

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Public Service Plaza, Havant on Friday 10 February 2012, commencing at 10.15am

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

<u>Apologies:</u> Cllr R Lawton	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Mr M Cowling	-	The Crown Estate
Cllr T Craig	-	Eastleigh Borough Council
Mr M Bateman	-	Environment Agency
Mr S Mills	-	Fareham Borough Council
Ms K Carron	-	Gosport Borough Council
Cllr D Guest	-	Havant Borough Council
Mr P Marsden	-	Isle of Wight Council
Ms K McHugh	-	Solent Forum
Cllr I Roebuck	-	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Mr C Lisher	-	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners

1. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22 September 2011 be approved subject to the list of representatives attending being amended to read:

“Gosport Borough Council
Cllr D Kimber
Ms K Carron”

2. Election of Vice-Chairman of SCOPAC

RESOLVED that Councillor M Penfold be appointed Vice-Chairman of SCOPAC for the ensuing three years.

3. Members Issues Presentation – “Marine Conservation Zones” – Cllr Connor

SCOPAC members received a presentation on “Marine Conservation Zones” by Cllr Connor of Chichester District Council. Members were interested to note the impact the zones had on the coastline and the concerns expressed over the consultation process involved.

The Chairman commented on the interesting issues raised and highlighted the importance of local representation on such matters.

RESOLVED That Councillor John Connor be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

4. Report of the Chair of the 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:

4.1) ACCESS' (Adapting to Climate Change Along England's Southern Shorelines')

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group agreed to feed back any SCOPAC comments on coastal erosion issues to the NCERM project board.

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

Progress updates were provided on the two projects awarded SCOPAC minor projects funding. The Chairman stressed the important role SCOPAC played in providing research opportunities and the benefits of sharing best practice.

4.3) Evolution of Coastal Sediment Stores and Sinks Study

Members were updated on the next steps of the project which included:

- Analysing data to show actual stores and sinks minus recycling and renourishment events;
- Adding hydrographic data;
- Mapping historical evolution (area change);
- Estimating volumes where possible.

In response to a question Sam Cope agreed to confirm after the meeting whether Lyme Bay sinks had been mapped.

4.4) Update of SCOPAC Bibliographic Database and Regional Sediment Transport Study Delivered Via MTP

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group provided an overview of the plans to update the SCOPAC Bibliographic Database and members were interested to note the current funding opportunities available. Proposals to use £13,000 of SCOPAC funding to update the Bibliographic Database were explained and it was confirmed that the project would be delivered through the use of in-house skills from member organisations.

RESOLVED that £13,000 of funding be approved to update the SCOPAC Bibliographic Database.

4.5) Regional Extreme Wave Conditions Study Delivered Via MTP

It was explained that current coastal protection designs along The English Channel were inadequate for the conditions and it was expected that the investigation would produce valuable design guidance. The investigation would require physical design models which could potentially be expensive but it was explained that building cross sections, running events and quantifying them would be the most effective way in producing new design approaches. It was confirmed that the process would be subject to the correct procurement procedures.

4.6) Southern Coastal Group Sediment Recycling Workshop

Members were pleased to note that forty-seven officers had recently attended the sediment recycling workshop which had focused on sharing best practice with

officers new to the industry. The event had received positive feedback and it was hoped it would feed into the sediment sink study.

The Chairman commented on the value of the workshop initiative, especially for people new to the industry, and encouraged members to view the presentations of the event on the SCOPAC website.

RESOLVED That the speakers at the workshop be thanked for their efforts.

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) National Network of Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes (2011 – 2017)

It was confirmed that current funding for the programme ended in March 2012 and a new nationally coordinated approach that streamlined the procurement process would commence in April 2012. The full sum requested in the scheme application had been sanctioned by the Environment Agency, however it was explained that a reduction of 23% could occur. It was explained that 13% of this would be covered through the contingency allowance which would lessen the impact of any potential funding reductions.

5.2) Grant Aid Funding for Research Studies

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was pleased to inform members that two SCOPAC projects had recently been awarded grant aid funding. The update of the Sediment Transport Study had been awarded £150,000 and it was explained that without the original SCOPAC funding further grant aid may not have been received. The Extreme Wave Study had also been awarded £230,000 and this would be used to undertake a series of investigations.

5.3) Funding from EA Wessex

Members were pleased to note that £30,000 of funding, spread over three years, had been secured from the Environment Agency and this would be released once a three year contract agreement had been developed. The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group agreed to clarify who would act as SCOPAC's legal body in order to proceed with the agreement.

