

SEVERN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP**Joint Advisory Committee Meeting**

11.30am-2.00pm, Tuesday 24th April 2007, Chepstow Racecourse, Chepstow

Minutes

Chair: Cllr Peter Tyzack

ACTION

Attendees (33)

Natasha Barker, Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) Officer
 Zoe Banks, Cardiff Harbour Authority
 Lucy Bourne, English Heritage
 Alastair Chapman, Forest of Dean District Council
 Cllr John Cordwell, Gloucestershire County Council
 Stephen Dury, Somerset County Council
 Richard Dunn, Sedgemoor District Council
 Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
 Edith ... Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
 Cllr Anne Gee, Cardiff City Council
 Jody Grabham, Environment Agency
 Vaughan Grantham, Cardiff Council
 Kate Hoare, Bristol City Council
 David Harris, Severn Estuary Coastal Group Chair
 John Inman, Bristol City Council
 Adrian Jowitt, Natural England
 Steve Knowles, ASERA Officer
 Mathew Lewis, Monmouthshire County Council
 Donald McDonald, Bristol Channel Counter-Pollution Association (BCCPA)
 Rhys Morgan, Environment Agency
 Lia Moutselou, Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership (WCMP)
 Bob Nightingale, Stroud District Council
 Charlotte Pagenham, Natural England
 Jim Poole, Cynnal Cymru (Sustainable Wales)
 Angela Proctor, Environment Agency (EA)
 Mark Scott, Environment Agency
 Don Sutherland, Royal Yachting Association (RYA) & Bristol Channel Yachting Association (BCCPA)
 Ken Tatem, Environment Agency
 Cllr Humphrey Temperley, Environment Agency & Devon County Council
 Cllr Peter Tyzack, SEP JAC Chair & South Glos Council
 Alan Watson, National Trust
 Kath Winnard, Welsh Assembly Government

1 Welcome

1.1 Apologies for Absence

George Ashworth, Monmouthshire County Council & SEP MG Chair
 Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University
 Cllr Graham Littleton, Stroud District Council
 Dean Jackson-Johns, Caldicot & Wentloog Internal Drainage Board

Cllr John Major, Monmouthshire County Council
Don Metcalfe, Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers
Jon Rees, ABP Swansea
Dr Mark Wright, LD Councillor for Cabot

JAC Chair Nominations

On behalf of George Ashworth, Chair of the SEP Management Group, Gillian Ellis-King (South Gloucestershire Council) indicated that Cllr Peter Tyzack had been selected several years ago for the position of Acting JAC Chair. This had never been formalised, therefore it was proposed that nomination for Chair & Vice-Chair be requested prior to the next meeting in the Autumn. Peter was thanked for his role to date.

ALL

ACTION: Nominations for Chair & Vice-Chair of the JAC to be forwarded to Natasha Barker (SEP Officer) by the end of September 2007. Appointments to be made in October/November.

1.2 Minutes of the last JAC meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th October 2006 at Slimbridge were agreed as a true record. Progress on actions/recommendations arising from the last meeting:

- Item 3.2: Outcomes of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) following the last JAC meeting were minuted
- Item 3.5: MoA – Other (non-signatory) groups with an estuary-wide remit were speaking at the JAC ‘estuary groups common platform’ today. The annual Estuary Chairs group meeting followed this JAC meeting at which the future of the MoA would be discussed.
- Item 4.1: The Severn Wonders Festival was supported by EC funding last year and whilst a success SEP did not have the staff resources to undertake it again in 2007. However, the Annual Report & Action Plan 2007-08 makes a commitment to SEP maintaining the Severn Wonders brand – different options were under consideration.
- Item 4.2: A State of the Estuary report with metadata provision was a proposed action in the Annual Report & Action Plan 2007-08 (but would be subject to attracting additional resources for SEP to pursue).
- Item 4.2: E-news to JAC members had been initiated in December 2006 and was identified as an Action for 2007-08.
- Item 4.3: The SEP Management Group had determined the themes for the 2nd Severn Estuary Forum 2007; flyers were distributed at the JAC meeting.
- Item 5.2: Results of the Corepoint Local Information System workshop are shortly to be posted on the SEP website. See: www.severnestuary.net/publications
- Item 6.2: The statutory agency position statement on the Severn Barrage proposal had not yet been made available on the SEP website for reasons stated above, but had been made available by email. This was being rectified soon. See www.severnestuary.net/whatsnew
- Item 6.2: SEP had taken a lead on discussions over renewable energy/Severn barrage considerations through collaboration with the Sustainable Development Commission – in relation to attendance at their stakeholder engagement workshop in Cardiff and promoting greater local authority involvement in the project

