



Severn Estuary Coastal Group



DRAFT Minutes

23rd September 2014 09:30 am
 Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4YS

Present:

- Dave Harris, Monmouthshire County Council – Chair (DH)**
- John Buttivant, Environment Agency Wessex (JB)*
- Huw Morgans, Vale of Glamorgan Council (HM)*
- Darren Walsh, Natural Resources Wales (DW)*
- Matthew Jones, Newport City Council (MJ)*
- Patrick Goodey, Bristol City Council (PG)*
- Shelley Vince, Severn Estuary Partnership (SECG Secretariat) (SV)*
- Matt Bajowski, C&W IDB (MB)*
- Barry Phillips, Natural England (BP)*
- Emma Turner, Environment Agency Shropshire Herefordshire Worcestershire and Gloucestershire (ET)*
- Nicola Rimington, Natural Resources Wales (NR)*
- Nick Steele, Natural Resources Wales (NS)*
- Jason Reading, North Somerset Council (JR)*
- Eva Bishop, Tidal Lagoon Power (EB)*

1. Apologies:

- Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University - Observer (RB)*
- Louise Pennington, Natural Resources Wales (LP)*
- Doug Barker, North Somerset Council (DB)*
- Jo Martin, Environment Agency Shropshire Herefordshire Worcestershire and Gloucestershire (JM)*
- Rob Niblett, Gloucestershire County Council (RN)*
- Clive Moon, Vale of Glamorgan Council (CM)*
- Martyn Evans, Monmouthshire County Council (ME)*
- Sue Hughes, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (SH)*

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (21st May 2014)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 21st May 2014, were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Summary of Actions from SECG meeting 21st May 2014

Action no.	Description	Progress
14/01	To circulate Bristol storms report to the group when available	Complete
14/02	to send reminder to all Local Authorities about SMP2 Planning leaflets	Complete

14/03	to provide suggestions of work/projects that SECG money could be spent on	Ongoing
14/04	to provide suggestion on how a strategic group would work	Complete

Outstanding Actions

- 13/14 and 14/03** : All to consider projects that SECG could fund
- 13/22: GO/SEP** - to circulate hard and DVD copies of the SMP2 ASAP

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

DH ran through the paper that outlines the proposal for moving to a strategic group and thanked JB for his input into this. There is a push from Defra to have a smaller number of more strategic coastal groups which will reduce overlap and have greater influence and support. JB explained that strategic groups were always intended to take over from SMP groups but SMP groups continued for longer than planned due to the revision of the SMPs.

DH explained that becoming a strategic group would require wider representation from other organisations such as; *RFCC reps, WLGA rep, local resilience forums, etc*, and the need to hold and attend more meetings. DH suggested that to deal with this increased work load other people within the group, including the vice chair, may need to attend some of the meetings. DH asked for everyone’s comments and whether they were happy with the proposal. It was agreed that everyone should have time to consider the paper and proposed move to a strategic group. The proposal and terms of reference are provided below.



ToR
BCSCG_sept12.pdf



Paper for the Severn
Estuary Coastal Grou

Actions:

- 14/05 – All to provide comments to Dave Harris on proposal to move to become a strategic group. Comments by 20th October 2014.**
- 14/06 – All to let SV know what meeting rooms they have available to hold future coastal group meetings**
- 14/07 – SV to collate a list of who within SECG currently attends which meetings.**

5. SMP2 Matters and Progress

- **Data Discs** – SV notified the group that the discs are currently being copied by SEP and will be available shortly. Each copy of the full SMP2 is 3 DVDs (10.6GB). Anyone who wants a full DVD copy of the SMP2 should provide SV with a postal address so that it can be sent. The main SMP2 documents are also available on the SECG website: <http://www.severnestuary.net/secg/smpr.html>
- **IROPI** – DH informed the group that a response is still pending from Welsh Government but it is not clear what is causing the hold up.

- **Planning Leaflets** – DH welcomed feedback on the leaflets
- **Action Plan** – DH explained that the action plan has been sent to the Environment Agency but not everyone had responded and there are still some key actions outstanding.
- **Identification of works or monitoring for SECG funding** – DH asked for suggestions of projects that SECG could fund.

NR suggested that as there is currently uncertainty with the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre, SECG could fund extensions to some of the English survey work in the Estuary such as LiDAR so that the data set continues into Welsh waters. It was suggested that Plymouth Coastal Observatory could be approached to do this. It was also recognised that some of the Welsh side of the Estuary is already covered by surveys conducted by the aggregates industry but it was noted that data sets collected by industry can provide problems with data accessibility. If survey work is to be undertaken on the Welsh side of the Estuary, Welsh Government need to be notified and should be approached for grant funding.

JB suggested contributing towards an Environment Agency project on flood risk planning

Actions:

14/08- All to provide SV with postal address to send DVD copy of SMP2

6. Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy update

JB stated that there was nothing new to update the group with. The strategy is currently going through the sign off process.

7. Coastal Monitoring

Coastal monitoring is run out of five centres around England. SW coastal monitoring group have finished most of their survey work for this year and have made good progress with LiDAR collection. A proposal is currently being pulled together for the monitoring programme for the next five years. It is envisaged that consideration of the frequency of the surveys will be undertaken and some may change. JB encouraged everyone to speak to their local coastal monitoring centre and discuss monitoring requirements. DH drew everyone's attention to a report produced by the South West Coastal monitoring centre about the winter storms "Review of south coast beach response to wave conditions in the winter of 2013-2014" and JB highlighted that there has been a subsequent addendum to the report. The original report is provided below. The addendum is too large to attach to these minutes, but is available to download from the Channel Coastal Observatory website: <http://www.channelcoast.org/reports/>



SR01_StormReport_
20142.pdf

NR noted that NRW has published an audit report of environmental change following the 2013/14 winter storms with the main changes being to sand

dune systems and shingle banks. The report, titled: “The *Welsh Coastal Storms, December 2013 & January 2014 – an assessment of environmental change*”, NRW Evidence Report 33 is available in English and Welsh on the NRW website:

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/flooding-and-water/flood-alerts-and-warnings/flood-reports/welsh-coastal-storms-dec2013-jan2014/?lang=en>

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/flooding-and-water/flood-alerts-and-warnings/flood-reports/welsh-coastal-storms-dec2013-jan2014/?lang=cy>

BP stated that limited changes have been seen on the English side of the Severn due to the protection of the Channel.

