

**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 15 November 2019 commencing at 10.30 am**

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Alan Alvey, Andrew Pearce, Bret Willers, David Jenkins, Cllr Felicity Rice, Helen Mann, Cllr Jan Warwick, Jim Hutchinson, Jo Matthews, John Hobart, Jonathan Potts, Cllr Keith Evans, Ken Buchan, Matt Wadey, Matthew Penny, Nick Hardiman, Peter Marsden, Cllr Piers Bateman, Samantha Box, Sarah Boyd, Solent Forum, Cllr Steve Leggett, Tim Adams, Cllr T Davies, Uwe Dornbusch, Vincent May.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SCOPAC meeting held on 21 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**3. Refreshing and Reshaping SCG & SCOPAC – Lyall Cairns**

The chairman invited Lyall Cairns to introduce the Refreshing and Reshaping Southern Coastal Group (SCG) & SCOPAC for the Group.

Key points:

- Nationally there are 700 properties at risk of erosion in the next 20 years.
- Nationally 2750km of coast at risk of sea flooding.
- Nationally 1.8 million people at coastal flood and erosion risk.
- Many challenges such as funding, climate change, loss of knowledge in sector through staff change.
- Need to team up, find efficiencies and share best practice. To do this the recommendation from SCG is to merge the two Groups together. Preferred option is option 10.

The chairman invited questions on Paper B.

There were various questions on the details of how the group would work, including voting.

Matt Hosey stated that there was support from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council to merge the groups but questioned how voting would work going forward. A suggestion was put forward that it could be determined by a percentage of membership fee paid or by the size of authority boundary. Lyall Cairns responded

that voting decisions could be considered in more detail by the proposed merged group and drafted into a revised constitution.

**ACTION:** Lyall Cairns to draft a revised constitution for the merged groups for consideration at a future meeting.

Neil Watson said that the Group needs to be all inclusive and represented by all Risk Management Authorities and suggested that Local Authorities would benefit from talking to other Authority representatives such as those in the planning departments. There could be a theme at future conferences i.e. landfill at the coast, and a wider spectrum of officers and coastal ward Councillors could be invited to attend.

It was agreed that this is a good idea as there are many who don't know about the good work that SCOPAC does.

The group discussed whether alternative names should be considered for the merged group. It was agreed that it is still at the early stages, but the SCOPAC brand is well respected in the sector so if the name is changed, the brand is changed and the Group risks losing some of the good reputation that has been built.

The Group also discussed whether there are any risks on the SCOPAC activities if the Groups merge, but it was felt that it will provide the opportunity to show the benefits and efficiencies, which is important to help unlock further funding such as Local Levy.

Cllr Leah Turner proposed the recommendations set out in the report which were seconded by Cllr Jackie Branson. All in favour.

**It was agreed that:**

- a) **The Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC be merged into a single coastal group and renamed Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC.**
- b) **The current Chairman of SCOPAC be designated as the SCOPAC Champion for the Group to be the signatory for correspondence on behalf of SCOPAC and conduct proceedings of the Annual Conference and Annual Field Visit.**
- c) **That delegated responsibility be given to the Chairman of the SCG and the SCOPAC Champion to draft a new constitution for the merged SCG and SCOPAC groups.**
- d) **The Coastal Business Partner responsible for reporting on the Groups financial position be instructed to combine the accounts into a single set of accounts.**
- e) **The Chairman of the SCG be instructed to make a further application for RFCC Local Levy funds to support the delivery of the objectives within the business plan for the financial years 2020/21 onwards.**
- f) **That delegated responsibility be given to the Coastal Research Chairman to combine the SCOPAC and SCG websites into a single website.**

#### **4. Finances and Business Plan - Lyall Cairns**

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to introduce the SCG / SCOPAC Financial Report and the Business Plan for the Group.

Finance

The 2021 proposed budget shows that there is not a lot of surplus for spending. It shows an expected income of £87,000 and expenditure of £76,000, which leaves a surplus of £11,000. The 2021 budget assumes the Local Levy bid is successful.

No questions were received on the finances.

Cllr Leah Turner proposed the recommendations set out in the report which were seconded by Cllr Hugh Mason. All in favour.

**It was agreed that:**

- a) **That the budget position for 2019/20 be noted.**
- b) **That the Budgets for SCOPAC and SCG be merged.**
- c) **That the proposed budget for 2020/21 be approved.**
- d) **Subscription fees are set in accordance with the subscription schedule within this report.**
- e) **That the Chairman of the SCG make application to the Wessex and Southern RFCC for the continuation of the Local Levy Funds towards supporting delivery items identified in the SCG Business Plan.**
- f) **A 10% surplus of the combined budget for 2020/21 is maintained to mitigate any overspend.**

Business Plan

There are now fully resourced themed leads across the groups identified. The Business Plan includes coordinating our investment to make the best use of Local Levy.

No questions were received on the Plan.

#### **5. Southern Coastal Group / Coast Group Network Chairman's Update - Lyall Cairns**

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to provide an overview on the work undertaken in the coastal sector since the last meeting.

