



# Severn Estuary Coastal Group



## DRAFT Minutes

21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 09:30 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 Wessex (JB)*
- Huw Morgans, Vale of Glamorgan Council (HM)*
- Darren Walsh, Natural Resources Wales (DW)*
- Matthew Jones, Newport City Council (MJ)*
- Louise Pennington, Natural Resources Wales (LP)*
- Patrick Goodey, Bristol City Council (PG)*
- Jo Martin, Environment Agency Shropshire Herefordshire Worcestershire and Gloucestershire (JM)*
- Doug Barker, North Somerset Council (DB)*
- Shelley Vince, Severn Estuary Partnership (SECG Secretariat) (SV)*

**1. Apologies:**

- Matt Bajowski, C&W IDB (MB)*
- Rob Niblett, Gloucestershire County Council (RN)*
- Ceri Seaton, Natural Resources Wales (CS)*
- Clive Moon, Vale of Glamorgan Council (CM)*

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (18<sup>th</sup> November 2013)**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013, were accepted.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Summary of Actions from SECG meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 2013**

<b>Action no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Progress</b>
13/14	To clarify funding situation	Complete
	To consider possible future projects	Ongoing
13/21	To look through gaps in action plan prior to next meeting	Done
13/22	To circulate hard and DVD copies of the SMP2 ASAP	Outstanding
13/23	To contact the Chair of the Swansea Bay Coastal Group	Done

13/24	To circulate a paper with options to all members	Done – now overtaken by ND&SCG's decision to leave BCSCG
13/25	To circulate further papers relating to maintenance of assets by landowners	Done
13/26	To circulate minutes of the Stakeholders' meeting on 6 November	Done
13/27	To contact NRW and EA about coastal data requirements	Done

### Outstanding Actions

**13/14: ALL** - to consider possible future projects

**13/22: GO/SEP** - to circulate hard and DVD copies of the SMP2 ASAP

#### 4. Election of Vice- Chair

No nominations were received prior to the meeting via email.

JB nominated PG in the meeting. PG tentatively agreed subject to discussing the role more thoroughly with DH.

#### 5. Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy update

JB informed the meeting that the consultation had closed in July 2013 with 62 written representations received. It was noted that SEP had assisted in the compilation of a summary document of the consultation responses and the Environment Agency has produced a response document to the common concerns. The SE FRMS is currently going through the EA's internal approval process and following this will go to Defra and Welsh Government for approval (in 2015).

JB commented that the working draft of the strategy is unlikely to change much although he did note that there will be a need to update the SMP2 in line with the revised FRMS.

#### 6. Review of winter storms and Wales Coastal Flooding Review

DH and LP outlined the work undertaken in Wales following the winter storms. This included the production of "Wales Coastal Flooding Review Phase 1 Report – Assessment of Impacts" which was published in mid-February 2014. NRW's follow up "Wales Coastal Flooding Review Phase 2 Report" was published in April 2014. The phase 2 report identifies 42 recommendations.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/flooding/studies/?lang=en> (Wales coastal flooding review report)

LP notified the group that she aims to create a delivery plan for these by autumn 2014 and will be seeking input from SECG on this. Some recommendations are operational lessons learned from dealing with the storms which can be completed relatively quickly, while others are long standing issues of flood risk management which will take longer to resolve.

LP noted that Recommendation 39 of the NRW phase 2 report is a review of Wales coastal groups and that there will be a consultation involving coastal groups as part of this. LP also noted that in light of this NRW will need to review this year's SECG membership fees.

HM noted that 85% funding for storm/flooding repairs was provided by government and the council had to provide the other 15%.

MJ noted that evacuation of some properties in Newport was undertaken but very few flooded.

PG noted that Bristol was not too affected by waves but flooding caused some disruption.

DB noted that there had been some damage to sea walls in North Somerset that were repaired but damaged again in subsequent storms.

JB noted that EA have received £1.99 million to spend on repair works.

It was noted that a national report on the effects of the storms has not been produced in England but PG has drafted a report for Bristol.

**Action 14/01: PG**

- To circulate Bristol storms report to the group when available.

**7. Flood Risk Management Plan Update**

Flood Risk Management Plan guidance has recently been published on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. The first stage of the FRMP is to publish a Scoping Report which sets out the scope of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA), which sources of flood risk will be included in the FRMP and what consultation will be undertaken, and when. Scoping reports will be completed soon with a report to Europe by end of next year.

JB explained that the Environment Agency are pulling their plans together and incorporating actions from the SMP11 and strategy into the plans.

LB explained that NRW are developing their own template for plans so there will be some differences between England and Wales. The Welsh plans are unlikely to include coastal erosion.

**8. Coastal Monitoring**

DH attended a meeting with the SW group and reported that they are making good progress with monitoring the Severn Estuary. He noted that usage of the Channel Coast Observatory website (<http://www.channelcoast.org/>) had increased during the storms with many finding the data valuable.

