking procedures; however, Mr. Mentzelopoulos explained the need for a separate bank account used exclusively for the LIFE project which will allow the Commission or any other authorized party to trace project expenses and income.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Konstantinos Mentzelopoulos