The following areas were highlighted:

- Working closely on the SMP refresh. Currently 20 SMP's around England.
- Partnership Funding (PF) review. Challenge is getting enough PF to cover a scheme. Coastal Group chairs produced a presentation at 2017 which has now been taken further by the Environment Agency, and Defra has recently recommended changes to the current PF system. Changes include, climate

change and including the houses that benefit over the next 100 years and more risk bands. This highlights the benefit and power of working together as a Coastal Group.

- Efficiency workshop (30<sup>th</sup> Oct). Shared best practice and there was great support.
- Further workshops: Assets maintenance workshop planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Partnership Funding, habitat creation, enviro enhancements to come.

No questions were received.

## **6. Research Programme, progress update and call for future research initiatives - Samantha Cope**

The Chairman invited Dr Samantha Cope to provide an update on the progress of the 5 Year Research Programme. Currently in the last financial year of the programme.

All research on the existing 5-year programme is available on the SCOPAC website, as well as a write up on the recent site visit to Weymouth and Portland.

Main focus was on future research. A request for research proposals was issued several months ago. Fifteen submissions were received and then reviewed at the end of October 2019. Part of the review process included how the proposals could be funded, including through Grant in Aid, Local Levy, ICE funding, EA FCERM Research and Development funding.

SCOPAC normally has a major project ongoing each year (around £15,000) and a minor project (now around £4,000).

The research programme is aspirational which means if further funding is unlocked, such as lottery heritage funds, this would allow further research to be undertaken. It was agreed that it is right for the programme to be ambitious.

The sediment transport map will be due for its next update in 2022. It is updated every 10 years and important that it is continually updated so this will be built into the next programme.

## **7. South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme – Charlie Thompson**

The Chairman invited Dr Charlie Thompson to provide an overview on the South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

Aerial photography has had a partial capture in 2019 and will be completed in 2020. The habitat mapping will follow this.

The Channel Coast Observatory (CCO) website statistics show that the lidar and wave data are the most popular downloads.

The Phase 3 monitoring programme will run from 2021 – 2027. It is proposed to be funded for 6 years to fall in line with the Environment Agency's 6-year capital programme.

The CCO will be looking closely at wave buoys and tide gauges to see what needs replacing which will help form part of the monitoring programme.

No questions were received.

## **8. Shoreline Management Plan Refresh - Neil Watson**

The Chairman invited Neil Watson to provide an overview on the SMP Refresh.

SMP's are very well regarded as they start with a summary of the processes and then cover the policies. They are now being used around the world. It was agreed that they are still widely used, especially by planning colleagues for decision making.

The SMP refresh project is being led by the Environment Agency, undertaken by Jacobs and RHDHV on behalf of Coastal Groups. It will review what has changed since SMP2 (climate change, new legislation, planning guidance etc.) and where these changes may need to be considered in the SMP. It is not a new round of SMPs, will not update the SMP action plans, change policies or take away any local decisions on SMPs. It is essentially a health check on the current SMP.

No questions were received.

## **9. Presentation: Assessing the performance of timber groynes at Bournemouth Beach**

The Chairman invited Zak Bourn and Dr John Williams to give their presentation on the use of timber groynes at Bournemouth Beach.

Following the presentation, the Group discussed the importance of maintaining groynes and how it is beneficial to recycle used groyne timber, not only to recut into new coastal defences, but in other ways such as coastal paths.

## **10. Presentation: Vegetated Shingle along Hurst Spit**

The Chairman invited Lauren Burt to give her presentation on vegetated shingle along Hurst Spit.

Following the presentation there were questions on whether drone surveys could be used in the future to help identify areas of vegetated shingle. However, this would depend on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) camera type and what detail can be picked up which would vary with the plant type and density. Previously, manual surveys were used with support from ecologists to identify plant types.

There was a consensus that the data is very valuable, especially next time there is a storm. Not only is it beneficial to know what is on the ground, designated and why,

the evidence will help any new schemes get off the ground and show that beach management activities are not always a blocker to vegetated shingle.

## **10. AOB**

It was asked whether there is the appetite for electronic only agenda and papers. It was decided that going forward electronic agendas will be issued to the SCG and Conferences will be in a different format.

**The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 1.00 pm**

**Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline**

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - List of representatives in attendance**

Councillor Mary Penfold – Chairman of SCOPAC  
Lyall Cairns – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Alan Frampton, BCP Council  
Dr Charlie Thompson, Channel Coast Observatory  
David Pickett, Eastleigh Borough Council  
Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council  
Emma Stainer, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Councillor Graeme Barrett, Chichester District Council  
Councillor Hugh Mason, Portsmouth City Council  
Councillor Jackie Branson, Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council  
Councillor Jim Deen, Worthing Borough Council  
John Williams, RSK  
Lauren Burt, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Councillor Leah Turner, Havant Borough Council  
Lorraine Horsted, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Matt Hosey, BCP Council  
Neil Watson, Environment Agency  
Nick Everington, The Crown Estate  
Nick Gray, Environment Agency  
Councillor Penny Plant, Chichester District Council  
Peter Christie, Dorset Council Partnership  
Peter Ferguson, New Forest District Council  
Richard Austin, Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
Dr Samantha Cope, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Stevyn Ricketts, Gosport Borough Council  
Stuart McVey, Channel Coast Observatory  
Zak Bourn, BCP Council