

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Southern Coastal Group meeting held in Hollybank Room, Havant Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2AX on 20th September 2019 commencing at 10:00 AM.

Present:

Lyall Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Dr Samantha Cope, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Stuart McVey, Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme
Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Samantha Box, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Nick Gray, Environment Agency
Andrew Pearce, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership
Peter Ferguson, New Forest District Council
Matt Hosey, BCP Council
Alan Frampton, BCP Council
Neil Watson, Environment Agency
Nick Everington, Crown Estate
Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council
Stevyn Ricketts, Gosport Borough Council
Amy Stevens, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

1 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were recorded from Gordon Wilkinson, Steve Cook, John Brownscombe, Vincent May, Tim Adams, Keith Nursey, Nick Hardiman, Dominic Henly and Matthew Penny.

2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting 17th May 2019, Actions and Matters Arising (Paper A) – Lyall Cairns**

42

It was confirmed that:

- A presentation on tracer studies being undertaken by the Group will be provided at the next SCOPAC meeting;
- Dr Matthew Wadey (BCP Council) is leading on updating the Programme Management Tool; and
- An update on the latest Coastal Flood Boundary Data has since been circulated by Keith Nursey and Neil Watson.

The following points were also discussed:

44

- Finances – Matt Hosey and Neil Watson met with Mark Stratton to discuss priorities. Stuart McVey confirmed that the Strategic Regional Monitoring Programme Annual Conference meetings are now being held at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton to reduce costs.

ACTION: Stuart McVey to email the Group a breakdown of these costs and savings.

46

- Dorset Devolution Update on BCP and Dorset Council – Matt Hosey confirmed that a memorandum of understanding had been signed between the two new authorities, with a view to establishing a Dorset Coastal Partnership.

47

- Review of membership arrangements and discussion of a future equitable fee structure – Matt Hosey confirmed that Councillor Andy Hadley is leading on with Councillor Mary Penfold.

49

- SMP Update and FCERM Strategy – Mark Stratton confirmed that SMP Update actions had been completed.

AOB

- Mark Stratton advised that the findings of the DEFRA Partnership Funding Review had been circulated.

3 Coastal Group Network Update (Papers B & C) – Lyall Cairns

The Chairman provided an update to the Group on activities and meetings since the last meeting. The Chairman also confirmed that update papers from June, July and August 2019 had been circulated by Bryan Curtis.

The following points were discussed:

- Asset management – The Group discussed updates on 3rd party coastal asset assessments. It was agreed that this would feature as a future agenda item in order to ensure that the Group's approach is completely clear. Neil Watson confirmed that a national working group had been set up, and highlighted the importance of the Southern Coastal Group being updated and represented on the national approach.

- Attendance at meetings – The Chairman had met with the North West Coastal Group in Preston. The feedback from this meeting was generally positive, however with a focus more on strategic discussions than climate change.
- Climate change and public perception – Following on from the North West Coastal Group meeting, the Group discussed how climate change should continue to be a focus of SCOPAC meetings. The Group also debated how the Southern Coastal Group could champion climate change and help to dispel any public scepticism. Neil Watson and Dr Samantha Cope advised that it would be helpful to get Dr Ivan Haigh's sea level rise data for Poole Harbour into the public domain, as evidence of climate change, in addition to the outputs of Dr Matthew Wadey's storm analysis study.

4 National FCERM Strategy Update (Paper D) – Mark Stratton

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to update the Group on the progress of the National FCERM Strategy Update.

Mark Stratton informed the Group that a follow-up working group had been held in September, where the Environment Agency discussed the ambitions and cross-cutting themes of the project. The EA also advised that the collaboration process had been crucial and provided meaningful engagement. An update was provided on timescales for delivery, however the national Government situation will determine whether the Strategy is published as planned.

A relatively low number of consultations had been received (400 external; 88 internal), however the responses showed overall strong support for the project. The Group discussed the feedback received and it was also noted that neither coastal groups nor Crown Estates featured on the list of stakeholders engaged with on the slides shown. The project has now reached the end of the engagement process; however, the EA are keen for ongoing dialogue to continue.

The Group discussed the action plan being produced by the EA for the project and how this can be meaningfully developed for national use, in addition to how RMAs can realistically be held accountable for their actions if they've had little involvement within the project to date.

5 Influencing Policy – DEFRA Call for Evidence SCG Response (Paper E) – Neil Watson

The Chairman invited Neil Watson to provide the Group with an update on the Group's response to DEFRA's call for evidence on flooding and coastal erosion.

Neil Watson informed the Group that a response had been provided to DEFRA on behalf of the Southern Coastal Group, leading on from Wessex RFCC's response, with a copy of this response sent out with the agenda for this meeting.

The Group also discussed the following themes in relation to the response:

- Resilience – Wave energy and exposure, incremental sea level rise and the presence of public infrastructure at the coast result in coastal protection coming at a significantly greater cost than any inland protection. It is therefore crucial to determine the footprint of places currently undergoing change, in order to lock in where strategic investments need to be made in the future.
- The SMPR process may help to identify new opportunities, but will not necessarily provide a tool for delivering them. It is important to better recognise the role of the planning system (Local Plans, CCMA's) in enabling actions within coastal communities.
- There is a disconnect between what planning and taxation can provide and what private developers might provide in terms of meeting investment challenges.

6 SMP Refresh (Paper F) – Mark Stratton

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to update the Group on the SMP Refresh process.

Mark Stratton informed the Group that several working advisory groups had operated over the summer, with various officers of the Group attending workshops focusing on the environment, planning and funding.

Alan Frampton advised the Group that Royal Haskoning DHV and Jacobs are developing a national common template for the SMP action plans and would be reporting back to areas for feedback and lessons learnt.

The Chairman informed the Group that the TAG meeting he attended, fronted by Nick Hardiman, had been reassuring. Transitioning from Epoch 1 to Epoch 2 and improving the clarity and background context of high-level policies were key themes of the meeting.

The Chairman also advised the Group that an FOI request into SMP policies from a Times journalist had been received by Havant Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council.

The Group discussed approaches to adaptation and agreed the need for public engagement; particularly within the context of erosion and transitioning from HTL

to NAI policies. The Group agreed the need for terms such as “adaptation”, “resilience” and “affordability” to be more clearly defined, and agreed the need for DEFRA to provide Local Authorities with clearer guidance.

7 SMP Action Plan Update – Samantha Box

The Chairman invited Samantha Box to update the Group on the progress of the SMP Action Plan update.

It was confirmed that Samantha Box would be leading on the update for the North Solent SMP, along with Jenny Jakeways for the Isle of Wight and Alan Frampton for Poole & Christchurch Bay and South Devon & Dorset SMPs.

The Group discussed the aim of updating the Action Plans before the SMPR workshops in November and agreed that this could be achievable, particularly as much of the update work has already been completed.

8 Research Programme Update (Paper G) – Dr Samantha Cope

Dr Samantha Cope provided the Group with an overview of the Research Programme’s progress.

The 5-Year Research Programme was in its final year, with £33,200 to be spent on projects in the current financial year. A call for new projects would be circulated in due course.

The following updates were given:

- Research Sub-Group – The Sub-Group will meet on 18th October to review research proposals for the new 5-year SCOPAC research programme.
- Grants and bursaries – The 2019/20 Bradbury Bursary had been awarded to Xue Ting, Ong (Gladys) for her ECE Master’s thesis investigating Hydrodynamics Controls on Nearshore Sediment Sizes in Poole Bay. Gladys has submitted her thesis, which will be available to view online shortly, and a presentation of results will be given at a future meeting.
- Improved Utilisation of Data – A UAV survey of the nearshore feature is being investigated, which ESCP hope to undertake soon.
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management Manual – A second draft of the report has been reviewed by Peter Ferguson on behalf of SCG/SCOPAC.
- Historical Aerial Photography Scanning – The second order of aerial photography has been received back from NCAP. Flight lines are to be

created and scans uploaded onto the map viewer and data catalogue page of the CCO website.

