

Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP)

Joint Estuary Groups Initiative & Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

1.30pm Monday 11th October 2004
The City and Port of Bristol Social Club

Minutes

1. Welcome ,Introduction and Objectives of meeting (Cllr Peter Tyzack)

PT outlined the structure of the Joint Advisory Committee meeting and Joint Initiative day and noted its importance to the evolution of the SEP. The day was going to include an update on renewable energy policy; an update from the groups of the Joint Initiative; a presentation from the Thames Estuary Partnership and finally a presentation on the proposed Terms of Reference for the SEP itself.

2. Apologies for absence

George Ashworth, Monmouthshire CC
Helen Batte, WTB
Jonathan Calderbank, Sport England
James Clemence, Cardiff CC
Pr Dianne Edwards, Cardiff University
David Fletcher, Somerset CC
Nigel Gibbons, FOD DC
Angela Giddings, FUW
Kate Hoare, North Somerset Council
Sue Howard, CCW
Carwyn Howell Jones (Minister), NAW
Haydn Jones, SECG
Peter Lee, Sedgemoor DC
Cllr J Major, Monmouthshire CC
Cllr P Clarke, Monmouthshire CC

Donald McDonald, BCCPA
Siobhan Odwyer, Stroud DC
Jessica Poole, CCW
Tony Prater, RSPB
Gerry Quarell, WAG
Dick Sage, Bristol City Council
Rick Turner, CADW
Cllr Derek Whitelock, Gloucestershire
CC
Cllr R Jones, Newport City Council
Cllr A Williams, Vale of Glamorgan CC
Cllr M Harvey, Vale of Glamorgan CC

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record. A correction was made by Cllr Crowther, to ensure the correct title of Gloucestershire County Council.

4. Update on policy issues including Renewable Energy Paper (George Ashworth)

As an indirect action from the minutes, a Paper has been prepared on the current legislation and policy with regards renewable energy. In the absence of George Ashworth this paper was presented by Matthew Lewis of Monmouthshire County Council (paper available on request).

Matthew Lewis summarised the contents of the paper on Renewable energy as prepared by the SEP. ML focused on the draft TAN 8 which was out to consultation and the new renewable energy target of 4 TW/hr. The WAG consultation had been extended to the 5/11/2004. Although the role of the Local Authorities below the MLW is limited by the existing terrestrial planning system, possible onshore installations as a result of marine renewable energy schemes could be possible.

TAN 8 recognises that offshore and onshore installations will be employed in order to meet the new target. ML continued that TAN 8 is an instrument suggesting onshore sites for renewable onshore installation development to be planned for by the Local Planning Authorities. However, TAN 8 makes no indication of possible offshore sites, other than its brief reference to the Severn Barrage and its potential impact of major, whether positive or negative, significance were it to be developed.

5. Joint Estuary Groups Initiative Common Platform

The Severn Estuary Group Representatives were invited to update the JAC attendees.

SEP (Severn Estuary Partnership) and minutes of Management Group meeting (Charlotte Street/Jim Mitchell)

CS gave a brief update on SEP progress covering the following areas:

- The Management Group – CS presented the last meetings minutes and papers.
- Progress towards the establishment of the JAC and TOR.
- The Joint Estuary Initiative and the SEP's function in offering secretariat services to ASERA and SECG.
- The Coastatlantic Project – CS described progress made with the Natural and Cultural Heritage strands, Rural Economies, and GIS.
- Jim Mitchell went on to describe in more detail the progress of the Access project referring to the Autumn 2004 edition of the 'Severn Tidings' newsletter which gives a good summary of progress. The newsletter also suggests a walk around the Gatcombe area of the Estuary.
- CS also explained that the SEP together with the Environment Agency had put together a further bid for funds looking at the development of Cultural Heritage Trails. The outcome of this bid would be found out at the end of October.
- A further area of work the SEP were looking at involved an audit of progress against SES policies. Progress against this action would be reported on at the next meeting.

