

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 18 January 2019 commencing at 10.00 am

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

87 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Graham Brown, Councillor Ray Nowak, Councillor Tom Davies, Councillor Tim Pike, Councillor Steve Leggett, Councillor Keith Evans, Councillor Peter Webb, Councillor David Harris, Councillor Malcolm Cross, Councillor John Lofts, Councillor Ken Smith, Steve Cook, Peter Ferguson, Tim Adams, Peter Marsden, Solent Forum, Nick Hardiman, Matthew Penny, Bryan Curtis, Neil Pettefer, Jonathan Potts and Peter Christie.

88 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Paper A)

The Chairman emphasised the importance of members promoting the Group to their respective authorities.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SCOPAC meeting held on 12 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

89 SCG Chairman's Update (Lyll Cairns - Paper B)

The Chairman invited Lyll Cairns to provide a presentation to the Group on the work undertaken in the coastal sector since the last meeting.

The following areas were highlighted:

- FCERM (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management) Strategy – Work was continuing on the revision of the National FCERM Strategy, as led by the Environment Agency. Consultation on the Strategy would now be conducted in Spring 2019. SCOPAC aimed to provide a response to consultations, but there was a need to ensure sufficient resource was available for this.
- Next Generation Supplier Arrangements – Work was underway to provide a co-ordinated and collaborative delivery framework that brought together EA staff and suppliers for the use of Risk Management Authorities, with suppliers due to be announced in March 2019.
- Women in FCERM – The work and role of women was a topic being highlighted within the sector, with an aim of ensuring this is embraced and supported.
- Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Refresh – An update was underway to all SMPs in the SCOPAC region to ensure these are modern, easily accessible and 'living' documents. Consideration would also be given on how best to promote and communicate these plans.

- Coastal asset data improvements – There was recognition that Coastal Groups need to ensure coastal assets are fully understood and this had been identified as a priority, but had yet to secure any funding.
- Flood and Coast Conference 2019 (18-20 June 2019) – Members were encouraged to attend the Conference if possible.
- Climate change – As a crucial issue impacting upon the sector, members highlighted that the Group had an important role in raising the profile to their respective local authorities and communicating to the public, as well as co-ordinating and sharing best practice across the region.

It was agreed that a link to the ‘Managing the coast in a changing climate’ (October 2018) report by the Committee on Climate Change would be circulated to all members.

90 Business Plan, Finances and Spatial Capital Programme (Lyll Cairns - Paper C)

The Chairman invited Lyll Cairns to provide the Group with an update on the Business Plan, the SCG / SCOPAC Financial Report and the Spatial Capital Programme.

The Business Plan aimed to demonstrate a clear and prioritised programme of work for the Group, including details on key objectives and resource allocation.

The Financial Report highlighted the mid-year forecasts for the Group, with any predicted variances. There was a forecasted surplus of £16,121.08, but members were reminded that this would need to be carefully monitored to ensure a sufficient reserve was maintained. Any further changes in subscriptions, following the decision of Hampshire County Council to withdraw their full membership to the Group, would have a significant impact.

The Spatial Capital Programme provided an overview of projects in the SCOPAC region, allowing for a co-ordinated approach to work in the area and efficiencies to be easily identifiable.

91 Research Update (Sam Cope - Paper D)

The Chairman invited Dr Samantha Cope to provide an update on the progress of research projects.

The report detailed the actual expenditure by year on research projects across the 5 year research programme, and highlighted that the larger level of expenditure in the current financial year was due to carry over from previous years where research had taken longer than anticipated.

The Research Sub-Group would begin consideration of projects for the next 5 year research programme in March 2019 before reporting to SCOPAC at a later date.

