

Agenda Item 1

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC) held in Hurstwood Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AX on 17 January 2014 commencing at 10.15 am

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

1 Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 27 September 2013 be approved.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from

Ms W Brooks	-	Environment Agency
Cllr D Smith	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Mr G Wilkinson	-	Eastleigh Borough Council

3 Research Programme - report from Sam Cope

The Group received a report from Dr Sam Cope, setting out progress made on the following SCOPAC studies and projects:

Sediment Stores and Sinks project

- All 'natural' beach volumes are calculated and mapped using the STS sub-cell boundaries.
- Where seabed mapping was available, the digitised locations had been compared to the locations identified as sediment on the seabed. Any areas identified as rock or rock and thin sediment had been removed.
- A stable/loss/gain analysis was carried out on the remaining locations to identify changes in the shape and surface area of offshore sediment.
- Where seabed mapping was not available or did not cover those areas identified from the Admiralty Charts, the stable/loss/gain has been carried out anyway.

Minor fund: Tracer studies

- The follow up survey for the sediment tracer study had now been completed and a Ph.D. student from Sussex University was utilising the equipment. The study confirmed sediment moved in an Easterly direction. David Pixley had presented the results of the studies, which were available on the Southern Coastal Group (SCG) website.

Minor fund 2013-2015

The minor fund projects contain details of two proposed projects for the near future.

- The University of Southampton sediment budget project will investigate the sediment pathways around Poole and Christchurch Bays. Onshore and offshore sediment samples would be taken for sediment grain-size trend analysis, and mineralogy analysis to identify transport directions and sources. A SCOPAC contribution would be used to fund 5 man days on boat to collect sediment samples.
- Channel Coastal Observatory (CCO) Seabed mapping: 30 km² block to be mapped from East Solent 2013 swath bathymetry and backscatter data. This mapping would be reliant on contributions from elsewhere to map the entire area. If unsuccessful the full £4,000 would be awarded to enable a 40 km² block to be mapped. Work would start in Spring 2014 as data had already been processed and quality controlled.

SCG workshop 2014

Dr Cope provided a report on the Cliff instability workshop which took place on the Friday 11 January 2014. Approximately 40 delegates attended including; coastal engineers, scientists, planners, search and rescue officers, consultants and contractors. A variety of topics were covered and the workshop was very helpful.

Sediment Transport Study

The Sediment Transport study was a three year study funded by the Environment Agency with additional funding from SCOPAC. It was expected to reach completion in 2016. There had been additional information regarding the study including a literature review undertaken for Christchurch Bay and the West Solent and a contract set up with Dave Carter to work on the literature review.

4 Members Presentation Cllr Hugh Mason "Portsmouth - a eustatic accident"

The Group received a Presentation from Cllr Hugh Mason regarding the 'Eustatic Accident' of Portsmouth. The presentation included details of how rising sea levels had affected Portsmouth and the projected problems Portsmouth was likely to face in the future. Additionally it contained information regarding reclaimed land, sea defences and marshland.

The presentation outlined the property that had been affected by flooding in the Portsmouth area and how many more properties would be affected by additional rising sea levels around various areas of Portsmouth. Concern was also expressed regarding compromised critical infrastructure.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mason for his interesting and informative presentation.

5 Overview of recent coastal flooding events - actions, lessons learned and implications (general discussion led by Andy Bradbury, Neil Watson)

Neil Watson and Andy Bradbury led a discussion with the group to outline the issues the coastline had faced due to the recent adverse weather conditions. Representatives reported on the issues to each respective area of coastline.

Most authorities had experienced significant damage to the coastline, with extensive amounts of sediment being moved further up the beach or, in some instances, out to sea. Some coastlines had up to 1.5m of sediment removed and others required extensive emergency repair work as there had been significant overtopping, collapsed slabs and damaged defences.

6 Report of the Chairman of the southern coastal group

The group received a report from the Chairman of the SCG regarding various projects that the SCG had undertaken. The report contained details of:

- Research proposal for performance of near shore replenishment trials

A study proposed by Poole Borough Council, to examine alternative methods of delivery of beach recharge materials. It was suggested the project would commence in March of this year, with preliminary survey work commencing prior to that.

- Model studies to examine beach response to combined swell and wind waves.

To examine the impacts of combined swell and storm (bimodal) waves on the shingle beaches of the SCOPAC region. It was suggested that this would proceed with investigations within the next couple of months. Although the test facility has only just become available other field based work had been carried out during the past year, which would feed into the design of the model. It was suggested that a visit to the test facilities would be arranged once the model had been established.

- National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes

The recent storm events had provided the opportunity to demonstrate the value to all operating authority partners of the regional coastal monitoring programme. Officers had been reviewing the current programme content and were examining the implications of reducing the content and costs of the next phase of the monitoring programmes, which would commence in 2017. Although the current programme was funded for the southeast until 2017, the target programme for submission of the application was January 2015

- Funding of Coastal Chairmen

Funding of Coastal Chairmen's costs for participation in national and regional strategic flood and coastal erosion risk management had been provided by the Environment Agency since it took over the strategic coastal overview role. For the last year the contract to provide this service had been directly with the Southern Coastal Group Chairman. A moratorium on strategic expenditure had been in place within the Environment Agency (EA) since October 2013, which meant that there was no funding available for the support of these activities; this included attendance at Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). Consequently the coastal chairmen had been unable to participate in these activities.

The chairman thanked the Southern Coastal Group Chairman for his report.

7 EA funding update - (Neil Watson)

Neil Watson gave a brief update on Environment Agency funding. Some projects had been accelerated with some reprogramming to try and reallocate funding. A medium term plan had been issued before December 2013 but largely the capital programme had been sustained. By December a 6 year programme would be published meaning a longer term commitment. It was suggested workshops would be held in February to provide guidance, however these needed to be managed with recent damage and coastal issues.

8 Presentation by Garry Momber "The Arch Manche project: Archaeology and art as indicators of coastal change."

The group received a presentation from Garry Momber regarding the Arch Manche Project which utilised archaeology and art as indicators of coastal change. The project would review the effects of past changes in the historical and archaeological record to identify discernible patterns that can help predict future trends. This would involve archaeology, palaeoenvironment, coastal heritage and art which provide high resolution data on coastal change spanning thousands of years. Some findings had shown notable historical structures being found off the coastline with a correlation between age and distance; the further the distance, the older the structure or era of origin.

The best practice guide and Technical Report explaining how archaeology, palaeoenvironment, art and coastal heritage can (in combination) inform coastal change, planning and risk management. It was suggested the would be finalised in the summer of 2014.

9 AOB and dates of next meetings

Resolved that the next SCOPAC meeting held on 11 April 2014 at Public Service Plaza, Havant.

The meeting commenced at 10.15 am and concluded at 12.48 pm