

45th MEETING OF THE WELSH COASTAL GROUPS FORUM
17th September 2014 Llandrindod Wells

Attendees

Emyr Williams – Chair, Pembrokeshire CC
Steve Edwards – Bridgend CBC
Jean-Francois Dulong - WLGA
Louise Pennington - NRW
Dyfed Rowlands – Conwy CC
Emlyn Jones – Gwynedd CC
Mark Peters – Network Rail
Kerry Keirle – Welsh Government
Richard Williams – Welsh Government

Apologies

Dave Harris – Monmouthshire CC
Emmer Litt - NRW
James Morris – Welsh Government

1. Previous meeting

- Kerry reviewed the previous minutes and gave a verbal update.
- **Action** – KK to pick up on a previous issue regarding caravans.

2. Welsh Government Policy Update

- RW updated the group on the current position regarding SMPs, and the fact that the advice for the Minister is waiting for legal clearance. All Forum members are keen for the Plans to get Ministerial approval as soon as possible.
- It was stated that the NPI consultation would probably take place in the autumn.
- FCERM Team's bid new local authority funding initiative entitled 'Innovative Funding' was discussed. Aim was to support the delivery actions emerging from SMPs. Announcement to be made by Finance Minister later this year.
- LAs were encouraged to submit applications made for capital funding.
- Staff resourcing issues in the WG FCERM team were being addressed with new appointments.
- **Action** – WG to circulate an update paper on policy.
- An update on the Coastal Inundation Task & Finish Group is needed.

3. Group Reports

- Cardigan Bay Coastal Group – an update paper was circulated in the meeting. EW stated that the repair work at Amroth had finished.
- SE provided an update on the Swansea & Carmarthen Bay Group. He talked of the recent damage to the sea walls in Porthcawl. The Group hasn't met recently

but will get together to look at the Action Plan. They currently have a bid in for money from WG.

- The North Wales Group, which last met in March, also provided a paper which was presented by DR. He informed the group of the current situation regarding the beach in Llandudno, stating that over 700 people attended a recent meeting and that a Llandudno Coastal Forum had been set up.
- Wayne Hope has been made Vice Chair of the Liverpool Bay Group.
- **Action** – write to Wayne Hope to invite him to the next Forum.
- Marine Licence Exemptions – possibly ask for a Memorandum of Understanding while waiting for amendments to legislation. NRW may also be updating their guidance.
- **Action** – Kerry will look at the requirements for the process of amending legislation.
- It was felt that it may be worth the groups reviewing their SMP Action Plans to clarify who is doing what. **ACTION Coastal Group Chairs**

4. Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre

- With regards to the Welsh Government decision on the Monitoring Centre, there is a business case currently being prepared and is now in its third version.
- There will be a workshop on 13th November where there will be a presentation of the findings.
- The forum was anxious to see the issue of funding for the centre to be resolved. This was also a recommendation from NRW.
- It was highlighted that there have been recent problems with the WCMC website.

5. NRW Report

- LP pointed out that of the 900 actions in the 4 plans about 40% have NRW as the lead.
- NRW are still paying the EA for some contracts but are trying to get out of them early. They are hoping to have their own database equivalent by Christmas.
- Progress is being made on the recommendations in the recent report.
- A review of the coastal groups was recommendation 39 from NRW.
- **Action** – all agreed to bring current Terms of Reference to the next meeting, and to make it an agenda item.
- The Section 18 Report has been published on the NRW website.
- Rick Park, who leads on the Regional Habitat Creation Programme, has met with Crown Estates and National Rail on the issue. A lot of the issues discussed in these meetings are of a controversial nature.

6. Next meeting

- It was decided that this would be at the same venue on 21st January.