The update included the following topics:

- The SCOPAC Website – The SCOPAC website was highlighted as a useful resource for accessing the latest research and data collected by the Group, as well as the meeting papers and past presentations. Members emphasised the importance of using social media as a tool for promotion and raising the profile of SCOPAC, and questioned whether it was possible to receive notifications when the website is updated.
- Bradbury’s Bursary – This had not been awarded in the current year due to the nominated projects not meeting the qualifying criteria. This situation would be avoided in future through earlier consideration of projects and widening the pool of students. Consideration of the next bursary would commence in April 2019.
- SCOPAC Storm Analysis Study – The study aimed to provide context to the 2013/2014 storm events, using tide gauge and wave buoy data. This had only recently commenced and the results would be submitted to the Group at a later date.

92 SURGEWATCH / Storm Presentation (Ivan Haigh)

The Chairman invited Ivan Haigh to provide a presentation to the Group on sea level rise and coastal flooding in the SCOPAC region, and the data collected to date on the SURGEWATCH project.

Sea level was rising on a global scale due to several factors, including rising global temperature, the melting of ice and the rise in ocean heat content. This had been reflected in data that showed mean sea levels had risen by approximately 3.3mm per year since 1993.

This is shown to have had an impact upon the SCOPAC region, as evidenced by tide gauge data collected. The project sought to extend these records by digitising paper records from Poole, Portsmouth and Southampton from as early as 1927, and the data showed sea level rises in these areas.

The project also considered extreme sea levels and had mapped extreme storm events in the SCOPAC region in the last 100 years. The information had enabled more detailed understanding of when these events took place and the impact they caused. The data would be used to further understand the storm events of 2013 and 2014 in the SCOPAC region.

In addition, a mobile application called ‘CO2 Modeller’ had been developed which provided a modelling tool for climate change and allowed the user to set emissions reductions to make future projections on a number of outputs such as sea level and global temperature.

The Group felt that the mobile application was a useful tool for communicating the message and could be used as an interactive exhibit for schools and at forums.

The Chairman thanked Ivan for his interesting and informative presentation.

93 Landfills Presentation (Matthew Wadey)

The Chairman invited Matthew Wadey of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership to provide a presentation to the Group on the SCOPAC Historic Landfills Project.

The project had sought to provide background and context to the national issue of coastal erosion and flooding at landfill sites, and the risks that this presented. The issue had been highlighted as a priority for SCOPAC, but the project had found that there were unresolved questions over legal responsibility and funding streams to deal with the problem. Examples within the SCOPAC region included sites at Turlin Moor (Poole), Wicor Cams (Fareham) and Stanpit (Christchurch).

The Group discussed the project and commented on the raised profile of the issue, partly due to actions undertaken by SCOPAC. It was important to utilise the current publicity of the problem to secure an owner of the issue and a relevant funding stream.

The Chairman thanked Matthew for his interesting and informative presentation.

94 New SCOPAC / SCG Brochure (Mark Stratton - Paper E)

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to introduce the new SCOPAC / SCG Brochure to the Group.

The brochure had been produced as an easily-accessible way of promoting the Group and detailing the benefits, pressures and solution offered by the work undertaken by officers. It was hoped that the brochure would help re-engage stakeholders and highlight the importance of the Group in sharing best practice.

Members endorsed the brochure, commenting on the high quality of the document and its use in communicating the key messages of the Group to local authorities and communities.

Members were encouraged to take multiple copies back to their respective authorities and organisations for distribution.

During the discussion, the importance of using social media to engage with the public was re-emphasised and it was agreed that retired Councillors / engineers be contacted to request any assistance with the running of communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 and was reconvened at 12:10

95 Reshaping and Refreshing the Group (All - Paper F)

Lyll Cairns introduced the discussion on reshaping and refreshing both SCOPAC and the SCG, and asked for any ideas or views on the future format of SCOPAC / SCG meetings.

The Group held discussions on the desired frequency and format of meetings, whether these should become more conference-style / presentation-led sessions and possible future funding mechanisms for the Groups.

