



Severn Estuary Coastal Group



DRAFT Minutes

18th November 2013 - 10.00 am
 Cardiff University, Main Building, Park Place, CF10 3AT
 Room 0.03

Present:

Dave Harris, Monmouthshire County Council – Chair (DH)

- Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University - Observer (RB)*
- John Buttivant, Environment Agency South West (JB)*
- David Lesser, Stroud District Council (DL)*
- Clive Moon, Vale of Glamorgan Council (CM)*
- Huw Morgans, Vale of Glamorgan Council (HM)*
- Gwilym Owen, Severn Estuary Partnership (SECG Secretariat) (GO)*
- Darren Walsh, Natural Resources Wales (DW)*

1. Apologies:

- Matt Bajowski, C&W IDB (MB)*
- Conrad Moore, Stroud District Council (CM)*
- Rob Niblett, Gloucestershire County Council (RN)*
- Lisa Price, South Gloucestershire Council (LP)*

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (8th Apr 2013)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 8 April 2013 were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Summary of Actions from SECG meeting 8th April 2013

Action no.	Description	Progress
13/01	GO to email missing members for comment	Completed
13/02	SECG members to feedback by 26 th April	Done
13/03	DH to change terms of reference as per above recommendations	On agenda
13/04	GO to contact John Tingey of the NFU Severn Estuary Group	GO to check on this
13/05	DH to confirm deadline date	Done
13/06	GO to email Action Plan spreadsheet and DH to test run template	Completed
13/07	GO to email proformas to members	Completed (by ZW, SEP)
13/08	SECG Members' comments on spreadsheet by end of next week (Apr 26 th)	Done

13/09	Set up sub group	Sub-group established
13/10	DH to arrange a date for sub group teleconference	Completed
13/11	DH and CH to circulate planning leaflets to SECG Members	Completed
13/12	DH to report to SECG on outcome. Keep on agenda	On agenda
13/13	DH to invite Atkins to talk at the next SECG meeting	Note talk at Severn Estuary Forum
13/14	Members to consider potential SECG projects	Ongoing / on agenda RCB to clarify funding situation
13/15	GO to invoice for 2013/14 contributions	Completed
13/16	DH to explain why Lower Severn IDB dropped out of SECG	Investigated
13/17	PW to look into the rationalization of IDB memberships	Noted that IDBs to be merged into NRW
13/18	DH and GO to liaise regarding the organisation of the next SECG meeting	Completed

Outstanding Action 13/14:

RCB/SEP - to clarify funding situation

ALL - to consider possible future projects

4. SECG – Revised Terms of Reference

The terms of reference (attached) were agreed by the group following the amendment of the following correction: EA(Wales) and CCW should be replaced by NRW throughout the document. It was also noted that NRW is now the contributing member.

5. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Dave Harris was re-elected as Chair of SECG (nominated by JB). As there was no nomination for Vice-Chair, it was agreed that requests for nominations would be circulated to members in readiness for a decision at the next meeting.

Action 13/19: SEP Secretariat

- to request nominations for Vice-Chair prior to next meeting

6. Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy

JB informed the meeting that the consultation had closed on 31 July. He suggested that there had generally been more positive comments from respondents to the revised consultation document this time. He explained that this may have been partly due to the reduction in SLR predictions, enabling a more flexible, longer term time frame for adaptation. JB also noted that since the initiation of the strategy there had also been a change in approach to flood risk management and associated funding, particularly partnership opportunities. It was also noted that SEP had assisted in the compilation of a summary document of the consultation responses, to be placed on the SEP website within the next month and to be circulated to all respondents.

JB informed the meeting that the finalising process of the strategy is currently in progress. However, he suggested that it would take a further 12 months at least for sign off.

7. Coastal Monitoring

The activities of the South West Coastal and Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centres were briefly outlined. The possibility of Phase 3 monitoring extending further up the estuary was noted. Issues associated with Welsh coastal monitoring were mentioned alongside the group's desire to see sharing of experiences related to new technologies between the South West and Welsh centres. In this context the opportunities of using Bathymetric lidar were briefly mentioned. DH also referred to the future of the Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre in these discussions, noting the possibility that NRW may take over the role, following an invitation to tender for the role.

8. SMP2 Matters & Progress

IROPI

DH informed the group that he had been advised the SMP2 should be signed off by Welsh Government by Christmas.

Planning Leaflets – It was noted that the draft planning documents related to the SMP2 have been circulated to each authority by SEP. However, no comments on the documents have been received back. It was agreed that these documents should be recirculated and that SEP should coordinate feedback from planners and send this directly to Kath Wellard.

Action Plan & A Sub Group Notes

The meeting of the Sub-group, dated 10 Sept 2013, were noted. DH explained that gaps in the action plan still remain and he agreed to look through these with SEP prior to the next meeting.

