



Severn Estuary Coastal Group



DRAFT Minutes

4th November 2014 14:30-16:30
Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon

Present:

Dave Harris, Monmouthshire County Council – Chair (DH)

John Buttivant, Environment Agency Wessex (JB)

Chris Hayes, Environment Agency Wessex (CH)

Patrick Goodey, Bristol City Council (PG)

Shelley Vince, Severn Estuary Partnership (SECG Secretariat) (SV)

Nick Steele, Natural Resources Wales (NS)

Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University - Observer (RB)

Doug Barker, North Somerset Council (DB)

Jo Martin, Environment Agency Shropshire Herefordshire Worcestershire and Gloucestershire (JM)

Colin Leppard, Natural England (NE)

1. Apologies:

Huw Morgans, Vale of Glamorgan Council (HM)

Darren Walsh, Natural Resources Wales (DW)

Matthew Jones, Newport City Council (MJ)

Matt Bajowski, C&W IDB (MB)

Barry Phillips, Natural England (BP)

Nicola Rimington, Natural Resources Wales (NR)

Louise Pennington, Natural Resources Wales (LP)

Clive Moon, Vale of Glamorgan Council (CM)

Jean-Francois Dulong, WLGA (JFD)

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (23rd September 2014)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 23rd September 2014, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Summary of Actions from SECG meeting 23rd September 2014

Action no.	Description	Progress
14/05	All to provide comments on SECG move to become a strategic group to Dave Harris by 20 th October 2014.	Complete
14/06	All to let SV know what meeting rooms they have available to hold future coastal group meetings	Ongoing

14/07	SV to Collate a list of who within SECG currently attends which meetings.	Ongoing
14/08	All to provide SV with postal address to send DVD copy of SMP2	Ongoing
14/09	Circulate NRW audit of environmental change - Complete	Complete
14/10	Arrange talk from Nick Steele on the Freeboard Project at the next SECG meeting on 4 th November	Complete
14/11	Circulate update note on the Flood Risk Management Plan for circulation.	Outstanding

Outstanding Actions

14/03: All to consider projects that SECG could fund

4. Severn Estuary Coastal Group future and move to strategic group

DH notified that group that two responses were received to the paper outlining the proposal to move to a strategic group. Both responses were positive and in favour of the move. Given the support for the change the group will proceed in this direction. DH noted that revised terms of reference need to be produced and agreed to do this ahead of the next meeting.



ToR

BCSCG_sept12.pdf



Paper for the Severn Estuary Coastal Group

Actions:

14/12 – DH to update Terms of reference to make appropriate for a more strategic group.

5. SMP2 Matters and Progress

- **Data Discs** – GO notified the group that so far three people have requested DVD copies of the SMP2. There have been some issues copying the data due to the large file size, but disks should be distributed shortly.
- **IROPI** – DH informed the group that SMP2’s have been signed off by Welsh Government for West of Wales and South West regions. He has been told that the Severn Estuary SMP2 should be signed off in early November 2014. It was suggested that the Severn Estuary SMP2 could be publicised once approved to raise awareness and highlight issues but consensus was that this would not be beneficial due to negative media attention. It was therefore advocated to update the SEP and SECG websites with new information.
- **Identification of works or monitoring for SECG funding** – DH noted that SECG has ~£15,000 - £20,000 that could be spent on a project. A couple of suggestions have been received to date (risk review for flooding and LiDAR survey) but more are still welcomed. JB

stated that a flood risk protection planning project for the South West may be too complicated to do at a regional level given all of the organisations involved.

NS noted that NRW are commissioning a LiDAR survey of SE Wales. JB suggested contacting Emerald Siggery (South West Coastal Monitoring Programme) to ensure that it joins up with the English survey data.

In discussion it was suggested that SECG could fund work into some of the actions of the SMP2 monitoring and there was a debate around agricultural damages and land values. It was suggested that this may be covered by the multi-coloured manual but the age of the information in the manual would need to be checked.