Actions:

14/09 NR to circulate NRW audit of environmental change - Complete

8. National Coastal Chairs Group Minutes – July 2014

DH highlighted the key points from this meeting and drew everyone's attention to the following papers:

- Partnership Funding Pack which provides guidance on putting bids together for funding coastal work.
- Two papers from Defra on adaptation (lessons learnt, costs etc.). A further study is planned.
- EA/Defra Coastal Research Update Briefing note – quarterly update which anyone can sign up to receive.
- Pathfinder review of coastal change – two excellent reports
- Freeboard Project – updating existing guide for establishing freeboard allowances – DH welcomed comments on this project and encouraged everyone to promote it. JB suggested having a talk on this project by Nick Steele at the next SECG meeting on 4th November 2014.
- *Two papers on the MMO arrangements for emergency works and licensing*

DH noted that the Environment Agency website has moved to www.gov.uk website and as a consequence many links to useful documents are broken. JB noted that some documents haven't moved to the National Archive yet and are still available on the EA website for a limited time. The original site is still accessible through the National Archives for a time, as follows; <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20131108051347/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>

Action: 14/10 SV to arrange talk from Nick Steele on the Freeboard Project at the next SECG meeting on 4th November

9. Defra Stakeholders Meeting

DH highlighted the key points from this meeting which covered:

- Winter floods
- SuDS

- Flood Re

It was noted that the insurance industry are reluctant to sign up to the Flood Re scheme.

10. **Severn Estuary Silica Project, Bid for Funds**

Rupert Perkins from Cardiff University asked SECG to support a PhD project to investigate the silica flux in the Severn Estuary and its role in supporting the important coastal foodwebs in the SW of the UK. The request is for Case funding to support the project by providing £1000 per year for 3 years (total £3000). The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that the project is not within the Terms of Reference of SECG and therefore SECG will not fund it.

11. **Items for Information**

DH briefly discussed the following work and encouraged members to consult the paperwork provided:

- a) Coastal Chairs Group meetings Papers from Mar 2014
- b) Coastal Chairs Group papers from July 2014
- c) Defra Stakeholders Papers July 2014
- d) S West Coastal Monitoring Gp Papers – Board & Project Team
- e) EA – Summary of All Emergency Works – Wessex and SECG Area

A full set of papers relating to these topics is available on the SECG website. Members area (<http://www.severnestuary.net/secg/>). Log in details are:

Username: coastal
Password: Group2

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

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

- Natural Resources Wales – delays to capital schemes and maintenance works
- Vale of Glamorgan – small maintenance schemes upcoming in Penarth and unlicensed private coastal defences at Swanbridge
- Environment Agency (Wessex) – Steart managed realignment scheme was breached in early September. Hinkley Point C progressing with permissions.
- Cald and Went IDB – no major incidents. Contributed to NRW phase I and II reports and workshop recommendations.
- Environment Agency (SHWG) – flood bank repair works identified following the winter storms at Minsterworth and Hempsted. Projects will be completed by the end of October.
- North Somerset – small landslip at Portishead due to a fallen tree.
- Bristol – Avonmouth/Severnside scheme looking at growth through the enterprise area

13. **Any Other Business**

- DH highlighted the EA report – Somerset and the Sea – 1981 storm and 25 years on. This is available from the National Archive website: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.en>

[vironment-agency.gov.uk/gesw1206blpp-e-e.pdf](http://environment-agency.gov.uk/gesw1206blpp-e-e.pdf)

- JB noted Plymouth Coastal Observatory’s Annual Partners day on 8th October.
- ET – highlighted the Flood Risk Management Plan. JB agreed to draft an update note for circulation.

Action: 14/11 - JB to circulate update note on the Flood Risk management Plan for circulation.

14. Presentation on Severn Estuary Tidal Lagoons Proposal

Eva Bishop, Development director of Tidal Lagoon Power provided an informative presentation on the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon proposal and future proposals for the Severn Estuary. A copy of the presentation will be available in the member’s area of the SECG website shortly.

Discussion following the presentation covered the following topics:

- Impact on the navigation channel
- Improvement and maintenance of existing defences
- Narrowing of Estuary and impact on dynamics. ABPmer have undertaken modelling of water levels on behalf of TLP which show an overall lowering of the water level but some issues with storm surges.
- Question as to why the proposals are sited in the Severn Estuary and not further out in the channel where the substrate is harder e.g. near Aberthaw (Vale of Glamorgan)? EB responded that TLP are not looking further out in the channel due to increased water depth which increases the cost of the project.
- Funnelling of tidal flow and the impact on Portishead and Bristol
- Engineering of a structure at Newport – similar area was looked at for a barrage and discounted. EB responded that TLP are building on the work done by the barrage and looking in more detail at feasibility.
- Questions around how will TLP lagoons interact with other projects such as Bridgwater
- TLP plan to construct all three lagoons but they are not dependent on each other to go ahead.

15. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 4th November – time and location TBC

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:

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

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

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