

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Civic Offices, Havant on Thursday 23 September 2010, commencing at 10.15am

Present: A list of those present is appended to these minutes.

<u>Apologies:</u> Alan Inder	-	Solent Protection Society
John Canning	-	Raymond Brown Construction
Cllr F Carpenter	-	New Forest District Council
Cllr R O'Brien	-	Chichester District Council
Graham Lymbery	-	Coastal Defence Sefton MBC
John Riby	-	Scarborough Borough Council
Steve Woolard	-	Christchurch Borough Council
Cllr M Duckworth	-	Christchurch Borough Council
Mike Goater	-	Purbeck District Council
Cllr A Starr	-	Purbeck District Council
Dr Ken Buchan	-	Dorset County Council
Cllr L Ames MBE	-	Dorset County Council
Samantha Dawes	-	R.S.P.B.
Cllr A Rice T.D.	-	Hampshire County Council
Bryan Curtis	-	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr C Welsford	-	Isle of Wight Council
Brian White	-	Westminster Dredging
Alison Baptiste	-	Environment Agency
Andrew Gilham	-	Environment Agency
Mark Tinnion	-	Environment Agency
Nick Lyness	-	Environment Agency
Stacia Miller	-	Environment Agency
Iain Mills	-	The Crown Estate
David Martin	-	Gosport Borough Council
Cllr C Welsford	-	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr M Filer	-	Bournemouth Borough Council

1. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 12 March 2010 be approved.

2. Research Programme

The Group received a report from the Chairperson of the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group setting out progress made on the following current and proposed SCOPAC projects:

1.1) ACCESS (Adapting to Climate Change Along England's Southern Shorelines)

Members were advised that uncertainty over Government policy had created concern regarding future sources of funding. Discussions over potential funding models were taking place, however members noted that it was still too early to implement any specific plans.

Concern was also expressed that different studies were indicating different rates of erosion along the same stretch of shoreline. It was felt that the ACCESS

project would provide useful information in highlighting generic risks to communities that other risk mapping projects did not.

1.2) Sediment Tracer Studies East Solent

An initial trial of 300 pebbles had taken place at Eastoke and had proven very successful with 82% being recovered at the first low tide. Further monitoring would take place on a daily basis and if the trial was deemed successful a further 500 pebbles would be deployed at Gunner Point.

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group explained that coastal studies were often reliant on numerical models and this study in particular would be very valuable in calibrating and validating these models.

Members were please to note that the initial trial had been very encouraging and it was hoped the study would lead to an improved level of beach management in the future.

2) New Research

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

3. Report of the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group

The Group received a report from the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group setting out recent developments and progress made on the following subjects:

3.1) National Network of Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme (2011-2017)

The Programme was highlighted as a good example of SCOPAC delivering outcomes in an efficient manner to all affected parties. The next phase involved rolling out the programme nationally which would benefit SCOPAC and the other organisations adopting it. It had been agreed that New Forest District Council (NFDC) would be the lead authority for the southeast region and this approach had worked very efficiently.

The National Programme had now been submitted and it was felt that it demonstrated a good business case and represented value for money. The programme had already received the required technical approval from the Environment Agency and the current indications where that final approval would be received shortly. The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group emphasised that the programme provided a good example of successful partnership working between the Environment Agency and local authorities in delivering a good, quality programme.

3.2) Assessment of Coastal Erosion and Landsliding for the Funding of Coastal Risk Management Projects – Guidance Notes

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group provided members with a brief presentation on the new preliminary guidance notes issued by the Environment Agency on grant aid funding associated with cliff instability. It was remarked that the new guidance notes were a positive move and New Forest District Council

had agreed to test the guidance and provide an update of any outcomes at a future meeting of SCOPAC.

3.3) Field Visits and Training Events

The development of improved training for members and officers in the SCOPAC region had recently been undertaken and the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was pleased with how it had progressed. The recent field trip to Hengistbury Head had been very well attended and members commented that it had been very informative and educational. It was felt that the half day format worked well and it was hoped to organise similar field trips in the future. A trip to Portsmouth was being considered next year and it was also suggested that Lyme Regis may be a good site to visit in 2012 given the relevance to the ACCESS study and the change in funding criteria for landsliding. It was hoped to link these field visits in with future meetings of SCOPAC.

A technical training programme for officers had recently been implemented to assist inexperienced staff and the positive feedback received had been very encouraging. The next workshop on rock groynes was planned for the beginning of next year.

A database of new and past SCOPAC members had recently been established in order to identify any induction needs and to attempt to re-establish links with former members of SCOPAC. It was suggested that the list would be beneficial in helping to support the Group and allowing it to develop.

