

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Friday 8 March 2013, commencing at 10.15am

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

Prior to the meeting Cllr Elkins, who was standing down as Chairman of SCOPAC, expressed thanks for all the support and help he had received from the Environment Agency, officers and fellow members during his tenure as Chairman. He expressed his hope that SCOPAC would continue to move forward as an organisation and build upon on its many achievements such as the publication of the Non-Technical Guide in 2009.

1. Election of SCOPAC Chairman

Nominations for the post of Chairman were invited. One nomination was received and seconded. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED that Councillor M Penfold be appointed Chairman of SCOPAC for the ensuing three years.

2. Election of SCOPAC Vice-Chairman

Nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman were invited. One nomination was received and seconded. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED that Councillor H Mason be appointed Vice-Chairman of SCOPAC for the ensuing three years

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr D Smith	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr J Connor	-	Chichester District Council
Prof. M Cowling	-	The Crown Estate
Cllr L Ames	-	Dorset County Council
Mr J Addicott	-	East Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr M Hosey	-	East Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr N Hardiman	-	Environment Agency
Ms L Hughes	-	Environment Agency
Mr N Lyness	-	Environment Agency
Mr J O'Flynn	-	Environment Agency
Ms L Sheffield	-	Hampshire County Council
Cllr D Guest	-	Havant Borough Council
Ms J Potter	-	Havant Borough Council
Cllr X Dion	-	Borough of Poole Council
Cllr G Marsh	-	Purbeck District Council
Mr M Goater	-	Purbeck District Council
Ms L Brown	-	Chair of Southern RFCC

Cllr A Thorpe	-	Southampton City Council
Ms B Maguire	-	Southampton City Council
Cllr B Turner	-	Worthing Borough Council
Mr C Lisher	-	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners

4. **Minutes**

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 19 October 2012 be approved.

5. **Report of the Chair of the Research Programme**

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

5.1) Evolution of Coastal Sediment Stores and Sinks Study

Members were interested to note that the primary aim of the project was to identify stores and sinks across the SCOPAC region for future recycling operations. The next steps involved were detailed and these included:

- Beach Stores – once collated the 2012/13 surveys would be added to the difference models;
- Beach Stores - The recycling and renourishment events would be subtracted to obtain beach volume and extraction volumes would be inputted;
- Offshore Shoals - Admiralty tide charts from the 1950/60's and the 2000's were being georectified and offshore shoals digitised;
- Offshore Shoals - available seabed mapping would be utilised to identify sediment shoals and Crown Estates would be contacted to obtain information on licensed dredging areas.

5.2) SCOPAC Minor Projects Fund (2011/2012 and 2012/2013)

A brief update on the following projects, each awarded £4,000 from the SCOPAC Minor Projects fund, was provided:

- Havant, Portsmouth and Gosport Partnership Beach Tracer Studies (Phase II) - Following deployments at Portsmouth and Hayling Island (Phase I), the Phase II tracer study would investigate short term sediment pathways at other sites across the East Solent.
- Bournemouth Borough Council Undertaking Non-Standard Rock Groynes Project - The proposed guidelines and findings had been drafted and Dr. Dave Harlow had submitted these to the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group for discussion.

5.3) Update on the SCOPAC Bibliographic Database

An update on the Bibliographic Database project was provided and it was confirmed that Dr Malcolm Bray had reviewed the database and provided positive feedback. Following the next Research Sub-Group meeting the database would be uploaded onto the SCOPAC website.

5.4) SCOPAC and SCG Websites: Update

It was noted that both the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC websites had recently been migrated onto a new web programme and this helped provide them with a greater degree of flexibility in presenting information.

5.5) Regional Studies

It was confirmed that the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group would form a project board for the Regional Sediment Transport Study, for which Christchurch Bay would be used as a pilot, and the Regional Extreme Wave Condition Study, for which the pre-qualification exercise was currently being conducted.

5.6) Training – Sediment Renourishment Workshop

Members were pleased to note that the sediment renourishment workshop held on 1 February 2013 had been well received with approximately sixty delegates, including consultants, attending. Thanks were expressed to all the speakers for their contributions and the Channel Coastal Observatory for hosting the event. It was confirmed that all the presentations from the event would be placed on the website shortly.

6. 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:

6.1) Review of Constitution and Financial Procedures

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group explained that, following recent reviews by officers, a need had been identified to update the constitution and provide more clarity on a number of issues, in particular financial procedures. Members agreed it was a valuable exercise which needed undertaking.

RESOLVED that a review of the existing constitution and financial procedures be undertaken.

6.2) National Network of Coastal Monitoring Programmes – Application for Next Phase

A brief update was provided on the monitoring programmes and members were pleased to note that despite a 28% reduction in funding the vast majority of the programme could still be delivered through more efficient delivery methods.