consultations.

2 Estuary Groups – Common Platform

2.1 Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA)

Mathew Lewis, ASERA Chair, reported briefly on progress with the group although their meeting followed the JAC so full minutes would be available from Steve Knowles after today. His update included reference to:

- progress on archaeology guidance notes
- a communications strategy.

3.2 Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) progress report

David Harris, SECG Chair referred to the following current issues which had just been discussed in their meeting:

- the boundary issue to be resolved with the Swansea Coastal Group
- development of the SECG website was to be simple & functional
- CHAMP was completed 1 year ago, there is a need to clarify the position of the document with WAG
- A tidal strategy had been developed for the upper estuary about 18 months ago (by the EA) which needs to be brought down the estuary
- Names for the Steering Group for SMP2 were drafted
- Updates on the local authority regions and Environment Agency.

David Harris referred people to the minutes for further detail on the outcomes of the meeting.

3.3 Bristol Channel Counter Pollution Association (BCCPA) progress report

Donald McDonald, BCCPA Chair and Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer for Wales & West of England of the Marine & Coastguard Agency (MCA) reported that the MCA National Contingency Plan was on hold until the MSC Napoli review had been completed. In February a Chinese ship in the estuary had 6 leaking containers which took 4 days to clean up before coming into Newport. It was en-route to Antwerp.

3.4 North Devon & Somerset Coastal Group (NDSCG) progress report

Cllr Humphrey Temperley, NDSCG Chair accompanied by Angela Proctor as the new technical secretary of the group from the Environment Agency, reported on progress:

- Funding was required for the SMP2 together with the co-operation of the local authorities.
- The boundary had changed from Brean Down to Anchor Head to tie in with Catchment Flood Management Plans.
- The group now had a website: <http://www.severnestuary.net/ndscg/>
- They had not been aware of the Severn Estuary Groups website platform and would consider linking to it.
- LIDAR (topography/height) data was being collected up to the old Severn Bridge
- The wavebuoy at Minehead was collecting data.
- Plymouth Coastal Observatory news was available from Email: emerald.mcloughlin@plymouth.ac.uk
- Cllr Temperley offered caution over the potential amalgamation of SMP areas into wide areas.

AP & NB

3.5 Severn Estuary Health & Environment Liaison Group (SEHELG)

Eirian Thomas, SEHELG Chair from the Health Protection Agency covering south-west England, provided a presentation on the work of the group. The group had no money but shared experience of best practice. They record environmental incidents with potential implications for health. They liaise closely with neighbouring organisations and would like to find out about other databases relating to the estuary.

Severn Estuary Aggregates Working Group (Crown Estate).

NB

3.6 Bristol Channel Yachting Association

Don Sutherland, BCYA Chair and SW region representative of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and North Somerset safety group, outlined his role and how the RYA represented 1600 training establishments in the UK. They aim to increase programmes in schools and co-operate with these other bodies. They found a major constraint was the lack of consideration to boating facilities in local plans. They were willing to be the eyes and ears for the local authorities. They would like legislation to be put in place for jetskiers. The Bristol Channel Blue Book had been due to be re-launched in 2006 but was now due for publication in June 2007. Further information: www.bristolchannel.co.uk

4 SEP Management Group Update

Natasha Barker, SEP Officer, provided an update on behalf of the Chairman of the Management Group, George Ashworth.