ASERA (Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities) (Steve Knowles)

SK informed the JAC that ASERA had produced and launched the Management Scheme for the Severn SPA in September 2004. A summary of the Management Scheme is available for all interested parties, while a full copy of the scheme can be viewed on the ASERA website: <http://www.severnestuary.net/asera>

ASERA has concluded that there is need for a part time Management Scheme implementation officer and administrative support staff. The previous Technical Officer and LM have been contracted through the SEP, to facilitate the implementation and updating of the Management Scheme.

SECG (Severn Estuary Coastal Group) (Diarmuid Mulrenan)

Diarmuid Mulrenan present Chair and secretary of the group gave a brief update of the group's background and current work. He explained that the group were responsible for the preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan which was completed. A second round of SMP preparation is to commence, however it is uncertain as to when the SMP2 for the Severn will commence.

In administrative terms DM explained that he was relinquishing his position and a new chair had been approached however this had not yet been confirmed. The SEP had been approached to take over the secretariat which was to go ahead.

ND& SCG (North Devon and Somerset Coastal Group)

Lia Moutselou (LM-SEP) informed the JAC of the new chair of the ND&SCG – David Fletcher of Somerset County Council. It is intended that the second Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) production will be assessed and commence in line with national government advice.

BCCPA (Bristol Channel Counter Pollution Association)

LM (SEP) updated the attendees on behalf of Donald McDonald; the new Chair of BCCPA on the Association's activities.

Following the National Contingency Plan Exercise debriefing and the last meeting of the BCCPA two small working groups were formed and had to take some issues forward, One was to progress the Shoreline Response Centre (SRC) and its formation, the second was to progress the "At Sea" side of events and the whereabouts of establishing of a Salvage Control Unit (SCU) and the Marine Response Centre (MRC). The establishment of SCU and MRC are two of the three theatres of operation under the National Contingency Plan (NCP). It has been agreed that, subject to minor clarification, the establishing of the SCU and MRC will be in Cardiff for the outer extent of the BCCPA area and in Bristol for the upper BCCPA area. The delineation of cross over will be made available to the Partnership once it has been formally printed. As regards the third theatre of operation under the NCP the working group are progressing with their objectives, however the possible impact of the Civil Contingencies

6. Thames Estuary Partnership Presentation(Jenny Stratford)

Jenny Stratford (Communication and Education Officer for the Thames Estuary Partnership (TEP)) gave an extremely comprehensive presentation on the TEP to illustrate the role of Estuary Partnerships in a national context. PT introduced the presentation by stating that the TEP has grown from strength to strength over the years and is to some degree a model to aim for in terms of Estuary Partnership working in the UK. The TEP presented at the launch of the Severn Estuary Strategy back in 2001, PT commented that it was fitting to hear of their progress and successes again at this new juncture for the SEP.

JS covered in particular the legal background of the TEP, its structure, successful partnership working and the Thames Estuary Research Forum. Further details of which can be found on www.thamesweb.com.

A range of questions were addressed to JS, with particular interest on the legal status (company /charity status) of the TEP.

PT, on behalf of the SEP, thanked JS for her very interesting presentation.

7. Terms of Reference - Objectives and Progress (attached) (Charlotte Street)

CS presented to the group the current Terms of Reference and recent amendments to them. There was discussion in the group as to the make-up of the Management Group in order to maintain a balance. It was decided that if the Management Group held no voting rights as such it was acceptable that all project funders along with the countryside agencies, a port and an NGO, should be represented.

There was also discussion as to the issues that the JAC could vote on. CS suggested that only SEP administrative and project management matters that needed a steer would be voted upon. RCB suggested that it should be noted however that when the time came to address Estuary –wide policies when reviewing the Strategy, an appropriate mechanism should be put in place at that time.

LM suggested that the SEP should be looking at setting up an annual forum open to the public, as referred to in the Terms of Reference, in the immediate future. CS recognised the need for such a forum and suggested that it is most likely to involve community council and specific user groups' representatives.

LM also suggested that the SEP considers the establishment of an annual conference where effective exchange of research, scientific and other information on current practice can be presented and shared. RCB suggested that this could be taken forward through the involvement of the SEP in the Corepoint Project (see Item 8).

CS concluded that throughout the Autumn the Management Group would finalise the Terms and address them with partners to ensure that they are able to sign to the document. It would then be circulated in January 2005 for each organisation to address internally in order for its ratification at the next JAC meeting in April 2005.

8. Any Other Business

- Corepoint – RCB circulated a flyer to the group which detailed a European project that had recently been approved. Cardiff University was a key partner and the SEP would be involved through a series of sub projects. These include the development of ICZM training modules for SEP partners and the establishment of a Research Forum. The project would be starting January 2005.
- Les Esturiales – GEK brought it to the attention of the group there had been significant inactivity with this network over the last year. She expressed her deep concern about the current presidency held with the Gironde Regional Government and suggested that Cllr. Peter Tyzack write on behalf of the SEP to inquire about their future plans for the network. Depending on their response it may be necessary to call a meeting with other Les Esturiales regions to discuss the way forward.
- LM of Cardiff University informed everyone of her project on coastal practice and thanked those who have already contributed to the empirical leg of her project in the Severn Estuary case study area through an interview. She expressed her willingness to share some of her results with the SEP JAC at one of the subsequent meetings in 2005 or early 2006.

9. Dates of 2005 meetings and Close

Meeting dates for 2005 were scheduled for:

- **Monday April 18th and**
- **Monday October 10th**

Appendix

List of 11/10/2004 JAC Meeting Attendees

Dr Rhoda Ballinger (RCB)	Cardiff University
Warren Boal	Environment Agency
Fiona Bowles	Wessex Water
Alistair Chapman	Forest of Dean District Council
Mark Cockayne	British Association of Shooting & Conservation (BASC)
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Gloucestershire County Council (CCC)
Councillor R Derbyshire	Cardiff Council (CC)
Richard Dunn	Sedgemoor District Council (SDC)
Steve Edwards	Vale of Glamorgan Council (VOG)
Mike Ellingham	NFU South West Region
Gillian Ellis-King (GEK)	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
Sue Fletcher	Environment Agency
Nigel Gibbons	Forest of Dean District Council (FDC)
Stephen Glanfield	Stroud District Council (SDC)
Cllr Jon Gething	North Somerset County Council (NSCC)
Vaughn Grantahm	Cardiff Council (CC)
Andy Hicklin	Environment Agency
Charles Hill (CH)	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
Cllr P. Hockey	South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
Dr Sue Howard	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Pauline Homer	North Somerset County Council
Tim Ive	Environment Agency
Helen Jenkins	Environment Agency
Mike Jones	Environment Agency Wales
Gary Kennison	Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)
Martin Langdon	Environment Agency (EA)
Matthew Lewis	Monmouthshire County Council (MCC)
Steve Knowles (SK)	ASERA/SEP
John Marks	Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoG)
Jim Mitchell (JM)	SEP
Lia Moutselou (LM)	Cardiff University/SEP
Diarmuid Mulrenan (DM)	Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG)
Robert Niblett	Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)
Robert Nightingale	Stroud District Council (SDC)
Charlotte Pagendam	English Nature
Paul P	Countryside Agency (CA)
Cllr Price	Bristol Council (BC)
Vanessa Straker	English Heritage South West Region
Jenny Stratford (JS)	TEP
Charlotte Street (CS)	SEP
Cllr Peter Tyzack (PT)	SEP JAC Chair/South Gloucestershire Council (SGC)
Anne Valdes	Newport City Council (NCC)
Darren Walsh	Environment Agency Wales
Mark Wills (MW)	English Nature