Discussions were currently ongoing to release Environment Agency (EA) funded data sets for non-commercial end-use as these could not currently be made available on the Channel Coastal Observatory website. Progress was being made on this issue and it was intended for programme partners to resolve any challenges in making all the data freely available.

Members noted the significant progress that had been made in delivering the programme through the use of in-house local authority teams, with the most

recent phase being delivered with a 15% increase in efficiency. Future efficiencies through partnership joint working opportunities had also been identified with the British Geological Survey and the Maritime Coastal Agency.

Preparations for an application for further funding to commence in 2017 needed to be initiated and members were in agreement that New Forest District Council continue to act as the lead authority for the next round of applications.

RESOLVED that New Forest District Council continue to act as the lead authority for SCOPAC on the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes.

6.3) SMP Action Plans – Update on Reporting

Members noted that a summary of progress had been prepared in connection with the five SMPs within the SCOPAC region and was on schedule to meet its target aspirations.

6.4) Funding Allocations for Coastal Erosion

Concern was expressed over coastal erosion funding and the reasons why these schemes often fared badly in the grant aid assessment process. It was suggested meetings between SCOPAC, the RFCC and the EA funding team take place in order to gain an overview of funding throughout the whole region.

RESOLVED that £3000 be allocated to fund an investigation into the funding of coast protection schemes.

6.5) Potential SCOPAC/SECG Conference

Members were provided with an update in response to a suggestion that SCOPAC and the South East Coastal Group (SECG) conduct a joint conference. The benefits of such an approach had been examined and it was felt that with SCOPAC's current workshop scheme in place, pressures on funds and officer time a joint conference was not currently appropriate.

It was recognised however that a number of professional organisations such as ICE and CIWEM regularly held conferences and some benefits and efficiencies may be achieved through holding future joint events.

Members were in agreement that whilst holding a joint conference with the SECG was currently unsuitable, potential opportunities to deliver an event in partnership with others should be investigated.

7. Audited Accounts for Financial Year 2011/12

A brief overview of the audited accounts for SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group for the financial year 2011/12 was provided. Members expressed caution over the future level of subscriptions due to the current economic situation and it was suggested that all subscription income be spent on SCOPAC region initiatives and not national initiatives.

RESOLVED that the SCOPAC and Southern Coastal Group audited accounts for the financial year 2011/12 be approved.

8. Presentation on Seabed Mapping

Travis Mason of the Channel Coastal Observatory provided a presentation on "Seabed Mapping – Applications for Shoreline Management and Marine Planning". Members were interested to note the Swath Bathymetric Surveys undertaken and the three main applications of seabed mapping:

- 1) Marine Spatial Planning;
- 2) Shoreline Management and Engineering; and
- 3) Conservation of Marine Environment.

Swath Bathymetry and seabed mapping were a source of baseline evidence for a wide range of options including policy and planning, assessment and consultation. It was explained if the mapping was not undertaken evidence would be based on much coarser, older information and therefore more open to challenge or opposition. The data was already being utilised for University research and members were particularly interested to note how it could be utilised for SCOPAC research, such as on the sediment stores and sinks project.

RESOLVED that Travis Mason be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

9. Any Other Business

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group thanked Cllr Roger Elkins, who was attending his last meeting of SCOPAC, for all his efforts as Chairman and the valuable support he had provided in ensuring the smooth integration of SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group.

Neil Watson of the Environment Agency informed members that that Poole and Wareham Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy was currently out for public consultation. This was scheduled to finish on 1 April 2013 and members were encouraged to provide any comments or questions.

The Chairman invited members to a future SCOPAC site visit to Lyme Regis to view its coastal defence scheme and confirmed that information would be circulated shortly.

10. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of SCOPAC be held on Friday 26 April 2013, commencing at 10.15am.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 12.12pm.

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

8 MARCH 2013 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Mary Penfold – Chairman of SCOPAC

Professor Andy Bradbury – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr D Harlow

Channel Coastal Observatory
Ms T Mason

Chichester District Council
Mr D Lowsley

Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Cllr J Branson

Christchurch Borough Council
Cllr J Lofts

Dorset County Council
Cllr L Ames

Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr L Cairns

Eastleigh Borough Council
Mr G Wilkinson

Environment Agency
Dr U Dornbusch
Mr N Watson

Fareham Borough Council
Cllr T Knight
Ms L Jewell

Gosport Borough Council
Cllr D Kimber

Hampshire County Council
Cllr A Buckley

Havant Borough Council
Mr A Cox

Isle of Wight Council
Cllr C Welsford

New Forest District Council
Cllr T Swain
Dr Sam Cope

Borough of Poole Council
Mr S Terry

Portsmouth City Council
Cllr H Mason
Mr G Mason

West Dorset District Council
Cllr M Penfold
Mr B Murray

Westminster Dredging
Mr W Shields

Worthing Borough Council
Mr B Curtis