**Update* provided by NS: the 2013/14 version of the MCM contains an updated Chapter 9 where “we (FHRC) have produced a simplified procedure for assessing the benefits of flood risk with regard to agricultural land. This follows feedback from the methods we advocated in 2005.”*

Actions:

14/13- GO to update SEP and SECG website with SMP2 information once signed off by WG.

6. Gauging the Tide

This report was produced by a local group interested in the Flood Risk Management Strategy for the area around Frampton-on-Severn. The group requested information/action on several issues including: extending coastal monitoring, having a local protocol for looking at erosion, use of local gauges as evidence for sea level rise, reassurance of a Frampton canal acting as a flood defence. JM stated that the Environment Agency has worked with the group and most of the requests have been addressed.

7. Coastal Monitoring

DH drew attention to the papers that were circulated from the South West and Wales coastal monitoring groups.

JB noted that Emerald Siggery has taken over as office manager of Plymouth Coastal Observatory (South West Regional Coastal monitoring Programme). She has produced data in a more usable format, including making it available faster. Discussions are currently ongoing regarding the programme for the next five years and should be signed off by Spring 2015. DH suggested that it would be useful if Emerald could attend one SECG meeting per year and update the group on the work that they are doing. JB highlighted that support is required for the South West Monitoring Programme from Local Authorities for grant in aid.

Welsh Government has not yet confirmed the business plan for the future of the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre and current grants finish at the end of December 2014. The future of the Wales centre is currently unclear.

8. Wales Coastal Forum

DH drew attention to the papers that were circulated and noted that Welsh Government intend to recruit three new posts into the flood and coastal erosion team.

9. EA research newsletter

DH drew attention to this newsletter which provides interesting articles and updates on research.

10. Defra Stakeholders newsletter

DH drew attention to this newsletter

11. Freeboard project discussion

NS gave a presentation on the freeboard project about managing residual uncertainty during the appraisal and design of fluvial and coastal flood defences. This update will replace existing guidance for establishing 'freeboard' allowances in fluvial situations which is over 14 years old. The new guide will present a broader view of 'freeboard' that promotes consistent consideration of residual uncertainty.

There was support and interest in the project from many of the SECG members including the Environment Agency and Bristol City Council. For further details see the project note and presentation below.



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Overview_v1.pptx _Note_Autum14.pdf

In the discussion following the presentation NS noted that there are errors in the multi-coloured manual with figures being 20-30% too low.

Action: 14/14: NS to circulate information on Multi-coloured Manual errors.

12. Reports by LAs/EA and other members on coastal work

Updates on various projects were provided by members. These included reference to:

- Bristol City Council – Flood defence projects at Avonmouth and Bristol City centre.
- Environment Agency – beach management plan at Sand Bay, £3m worth of flood recovery work (split over many projects), planning phase for work looking at raising/improving defences near upper Framilode (this requires Partnership funding), recently finished dredging on the Somerset moors and levels, discussions ongoing regarding a tidal barrier on the River Parret, recommend visit to Steart Marshes.
- Natural Resources Wales – Flood defence schemes at Taffs Gate and Portland Grounds, and mapping projects at Wentlooge and Barry.
- Cardiff University: Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel strategic research theme has been submitted to NERC. A work shop will be

held in the spring (arranged by SEP) to identify priority research needs. See details of NERC submission below.

- North Somerset – revised flood warning procedures for Weston-Super-Mare.

Natural England – Rare plant survey recently undertaken on English coastal defences. Wintering bird survey ongoing to identify where within bird sectors roosts are located. This will aid decision making on the timing of coastal defence maintenance within the SPA.



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13. Any Other Business

- DH noted that next year’s high tides will be higher than this year.
- There will be a coastal flooding exercise in South Wales in June 2015

14. Date of next Meeting

Thursday 19th March 2015 10:00 – 12:30 Conference Room 1, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP (NRW office)

Members were reminded that all relevant papers are available for download from the SECG Members Area (<http://www.severnestuary.net/secg/>)

Summary of actions from this SECG meeting:

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14/12	DH to update Terms of reference to make appropriate for a more strategic group	
14/13	GO to update SEP and SECG website with SMP2 information once signed off by WG	
14/14	NS to circulate information on Multi-coloured Manual errors	Complete