Action 13/20: GO

- to email SMP2 planning leaflets to local planning authorities

Action 13/21: DH and SEP

- to look through gaps in action plan prior to next meeting

Action 13/22 : SEP (GO)

- SEP to circulate hard and DVD copies of the SMP2 ASAP

9. Future of Bristol Channel Strategic Coastal Group

DH explained that there were three options for the future of the BCSCG:

- Continuation as usual
- The group to disband, with some coordination between groups, largely through meeting of Chairs & VCs of each group. This option, it was suggested could seek support from SEP for coordination.
- The group to disband with no coordination.

JB provided further context to the discussions, including explanation of the rationale for Defra's formation of 'strategic' coastal groups.

It was noted that the NDSCG had previously met and had already decided to withdraw from the BCSCG and to join the South West Coastal Group.

DH expressed the need for cross-border liaison associated with any new arrangements. As a minimum this should include the sharing of members and papers.

In the context of these discussions, it was agreed that discussion with the Swansea Bay Coastal Group would be useful.

Action 13/23 : DH

- to contact the Chair of the Swansea Bay Coastal Group

Action 13/24 : DH

- to circulate a paper with options to all members for consideration prior to a decision at the next SECG meeting.

10. National Coastal Chairs Group Minutes July 2013

Chair

DH summarised key items from the meeting, whilst encouraging members to consult the available relevant notes and papers.

Key aspects highlighted included:

- the presentation from Head of Licensing in the MMO which made reference to the Concordat between MMO, NE and EA. This sets out key principles for coordinating the consenting process for coastal development in England¹.
- the recent national overview of SMP2 outputs: recent monitoring indicates that 4% of actions are complete, but that there are many unspecified actions in SMP2s
- the approach to coastal change adaptation in W Riding, Yorkshire, using Partnership Funding
- Proposals for pilots to investigate issues associated with landowner maintenance of assets (particularly dredging and lowland drainage). Concerns include maintenance, meeting legislative requirements and liability issues. In the context of the latter, it was noted that EA lawyers are currently looking into this. DH also pointed out the establishment of the NFU Severn Estuary sub-group which is investigating these and other related issues.
- Reference to the need for a national review of habitat replacement under the Habitats Directive.
- EA website development which will include coastal flooding areas from January 2014 (including surface water flooding and defences)

Action 13/25: DH

- to circulate further papers relating to maintenance of assets by landowners

11. National Stakeholders Meeting

DH noted that he not been able to attend the National Stakeholders' Meeting on 6 November. However, it was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be circulated to members.

¹ Coastal Concordat; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-coastal-concordat-for-engand>

Action 13/26: DH

- to circulate minutes of the Stakeholders' meeting on 6 November

12. Welsh Coastal Chairs Group

DH provided a brief update. This included reference to a Welsh policy update and the associated establishment of a coastal task and finish group. DH noted that Welsh Government were still finalising the process for reporting on SMP2 actions, but it was likely that data from coastal groups would soon be required.

13. Items for Information

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

- Coastal Adaptation Planning - Consultation
- Draft MMO Concordat
- EA Flood Maps Update
- National CGC Papers
- National Stakeholders GP Papers
- Annual Report for BCSCG
- Wessex RFCC Mins July 2013
- English & Wye RFCC Papers Jul 2013
- English & Wye RFCC Papers Oct 2013
- SERFMS Presentation

A full set of papers relating to these topics is available on the SECG website.

14. Reports by LAs / EA & Other Members on Coastal Works**All**

Updates on various aspects were provided by members. This included reference to:

- The Vale of Glamorgan reinforcement work at Penarth. It was noted that cliff falls may result in the coastal footpath being diverted onto private land (currently on council land)
- The Avonside LEP and the value of partnership funding (note: a presentation on this was recently given by Ian Steele at the Severn Estuary Forum: <http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum.html>)
- The suggestion for a 1953-style storm incident response study for the South West.

15. Any Other Business**All**

FRM plans - DH questioned the use of coastal data in these plans.

It was also noted that NRW are investigating a new asset management system.

It was also pointed out that Shelley Vince would be starting as a full time officer with SEP/ASERA at the start of February 2014.

Action 13/27 DH to contact NRW and EA about coastal data requirements

16. Presentation on Tideflex by MEASURIT

A most interesting presentation was given in which the main features and wide range of

applications of Tideflex were outlined. See attached paper.

17. Date of Next Meeting: 2014

It was noted that the next full meeting would take place in April 2014, with the possibility of a teleconference in February 2014.

Members were reminded that all relevant papers are available for download from the SECG Members Area (<http://www.severnestuary.net/secg/>)².

Summary of actions from this SECG meeting:

Action no.	Description	Who
13/14	To clarify funding situation	RCB/SEP
	To consider possible future projects	ALL
13/21	To look through gaps in action plan prior to next meeting	DH & SEP
13/22	To circulate hard and DVD copies of the SMP2 ASAP	GO
13/23	To contact the Chair of the Swansea Bay Coastal Group	DH
13/24	To circulate a paper with options to all members	DH
13/25	To circulate further papers relating to maintenance of assets by landowners	DH
13/26	To circulate minutes of the Stakeholders' meeting on 6 November	DH
13/27	To contact NRW and EA about coastal data requirements	DH

² Log in details available by request from the SEP Office (Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk)