

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Public Service Plaza, Havant on Friday 27 September 2013, commencing at 10.15am

Present: A list of those present is appended to these minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr J Connor	-	Chichester District Council
Prof. M Cowling	-	The Crown Estate
Dr K Buchan	-	Dorset County Council
Mr L Cairns	-	East Solent Coastal Partnership
Ms W Brooks	-	Environment Agency
Mr N Hardiman	-	Environment Agency
Ms L Hughes	-	Environment Agency
Mr I Miller	-	Environment Agency
Mr J O'Flynn	-	Environment Agency
Cllr T Knight	-	Fareham Borough Council
Cllr X Dion	-	Borough of Poole Council
Mr G Mason	-	Portsmouth City Council
Ms S Foulds	-	Southampton City Council
Ms B Maguire	-	Southampton City Council
Cllr W Payne	-	Southampton City Council
Ms L Brown	-	Southern RFCC Chair
Cllr I Roebuck	-	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Mr C Lisher	-	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners

2. Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 26 April 2013 be approved.

3. Research Programme

The Group received a report from the Chairperson of the Research Sub-Group setting out progress made on the following current and proposed SCOPAC projects:

3.1) Evolution of Coastal Sediment Stores and Sinks Study

The mapping of difference plots for offshore shoals, which indicated accretion and erosion along the beaches of the SCOPAC coastline, had now been completed. The final beach store maps had been produced which indicated sediment accretion on the beaches and Admiralty tide charts had now been digitised to try and identify potential locations of offshore shoals. Once all the maps had been finalised the reports would then be produced.

3.2) SCOPAC Minor Projects Fund (2011/2012 and 2012/2013)

The follow up surveys for the sediment tracer study had now been completed and it was suggested that a Ph.D student from Sussex University may use the equipment to conduct further studies.

3.3) SCOPAC Minor Projects Fund (2013/14 and 2014/2015)

Details were provided of the following two projects recently awarded contributions from the Minor Projects Fund:

University of Southampton – Coastal Sediment Budget Project

The project had been awarded £4000 to investigate the sediment pathways around Poole and Christchurch Bays. Onshore and offshore sediment samples would be collected for analysis to identify direction and sources of sediment with the contribution being used to fund five man days on a boat to collect samples.

Channel Coastal Observatory – Seabed Mapping Project

The Channel Coastal Observatory had been awarded £3000 in funding as a contribution towards seabed mapping of swath bathymetry data of the East Solent. The project was reliant on seeking other sources of funding but the Southern Coastal Group had agreed to increase the funding to £4000 if further contributions could not be secured.

3.4) SCOPAC Field Trip

Positive feedback had been received from the fifty delegates who attended the field trip to Lyme Regis. The event had been very informative and thanks were expressed to the speakers and West Dorset District Council for helping make it a successful event.

3.5) Southern Coastal Group Workshop

The next workshop had been tentatively scheduled for 10 January 2014 and it was proposed to focus it on landsliding. It was felt that it would be a good opportunity to look at the issues surrounding such events particularly as there had been numerous recent landsliding occurrences.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

4. **Borough of Poole Council Proposals for Nearshore Replenishment Trials**

Stuart Terry of the Borough of Poole Council provided a presentation on “Proposals for Nearshore Replenishment Trials”. Members were interested to note the innovative approach to beach replenishment and the potential to reduce financial costs and lessen the impact on the local environment.

RESOLVED that Stuart Terry be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

5. Report of the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group

The Group received a report from the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group setting out recent developments and progress made on the following subjects:

5.1) Research Proposals for Performance of Nearshore Replenishment Trials

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group explained the importance of SCOPAC support for the proposed techniques of nearshore replenishment suggested by Borough of Poole Council. It was felt that the techniques could be utilised at various sites across the SCOPAC coastline which would produce benefits for members.

A research programme needed developing to support the research proposal and constructive discussions with the Environment Agency regarding possible funding from the current financial years budget had taken place. A proposal would be submitted to the Environment Agency shortly suggesting that the total cost of the project would be approximately £75,000. £15,000 of this could be made available through SCOPAC funding and it was suggested £60,000 be sought from the Environment Agency research programme. The Environment Agency was supportive of the project because of its pioneering nature although any funding would be reliant on being able to show the effectiveness of the trials. The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group proposed that various methods to measure the effectiveness of the scheme could be utilised, including the use of fluorescent or magnetic pebbles.

RESOLVED That

- 1) the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group prepare a detailed brief and research funding bid to the Environment Agency, in conjunction with the Borough of Poole Council; and
- 2) SCOPAC funding of £15,000 be made available to support the research project, subject to receiving funding support from the Environment Agency

5.2) National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes

A progress update was provided which included the establishment of a project board to form the governance of the national network of regional coastal monitoring programmes. SCOPAC would be represented by two officers, Andy Bradbury and Bryan Curtis.

5.3) South Coast Risk Review

5.4) Managed Realignment

The importance of the Medmerry managed realignment scheme for SCOPAC was highlighted and a progress update on the current situation was provided. Uncertainty still existed in relation to the documentation of managed realignments and it was felt a better coordinated approach to the dissemination of the regional habitat creation scheme programme is required.

5.5) Funding of Coastal Schemes

5.6) Training Event (Managing Coastal Landslides)

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

6. National Coastal Overview Update

Members were requested to forward any questions on the update to the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group, of particular interest was the South Marine Plan Update which the MMO would be running a series of workshops on in October 2013.

7. Presentations and Discussion on Grant Aid Funding for Coastal Schemes

7.1) Coast Protection MTP Calculator

Neil Watson of the Environment Agency provided a presentation on the "Appraisal of Coastal Schemes" which included details on the following:

- Risk to life needed to feature as an outcome;
- National data sets are flawed in representing risks;
- Complex historic harbours and breakwaters needed funding;
- Erosion damages are inadequate to develop projects at MTP level; and
- Landfill at risk from erosion should contribute to scheme justification.

Neil Watson answered questions on the presentation and was thanked for providing an informative overview of the various issues.

7.2) Coastal Funding in the Eastern Solent

James Addicott of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership provided a presentation on "Coastal Funding in the Eastern Solent". It described the local approach to the funding process, ways in which benefits could be maximised and the resources required to build a business case with an element of certainty.

RESOLVED That Neil Watson and James Addicott be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

8. Any Other Business

Neil Watson of the Environment Agency updated members on the Poole and Wareham Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy. Public consultation had finished on 1 April 2013 and it was expected to be signed off for approval by New Year 2014.

9. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the following schedule of SCOPAC meetings be approved:

- (i) Friday 17 January 2014

(ii) Friday 11 April 2014

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 12.03pm.