DH explained that there are issues associated with the Welsh Coastal

Monitoring Centre and questions over its future. LP noted that there is a recommendation in the Wales Coastal Flooding Review for determining a business case for this centre. JB commented that the English coastal monitoring centres were critical for the EA in dealing with the 2014 storms and that there has been agreement for these to continue in England for the next five years.

## 9. **SMP2 Matters & Progress**

The group discussed the increased awareness of communities to Shoreline Management Plans following the storms. It was noted that approval of SMP2s for Wales now seems to be higher up the agenda for WG and that the SMP2 for the Severn is likely to be the first of the four Welsh plans to be approved.

### ***IROPI***

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

***Planning Leaflets*** – It was noted that no comments on the draft planning leaflets related to the SMP2 have been received. It was agreed that DH should send a reminder to all Local Planning Authorities about the leaflets and where they can be found.

### ***Action Plan & A Sub Group Notes***

RB noted that some of those who had been requested to provide data for the SMP2 Action Plan monitoring had queried this request. As a result a formal response had been circulated to explain the reasons for the monitoring process and to explain where and how any information provided by lead authorities/bodies would be used. DH explained that collated information will feed into high level EA/NRW reports and a summary of this will also be put on the member's area of the SECG website.

LP explained that as the SMP2s and associated action plans are not yet signed off in Wales it may be considered premature for Welsh authorities to report on them.

### ***Identification of works or monitoring for SECG funding***

RB provided a summary of the group's income and expenditure as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. As a result of this DH explained that there are some funds available in the SECG budget to do some additional work and requested suggestions from the group. JB suggested contributing towards a project that the EA are putting a proposal together for on flood risk planning.

### ***Action 14/02: DH***

- to send reminder to all Local Authorities about SMP2 Planning leaflets

### ***Action 14/03 All***

- to provide suggestions of work/projects that SECG money could be spent on

## 10. **Bristol Channel Strategic Coastal Group termination and SECG future role**

DH explained that North Devon and Somerset have withdrawn from the Bristol Channel Strategic Coastal Group and joined the South West Coastal Group. It was agreed that the Severn Estuary Coastal Group would need to act more strategically and cover a greater remit as a result of this. JB provided further context to the discussions, including an explanation of the requirements of becoming a 'strategic' coastal group and what the group would be expected to undertake in addition. It was suggested that, given these changes, SECG should meet more frequently (three times per year) and should include a wider range of stakeholders.

It was suggested that a decision should not be made on the future of BC SCG until the Welsh review of coastal groups has been completed. However, DH expressed the need for cross-border liaison associated with any new arrangements.

**Action 14/04 : DH/JB**

- to provide suggestion on how a strategic group would work

**11. National Coastal Chairs Group Minutes**

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

Key aspects highlighted included:

- R&D paper for ongoing coastal research activities and projects
- Update to the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - A Manual for Economic Appraisal (multi-coloured manual) with new science and data on flood damages and investment benefits
- EA's change of structure to remove the regional tier. JB/JM noted that SECG contacts remain the same.
- There has been good use of flood and hazard maps by the public during the flooding.

**12. National Stakeholders Meeting**

DH summarised key items from the meeting which included:

- Update on flood insurance.
- Flood resilience pathfinder scheme
- The EA website has moved over to the GOV.UK website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

**13. Welsh Coastal Chairs Group**

DH explained that there had not been a Welsh coastal chairs group meeting over the last six months. The last meeting was held in Autumn 2013.

**14. Items for Information**

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

- a) English Severn & Wye RFCC Papers Jan 2014
- b) English Severn & Wye RFCC Papers 15 Apr 2014

- c) Wessex RFCC Mins of Jan 2014 Mtg & Papers for April 2014
- d) DEFRA Coastal Group Arrangements
- e) SW Coastal Monitoring Group Papers
- f) Coastal Chairs Group meetings Papers
- g) Wales Coastal Monitoring Group Papers
- h) Wales coastal flooding review phase 1 report
- i) Winter Storms Damage aerials 2014 - Royal Commission summary

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

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

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

- The Vale of Glamorgan not being properly consulted on a Welsh water outfall in Penarth.
- North Somerset repair works.
- Crumbling retaining walls in Bristol
- EA finishing works at Lydney for compensation habitat and bidding for schemes at Upper Framilode and Westbury.

**16. Any Other Business**

Celtic Seas Partnership workshop on Thursday 5 June 2014, 9.30 am – 4.30 at the Future Inn, Cardiff Bay.

Severn Estuary Partnership annual forum on 16<sup>th</sup> September at Cardiff University <http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum/2014.html>

**17. Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Rivers House, Bridgwater with visit to Steart Marshes following the meeting.

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:**

<b>Action no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Owner</b>
14/01	To circulate Bristol storms report to the group when available	PG
14/02	to send reminder to all Local Authorities about SMP2 Planning leaflets	DH

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

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