

SEVERN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Management Group Meeting

10.30am 31st January 2005

Monmouthshire County Council, Cwmbbran

MINUTES

Attendees:

George Ashworth, Monmouthshire County Council
Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University
Gillian Ellis-King, South Gloucestershire Council
Vaughan Grantham, Cardiff Council
Andy Hicklin, Environment Agency SW Region
Steve Knowles, ASERA/SEP
Jim Mitchell, SEP
Rob Niblett, Gloucestershire County Council
Jessica Poole, CCW

1. Apologies for absence

Sarah Diacono, Somerset County Council
Anne Valdez, Newport Council
Lia Moutselou, SEP.

2. SEP Finances Update

RB highlighted the main issues from the finance –

- Still awaiting 4 outstanding claims from lead partner on Coastatlantic project. **Action Cardiff University** to determine nature of hold up / reasons.
- Still awaiting clarification on % of overheads taken by RACD in CU for managing the Coastatlantic finances. **Action Cardiff University** to determine this.
- A new account for the SEGC to be set up shortly.

Otherwise SEP finances are fine for two years but then there becomes a problem balancing the finances and extra funds will need to be sought.

Action SEP / RB / NR to ensure invoices for next years subs are sent out early- pref late Feb.

3. Project Officer Appointment

It is envisaged that the new PO will start mid-late May. An appointment has been made and will be finalized this week. An offer has been made to Natasha Barker, currently working as Exe Estuary Officer.

RB to check on situation on informing the unsuccessful candidates.

4. Joint Advisory Committee Update

i. Terms of Reference – Next Steps

The ToR were circulated and the management group took the following decisions-

- That the Title “Terms of Reference” be changed to “Partnership Agreement”.
- That two other changes be made relating to who the members are accountable to.

Action SK to amend Partnership agreement and send out.

The Partnership Agreement will be circulated a final time for partner’s legal advisors to look over, and final comments added by mid-March, before presentation to the JAC in April for endorsement.

Action SEP/ RB staff to proceed booking venue / making arrangements for JAC, including-

- A feedback element to the JAC- some sort of flipchart where members can offer comment on the issue priorities for the coming year.
- Asking the new PO if they can present at the JAC.

5. Coastatlantic Progress Report

i. General / Stakeholder Involvement

The Cardiff sessions which took place on the 17/18th January proved to be successful workshops. The following outcomes were obtained-

- Three workshops, currently being written up, which will form the basis of the crosscutting action section of the final report. They looked at stakeholder involvement, governance and information systems, and how they compare and contrast in the different project areas, and commonalities between them in the context of ICZM principles.
- A structure for the final report was submitted by the lead partner, which will be forwarded shortly to all partners in the format of a framework for strand leaders to input. This report will be reviewed in the next Coastatlantic meeting in Ireland.

Action JM to continue a watching brief over Stakeholder reporting until new PO starts.

ii. Access and Interpretation (Jim Mitchell)

The Access project has held a third Forum meeting where the developments of marrying the access strategy with EN / CCW advice was discussed. The group agreed to take on board all advice from EN / CCW.

The four pilot projects are all now defined and work is in progress to deliver on all four in the next 6 months.

Website work has continued and website interpretation on a new website should be available by April.

iii. Urban/Rural Interdependencies (Stuart Bardsley)

iv. Cultural Heritage (Richard Osgood)

GEK reported that Stuart Bardsley has arranged to go to Ireland to complete his transnational meetings, and this is scheduled to combine with the next Interreg meeting in April.

Richard Osgood has collected the background information and will be producing guidance notes in a similar format to those for the Natural Heritage project.

v. Natural Heritage/ GIS (Steve Knowles)

The Natural Heritage project continues to involve all necessary organizations around the estuary. It is hoped that a consultation draft will be ready in the spring.

Contracts have been let for the nature conservation / recreation GIS and for producing a database to collate Severn Estuary existing spatial data. The networking aspect of the project is still proving difficult.

7. Les Esturalis Update-

GEK updated the group on the progress made after the letter was sent to Gironde last year calling for an extraordinary meeting.

Gironde sent an attendee to the sessions, and signaled their recommitment to Les Esturalis and Coastatlantic projects, with a meeting to be called sometime in June, on either the 3rd or 17th.

8. Corepoint Project-

RB, GEK, Peter Tyzack and Anne Valdez will be attending the Cork training school sessions and plan to bring back valuable input for the Cardiff training school sessions in June.

9. Spring Newsletter ideas and update on website development-

Next Newsletter to focus on how "European Projects Energize Partnership", and how large projects have local benefits.

Front page - Article on Cardiff Sessions and upcoming Corepoint sessions
- Note form interim Chairman Peter Tyzack

Inside- - Redwick walk (tbc)
- Flatholm article
- GIS update
- Corepoint crash course
- Estuary round up – marine bill / New PO

The new website was demonstrated to the group- it is hoped to be up and running before next JAC.

10. AOB

The Wales Interreg workshop in Cardiff- Action RB to enquire whether Natasha Barker could attend on behalf of SEP.

SK outlined the DeltaNet Interreg project – the meeting agreed that although the project looked interesting it was inappropriate to commit resources currently as there is no PO in place.

11. Date of Next Meeting

10.30am Friday 11th March. County Hall, Monmouthshire.