5.4) Membership Subscriptions

Members undertook a detailed discussion over the current two tier membership system and the related membership fees. It was felt that it was important for the fees to be equitable and for the process to be as simple as possible. Members agreed that further discussion needed to take place and that members should feed any comments back to officers for discussion at the next Southern Coastal Group meeting. Any recommendations arising could then be brought back to the next SCOPAC meeting for debate.

RESOLVED that member comments on SCOPAC membership subscriptions be passed on to officers for discussion at the next Southern Coastal Group.

5.5) Budget for 2012/13

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group introduced the draft budget for 2012/13. Members inspected the draft budget and suggested that the Southern Coastal Group statement should be balanced with any surplus being retained in the SCOPAC budget.

RESOLVED that

- 1) The 2012/13 SCOPAC budget be approved;
- 2) The 2012/13 Southern Coastal Group budget be noted.

5.6) Member and Officer Events

Members were interested to note the proposal for a field visit to Hurst Spit and were informed that the proposed date was 21 June 2012.

RESOLVED That funding of £1,200 be approved for the summer field visit to Hurst Spit.

6. National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping

Dr. Uwe Dornbusch of the Environment Agency provided a presentation on the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping project. Several of the projects key decisions were detailed including confirmation that the Environment Agency would lead on the project with local authorities having a clear partnership role in the process. Members also received confirmation that erosion lines would not be shown on the maps. A data validation re-run had taken place and this had been essential in ensuring the most accurate and recent data had been used in the model and this had helped in ensuring the NCERM project had been a big step forward in raising awareness of wider adaptation issues.

Dr. Uwe Dornbusch informed members that he would circulate a survey after the meeting which would provide members with an opportunity to feedback any opinions on the project. The Chairman stressed the importance of the survey and encouraged all members to complete it.

RESOLVED That Dr Uwe Dornbusch be thanked for providing an informative presentation.

7. Sea Level Rise

Neil Watson of the Environment Agency brought to the members attention the current uncertainty surrounding evidence of sea level rise and the problems this created in providing the public with confidence in sea level rise projections. It was stressed that it was important to start building up a local evidence base and investigate potential study methods that would be accessible for the public. Neil Watson agreed to circulate to members a recent paper which discussed the issues surrounding sea level rise.

8. Medium Term Programme and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Funding Recommendations

John O'Flynn of the Environment Agency provided an update on the Medium Term Programme allocation and the current programme of dates in place. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency Board had recently approved allocations and work was due to commence on these projects in April. An explanation of the old and new methods of partnership resilience funding was provided and members were interested to note that the new funding approach would result in funding levels being related directly to the damages that were prevented by a project. John O'Flynn then answered members questions following the presentation.

RESOLVED That John O'Flynn be thanked for providing an informative presentation.

9. Any Other Business

Dr. Dave Harlow of Bournemouth Borough Council informed members that the Annual General Meeting of the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group was scheduled for 12-14 June 2012 where "Progress Through Partnership" would be discussed.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Details of the next SCOPAC meeting would be circulated to members shortly.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 1.11pm.

Date of next meeting: To Be Confirmed

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

10 FEBRUARY 2012 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Roger Elkins – Chairman of SCOPAC

Professor Andy Bradbury – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr D Harlow

Chichester District Council
Cllr J Connor
Cllr R O'Brien
Mr D Lowsley

Christchurch Borough Council
Cllr J Lofts
Mr S Woolard

Dorset County Council
Cllr L Ames
Dr K Buchan

Eastleigh Borough Council
Mr G Wilkinson

Environment Agency
Dr U Dornbusch
Mr J O'Flynn
Mr N Watson

Hampshire County Council
Cllr A Buckley
Cllr A Rice T. D.

Havant Borough Council
Cllr J Smith

Havant and Portsmouth and Gosport
Councils Coastal Partnership
Mr J Addicott
Mr L Cairns

New Forest District Council
Cllr T Swain
Dr Sam Cope

Gosport Borough Council
Cllr D Kimber

Natural England
Mr S Thompson

Poole Borough Council
Cllr X Dion
Mr D Robson

Purbeck District Council
Mr M Goater

Solent Protection Society
Mr A Inder

Southampton City Council
Ms B Maguire

West Dorset District Council
Cllr M Penfold
Mr B Murray

Westminster Dredging
Mr W Shields

Worthing Borough Council
Cllr B Turner
Mr B Curtis