4.1 Annual Report & Action Plan 2007-08

Following last year's introduction of a new Business Plan 2006-09 and annual reporting framework, the new Annual Report & Action Plan had been made available in the lead up to today's meeting. It outlined the services & projects which the Severn Estuary Partnership were involved in, progress to date and plans for the forthcoming financial year. Ongoing and regular services included:

- Severn Tidings newsletter
- Estuary Group Days with the JAC common platform
- SEP Management Group meetings quarterly
- Secretariat Services e.g. to ASERA & SECG
- The annual Severn Estuary Forum conference.

Recent projects included the EC Interreg funded COASTATLANTIC project which had funded the Severn Wonders festival, access and GIS forums, guidance notes and interpretation panels amongst other actions. The EC Interreg funded COREPOINT project was ongoing.

The Annual Report & Action Plan 2007-08 will be launched at the Forum on 7th June, comments had been invited and were requested today. It included 'Operating Procedures' for the SEP which clarified the SEP's role & activities. A new membership structure was being proposed by the Management Group with a new aim to engage more private sector organisations in supporting the SEPs services. The contribution and level of services to existing partners would remain unchanged, but with the option of membership invited from companies, consultancies, charities, clubs and individual members. The 2nd Severn Estuary Forum was taking place in Clevedon on 7th June 2007, including an industry & infrastructure

heritage exhibition followed by an evening reception on the Pier. Booking forms were available.

Comments included:

- Clarification would be required on funding categories & voting procedures/terms (CP, NE)
- The JAC shouldn't be afraid to debate issues and state opinion as a group, it was too early to decide the role now (HT, EA/NDSCG)
- A voting system might be part of an evolving partnership and is a key tool.
- Prince Edward is Vicount Severn and could be invited to be a patron for the SEP. Ideas for other potential patrons were invited.

ACTION: Comments invited on the final draft of the SEP Annual Report & Action Plan 2007-08 by 11th May 2007.

ACTION: Ideas for potential patrons of the Severn Estuary Partnership were invited.

5 SEP Project Work Updates

5.1 Severn Estuary Guidance Notes were now available for:

- Habitats & Species of the Severn Estuary
- Archaeology of the Severn Estuary
- Promoting Local Produce.

All were invited to take copies of the publications for distribution within their organisations.

5.2 COREPOINT Project

Climate Change Research Strategy & Advisory Group

Tim Stojanovic, Cardiff University, provided an update on progress with the whole COREPOINT project as it relates to the Severn Estuary, with particular reference to a 1st workshop in Bristol in January 2007 bringing together planners & scientists to consider how they could work more closely to respond to climate change issues. The 2nd workshop was planned as part of the Forum day on 7th June. A citations database of 470 references relating to climate change with 30 about the Severn Estuary was a useful resource already produced and available via SEP. The group contact list was 135 with 12 universities involved. A report from the workshop was also available from SEP:

www.severnesutary.net/sep/publications

Cardiff University in conjunction with Corepoint were hosting an international conference on climate change in Cardiff on 22nd May 2007. The afternoon would include a climate change panel focusing on the Severn Estuary.

NB & Mgt
Group

Local Information System for Planners

A workshop for planners on providing information to support Strategic Environmental Assessment in the coastal zone had taken place with a follow-up workshop now being planned for 22nd May 2007.

Maritime Heritage Education Pack

Jeanette Reis, Cardiff University, reported on work she had been

undertaking on a maritime heritage education pack for teachers for Key stage 3 history (11-14 year olds), which would be launched at the Severn Estuary Forum on 7th June 2007. A CD Rom & web-based materials would be distributed to about 200 schools & available for teachers and students. See: <http://corepoint.ucc.ie/>

Tim Stojanovic indicated that the COREPOINT project and SEP were providing valuable material for input to the EC Maritime Green Paper consultation. SEP could provide examples of Marine Spatial Planning in practice. A training school in ICZM was planned for later this year. Discussions were underway for a COREPOINT II project.

5.3 ESTURIALES European Network

Cllr Tyzack reported that the next Bureau meeting was due to take place in Lisbon in May, to which he would be attending as the Les Esturiales president for 2006-07. SEP were due to hand over the Secretariat by the end of this year.

6 Planning Issues & Consultations

Natasha Barker provided a reminder that the JAC provided a platform for sharing awareness and information to assist responses to estuary-related consultations.

6.1 Marine Bill White Paper, ICZM & Coastal Partnerships

Kath Winnard, Welsh Assembly Government provided an update on the position of the Marine Bill consultation. She was not able to comment on policy due to the WAG's pre-election status, but could give factual information. A major part of the Marine Bill was marine spatial planning proposals. WAG would be very interested in views on how coastal partnerships could be used/changed to fit the new structures/requirements. WAG had asked the Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership (WCMP) for advice about governance options. Defra had been circulating around regional workshops. The Welsh ICZM Strategy was available from Gerry Quarrell at WAG.

Discussion points included:

- Closing lines for estuaries are an issue. This is an opportunity to get estuary management onto a proper legal statutory basis; it had been disappointing not to receive a response to the representation SEP made to the Minister. WAG's decision not to have an MMO and not to have a single organisation was welcomed (HT)
- Useful for SEP to encourage responses to the consultation to assist individual organisations with their own responses (GEK).
- The number of responses was noted as important (NB).

ACTION: Outline response to be circulated to all JAC members to assist and encourage their individual responses to the Marine Bill White Paper consultation. A draft SEP response to be considered by the SEP Management Group.

**NB, SEP
& ALL**

6.2 The role of the Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership (WCMP)

Lia Moutselou, WCMP Co-ordinator presented background on the role of WCMP, including their Terms of Reference, role in preparing the Wales ICZM Strategy, supporting other national & regional Fora, and small

projects. There were 30 active members including the Severn Estuary Partnership. They were actively trying to re-engage with BMIF and CBI. Further information is available at: www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk

6.3 Tidal Power in the UK Project

Karla Hill from the Sustainable Development Commission provided brief background to the role of SDC and the purpose of this national project which was expected to report in September 2007. Five reports had been commissioned with stakeholder and public events organised around the country including in Cardiff & Bristol. The latest SDC update was made available at the meeting and further information, including workshop reports can be found at

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal.html>

The SDC had been working closely with statutory agencies and were convening a specific workshop for local authorities around the Severn Estuary on 22nd May 2007.

6.4 River Basin District Planning

Mark Scott, River Basin Programme Manager for the Environment Agency provided background to the existing 'Working Together' consultation relating to the EA's commitments under the Water Framework Directive. The consultation finishes on 22nd June 2007. A significant issues report was due 27th July for 6 months consultation. The Severn RBD Liaison panel membership list was available. There was some cross-over in representation and some significant issues (e.g. alien species, significant modification to the water body) for the estuary. Further information was available at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/midlands/567120/1428272/?version=1&lang=e>

It was noted that a meeting was being convened between the SEP Officer and EA to discuss linkage between SEP & the RBD Liaison panel (e.g. attending meetings as an observer).

MS, NB,
RM

6.5 Dredging / Severn Estuary Aggregates Working Group

Rhys Morgan from the Environment Agency would provide a paper to be distributed with the minutes.

RM

6.6 Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy

Angela Procter from the Environment Agency highlighted the EA's Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy work and an update paper was circulated at the meeting.

7 Any Other Business

None.

8 Dates of Future JAC Meetings

The next meeting was likely to be in late October/November subject to matters to be discussed by the next SEP Management Group in May.

Summary of actions	Person	Progress
Nominations for Chair & Vice-Chair of the JAC to be forwarded to Natasha Barker (SEP Officer) by the end of September 2007. Appointments to be made in October/November.	ALL	
Comments invited on the final draft of the SEP Annual Report & Action Plan 2007-08 by 11 th May 2007.	ALL	
Ideas for potential patrons of the Severn Estuary Partnership were invited.	ALL	
Outline response to be circulated to all JAC members to assist and encourage their individual responses to the Marine Bill White Paper consultation. A draft SEP response to be considered by the SEP Management Group.	NB, SEP & ALL	