

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Public Service Plaza, Havant on Friday 19 October 2012, commencing at 10.15am

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr D Smith	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr R O'Brien	-	Chichester District Council
Cllr T Craig	-	Eastleigh Borough Council
Mr M Hosey	-	East Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr S Mills	-	East Solent Coastal Partnership
Ms J Potter	-	East Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr N Hardiman	-	Environment Agency
Mr J O'Flynn	-	Environment Agency
Ms K Carron	-	Gosport Borough Council
Cllr T Swain	-	New Forest District Council
Cllr X Dion	-	Borough of Poole Council
Mr M Goater	-	Purbeck District Council
Ms K McHugh	-	Solent Forum
Cllr I Roebuck	-	Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Mr C Lisher	-	Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners

2. Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 10 February 2012 be approved.

3. Procedure for Election of Chairman

Members were reminded that an election for the role of Chairman was due in December 2012 and nomination papers would be circulated shortly.

4. 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:

4.1) Evolution of Coastal Sediment Stores and Sinks Study

Members were updated on the primary aim of the project which was to identify sediment stores and sinks across the SCOPAC region for future recycling operations. An overview of the work undertaken so far was provided and members were interested to note what the next steps included.

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

An update on the East Solent Coastal Partnership project was provided which explained how SCOPAC funding was being utilised to establish the burial depth of tracer pebbles. To date 100 tracers had been tagged and deployed at Lee-on-Solent and eventually 2000 pebbles would be drilled and deployed at various sites.

An update on the Bournemouth Borough Council non-standard rock groyne project was also provided. Dr Dave Harlow had interviewed engineers from the relevant councils and had compiled a report which was due to be circulated to the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group by the end of October 2012.

4.3) Update of SCOPAC Bibliographic Database

Members were interested to note that there had been approximately 600 new publications since 2002. Further publications were expected from the South-West officers and once these had been received Dr Malcolm Bray would check the final draft of the database, with an anticipated completion date of November 2012.

4.4) Southern Coastal Group Workshop

The next workshop of the series would be based on 'Sediment Renourishment' and a proposed date of 1 February 2013 had been identified. The Chairman reminded members that they were able to attend these workshops and any outputs would be available to view on the Southern Coastal Group website

4.6) SCOPAC and SCG Websites: Strategy Study Update

The Strategy Study page on both the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC websites was now out of date and a new map, which was more simplistic but clearer, had been developed. Lead officers were currently providing revised text for the map.

4.7) SCOPAC Summer 2012 Visit for Elected Members and Officers

The feedback from the last SCOPAC Summer visit held on 21 June 2012 had been very positive and the Chairman thanked the speakers for their contributions.

5. 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:

5.1) National Network of Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes (2011 – 2017)

Funding for the Southeast Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes had concluded in March 2012 and the first phase of the new national network had now commenced. MTP allocations for the programme had been reduced by 28% which would have implications for the delivery of the programme although

more efficient delivery methods were being developed to overcome these problems.

Another difficulty currently facing SCOPAC were the issues regarding Environment Agency funded data sets being made freely accessible to all, the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was optimistic however a resolution could be found.

Members were also pleased to note that progress was being made on the coordinated approach to procurement and encouraging discussions were ongoing with Natural England to identify potential opportunities for savings.

5.2) Grant Aid Funding for Research Studies

One of the key objectives of the SCOPAC research programme was to optimise funding and use this as a catalyst to develop further funding. The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was pleased to inform the meeting that two applications had recently been approved by the Environment Agency Project Appraisal Board. The first project was an update of the Sediment Transport Study which had been awarded £150,000. The second project was a study on extreme wave conditions which had secured £230,000 of funding. Regarding the extreme wave project, physical model testing was due to take place in Spring 2013 and invites would be sent out to members and officers to view the progress of the project.

5.3) Members and Officer Events

A site visit to Dorset was suggested for the 2013 SCOPAC event and a potential date would be circulated shortly.

5.4) Annual Report

The annual report was introduced and the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group explained it was based on the official Environment Agency guidance provided. The report outlined SCOPAC's key achievements and members were interested to note Table 1 appended to the report which provided a breakdown of the costs involved of conducting any work in isolation.

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was thanked for providing a clear and concise report which summarised all the key achievements. Officers were encouraged to share it with all Councillors of their authorities and investigate the possibility of publishing it on their websites.

5.5) Membership

Discussions between officers were currently ongoing to resolve and simplify the membership situation and the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was pleased to confirm that Fareham Borough Council and West Dorset District Council had both rejoined SCOPAC as full members.

6. CCATCH Technical Fact Guide

Bernadine Maguire of Southampton City Council introduced a technical fact guide that had been produced after meetings with a local engagement group. The guide contained technical information displayed in a non-technical format enabling households to understand flood risks associated within their community. The Southern Coastal Group had agreed it was a valuable document and one that could be used as a template enabling it to be adapted for use across multiple authorities. The Chairman agreed it was very valuable document and thanked Bernadine Maguire for all her work in producing the fact guide.

7. Partnership Funding – Local Approaches

James Addicott of the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership provided a presentation on ‘Contributions and Broader Outcomes’. Members were interested to note the traditional and current partnership funding approach, current guidance available and the development of thinking in identifying contributors and engaging with them.

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group suggested partnership funding could form a regular item on the agenda to provide an opportunity for the sharing of experiences. Members agreed there was a need for clearer communication and that the approach had to be inclusive of large developments and smaller isolated communities.

RESOLVED That James Addicott be thanked for providing an informative presentation.

8. Members Issues Presentation

SCOPAC members received a presentation on “Christchurch Harbour – Its Past, Present and Future” by Cllr John Lofts, Steve Woolard (Coastal Engineering Team Leader) and Lindsay Cass (Head of Environmental Services) of Christchurch Borough Council. Members were interested to note the history of the Harbour, how it was currently managed and the flood risks and its long term future.

The Chairman commented on the interesting issues raised and highlighted the current flood insurance concerns affecting many households.

RESOLVED That Councillor John Loft, Steve Woolard and Lindsay Cass be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

9. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of SCOPAC be held on Friday 7 December 2012, commencing at 10.15am.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 12.16pm.

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

19 OCTOBER 2012 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Roger Elkins – Chairman of SCOPAC

Professor Andy Bradbury – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr D Harlow

Chichester District Council
Cllr J Connor
Mr D Lowsley

Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Cllr J Branson

Christchurch Borough Council
Cllr J Loftis
Mr L Cass
Mr S Woolard

Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Mr J Addicott
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
Mr S Ricketts

Hampshire County Council
Cllr A Buckley
Cllr A Rice T. D.

Isle of Wight Council
Mr P Marsden

New Forest District Council
Dr Sam Cope

Borough of Poole Council
Mr D Robson

Purbeck District Council
Cllr G Marsh

Southampton City Council
Ms B Maguire

Chair of Southern RFCC
Ms L Brown

West Dorset District Council
Cllr M Penfold
Mr B Murray

Worthing Borough Council
Cllr B Turner