The following points are inclusive of some of the ideas raised and debated in the discussion for which some received mixed views from the attendees:

- Frequency of meetings and overlap of business between SCOPAC and SCG

- The business of the Groups already overlapped so the consensus was that it would be good to combine the meetings, or officers / members meet separately on the same day before coming together as the discussions at these levels differ slightly in detail and outcome.
 - It was suggested that meetings could be held once a year, twice a year or quarterly, with suggested meetings (or additional meetings) held as field visits or related to Southern RFCC.
 - The location of the meetings could be rotated across the SCOPAC region – perhaps with meetings being held to the east, centre and west of the region.
 - The public could be invited to meetings to raise the profile of the work undertaken, but this may not always be suitable due to the nature of the materials discussed.
- The format of meetings
 - The change of format at the meeting to table clusters (instead of committee layout) was endorsed for future meetings. This had allowed for a less formal atmosphere and better networking between attendees.
 - Future meetings could be held in a conference-style format, and be led by presentations from key officers.
 - An annual, large scale event could be held where members, officers and suppliers are invited and income could be generated.
 - Elements of the meetings could be held via webinar or telephone conference.
- Inviting suppliers and requesting an attendance fee
 - The idea of inviting suppliers and charging a small fee was endorsed by the Group.
- Theme focus to meetings / events
 - The idea of focusing meetings and events was endorsed by some members, who considered small problem-themed events as the best way of moving forward.
 - Other members felt that the current format of multiple presentations allowed for a wide scope at meetings, that covered the SCOPAC region and engaged all stakeholders.
 - The meetings should be 'branded' more effectively with the use of social media, highlighting and promoting the issues being discussed.
 - Suggested themes included heritage.
 - Members highlighted the importance of the Group's research and development work and commented that this should continue to be central to the Group's meetings going forward.
- Funding of the Groups
 - Members should encourage associate members to re-join the Group.
 - Fees should not be calculated by length of coast, as this would likely lead to reduced subscriptions. Additionally, subscriptions should not be increased as this would likely lead to members leaving the Groups, like Hampshire County Council.
 - A Levy bid should be formed to help with funding for the Groups, but this should be based on a research and development project and not for the costs of running the Group. It was also noted that a coastal lead local flood authority would need to lead on any potential bid.
- Standing Item at meetings: Feedback from the Group

- Members endorsed a standing item at meetings to receive feedback from councillors and officers.

The Group were thanked for their engagement in the discussions.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Lyall Cairns would discuss the options raised during this item and communicate future plans to the Group.

96 AOB

The Chairman informed the Group that Councillor John Lofts would be retiring at the end of the current municipal year, and wished to pass on the Group's thanks for Councillor Lofts' hard work and passion in the sector during his time as representative for Christchurch Borough Council on SCOPAC.

Councillor John Connor announced that this would be his final SCOPAC meeting, due to his retirement as a Councillor for Chichester District Council at the end of the current municipal year. The Chairman passed on the thanks of the Group to Councillor Connor for his hard work and passion during his time on SCOPAC.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Cllrs Lofts and Connor, expressing her thanks on behalf of the Group.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.10 pm

STANDING CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

18 JANUARY 2019 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Councillor Mary Penfold – Chairman of SCOPAC

Councillor Piers Bateman, Gosport Borough Council
Councillor Jackie Branson, Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Lyll Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Councillor John Connor, Chichester District Council
Dr Uwe Dornbusch, Environment Agency
Nick Gray, Environment Agency
Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council
Councillor John Hobart, Isle of Wight Council
Mr Matt Hosey, Borough of Poole Council
Martin Hurst, Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council
Councillor Hugh Mason, Portsmouth City Council
Vincent May, Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
Peter McGarvey, Boskalis Westminster Limited
Sean Nosworthy, Dorset Coastal Partnership
Andrew Pearce, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr Stevyn Ricketts, Gosport Borough Council
Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Charlie Thompson, Channel Coastal Observatory
Mr Neil Watson, Environment Agency

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