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was enthusiastic to continue the member's issues presentations and encouraged elected members to contact him if they would like to conduct one at the next meeting.

3.4) SCOPAC Non-Technical Guide

The Group held a detailed discussion on the future options available for distributing the Non-Technical Guide. Members agreed to explore the options of distribution through the ICE bookshop and Robin McInnes's website. A further option of publishing the guide on the SCOPAC website and making a hard copy available for sale was examined; however potential copyright issues were highlighted. The possibility of making the guide available to all coastal M.E.P.'s was also discussed.

3.5) Annual Report

In view of recent Government guidelines SCOPAC members discussed the idea of producing a shorter, more concise annual report, containing detailed appendices, demonstrating that SCOPAC provided good value for money. The draft report was due to be completed by 6 October 2010.

3.6) SMP Progress

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group updated members on the progress of the North Solent, Poole and Christchurch Bays and the Isle of Wight SMP and agreed to provide an update at a future meeting.

3.7) Website

It was reported that the Isle of Wight Council had indicated they would be unable to continue the management of the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC websites. The Group was advised that while the Channel Coast Observatory could maintain the websites in the interim an options paper would be prepared for the next meeting of the Southern Coastal Group detailing cost, procurement and delivery options. Members were also invited to forward on any ideas to the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group or Samantha Cope for consideration.

3.8) National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping Development

The Environment Agency informed members that a decision was expected in October after which it was hoped the project would be able to progress.

3.9) Upcoming Events

RESOLVED That

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) The proposal for development of new officer and member training initiatives including funding of £400 for the CIRIA beach management manual launch and £900 for the field visit to Portsmouth be approved;
- 3) The proposal for distribution of SCOPAC non-technical guides to coastal MPs at an estimated cost of £350 be approved;
- 4) The proposal for the potential sale of the remaining stock of SCOPAC non-technical guides be approved.

4. Implications For the Coast of the New Flood and Water Management Acts and RFCCs

The Environment Agency updated members on the key areas of the new Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It was noted that the Regional Flood Defence Committee's (RFDC) will become Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's (RFCC), with the ability to raise a local levy in order to provide funding for erosion and flood defence schemes. A new role of a Lead Local Flood Authority had also been established and, subject to the spending review, Defra was committed to funding the new Act.

5. Members Issues: Presentation – Managing Key Environmental Sites in the Solent – ‘A Local Authority Perspective’.

SCOPAC members received a presentation on ‘Managing Key Environmental Sites in the Solent’ by Councillor Jenny Wride of Havant Borough Council. Members were interested to note the pressures on the North Solent shoreline, the Solent Dynamic Coast Project and the proposals for developing a strategic partnership between the various stakeholders.

The Group discussed the idea of changing current working methods and developing a closer degree of partnership working between local authorities, the Environment Agency and other relevant parties. The importance of raising awareness of coastal issues amongst planning officers was highlighted and the benefits of inviting them to SCOPAC field visits and training sessions were discussed.

RESOLVED That Councillor Jenny Wride be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

6. Any Other Business

The Chairman provided members with an update on the recent changes regarding ministers now responsible for coastal issues. Richard Benyon, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, was now responsible for coastal erosion and the Group discussed the possibility of inviting him to a future SCOPAC event.

9. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED That the next meeting of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline be held on Friday 3 December 2010, commencing at 10.15am.

The meeting commenced at 10.20am and concluded at 12.15pm.

Date of next meeting: Friday 3 December 2010

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

23 SEPTEMBER 2010 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Roger Elkins – Chairman of SCOPAC

Professor Andy Bradbury – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Arun District Council
Ms P Dart

Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr D Harlow

Chichester District Council
Mr G Holder

Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Cllr A Buckley

Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr D Airey
Mr A Brown

Environment Agency
Mr T Kermode
Mr N Watson
Mr G Lane

Fareham Borough Council
Mr S Mills

Hampshire County Council
Mr S Blyth

Havant Borough Council
Cllr J Wride
Cllr J Branson
Cllr K Smith
Cllr V Wilson-Smith

Havant and Portsmouth and Gosport
Councils Coastal Partnership
Mr L Cairns
Mr M Hosey
Mrs K Klepacz

Isle of Wight Council
Cllr S Dyer
Mr P Marsden

New Forest District Council
Dr Sam Cope

Portsmouth City Council
Cllr H Mason

Southampton City Council
Ms B Maguire

Southern RFDC
Dr M Bateman

University of Portsmouth
Dr M Bray

West Dorset District Council
Cllr Mrs M Penfold M.B.E.
Mr H Middleton

Worthing Borough Council
Cllr B Turner