- SCOPAC Storm Analysis – The project has moved with Dr Matthew Wadey to BCP Council and will continue to be led by the original consortium of Dr Ivan Haigh from the University of Southampton and support from Emily Last at ESCP.
- Tracer Study Co-ordination – Details of completed and ongoing ESCP tracer studies are currently being uploaded to the SCOPAC website.
- Ebb Delta Study – The project will be deferred until 2020/21 to avoid an overspend in 2018/19. The Research Sub-Group will need to confirm if this will still be the next project to commence.
- SURGEWATCH Contribution – Dr Haigh had provided a presentation to SCOPAC in January 2019, which is available to view on the SCOPAC website.
- EA Preston Tracer Study – Tracer pebbles were deployed in January 2019, with follow-up surveys showing that larger tags still have a 20% retrieval rate. ESCP have created additional tracer pebbles to be re-deployed in October, following signal issues that had been experienced with the smaller tracers.
- Poole Harbour Tide Gauge Digitising – Good progress has been made on the project, with outputs currently being quality checked prior to being presented to the Group.
- Langstone Harbour Entrance Tracer Study – Tracer pebbles were deployed in April 2019, with there still being a 37% retrieval rate for larger pebbles. Surveys will continue until April 2020.
- Healthy Estuaries 2020 – Data collation and survey collection is currently being undertaken for Chichester Harbour.
- Communications – The SCOPAC and SCG websites have both now been updated, with a call for research proposals for the April 2020 to 2025 Research Programme posted.

Dr Cope informed the Group of a potential funding bid being facilitated for a coastal contaminated landfill project; with the EA, ESCP, BCP Council, National Trust and Southampton University being key partners. Two potential French partners had also been identified, with up to €88 million worth of matched funding available to look at rolling out the SCOPAC Contaminated Landfill project in France. However, Brexit and in particular a No Deal could pose key challenges to this.

9 **Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme (Paper H) – Stuart McVey**

The Chairman invited Stuart McVey to provide an update on the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

The following updates were given:

- Autumn topographic surveys are now underway and are expected to be completed by mid-October;
- No bathymetric surveys are currently planned;
- LiDar data for the 2018/19 period has been captured and is now undergoing QC;
- Initial issues with contractor's cameras led to aerial surveys for the east of the region re-scheduled from April to July. The aerial survey for Poole Harbour to Calshot was flown successfully;
- Current structure laser scan surveys are focussed on the Isle of Wight (Ventnor and Cowes) and the eastern shore of the Solent (Hamble and Netley). The Chairman advised it would be helpful for a report to be compiled, with a few examples and advice; as a future item to share best practice and enhance our understanding of our assets;
- Hydrodynamics - All wave buoys are currently operational. A new transmitter was installed at Worthing Pier Met Station following problems with the previous. A review of levelling techniques for tide gauges is to be undertaken and guidance will be prepared on the standard of levelling for a national monitoring tide gauge;
- Website hits – The Group discussed an analysis of the number of CCO website hits and value of data downloaded since 2011.

Mark Stratton also advised the Group that Professor Robert Nicholls has left Southampton University and highlighted the importance of the Group sustaining their relationship.

It was agreed that a future report on laser scanning, with examples and advice, would be a useful item to share best practice and form the future basis for understanding our assets.

10 Coastal Modelling and Forecasting (Paper I) – Lyall Cairns

The Chairman provided an update on behalf of Keith Nursey, who gave apologies for being unable to attend, and re-iterated Keith's open offer of support to the Group for any coastal modelling and forecasting.

11 Southern Coastal Group Business Plan (Paper J) – Mark Stratton

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to lead the discussion of the Business Plan.

The Group discussed the actions on the Business Plan and agreed that positive progress had been made against each item.

It was confirmed that a number of workshops are currently being lined up, including those for environment, efficiency, funding and procurement.

The Chairman re-iterated the importance of ensuring that the Group is in a strong position to report back to RFCC on progress and the efficient use of funds, in order to achieve future successful Local Levy bids and for the future of the Group.

12 Finances (Paper K) – Lyall Cairns

The Chairman introduced the financial papers, which set out the agreed budget position for 2019/20 for both SCOPAC and the Group.

The report detailed that there would be just over a £6,000 surplus at the end of the current financial year, however this would allow little room for any overspend on projects and would therefore require robust financial monitoring.

The Chairman advised that Lorraine Horsted had modelled the various options in relation to the refreshing and reshaping the Group to provide a template of SCOPAC and Southern Coastal Group income and expenditure for 2019/20. The proposed budget for 2020/21 had been modelled on business as usual; relying upon the two groups becoming separate and relying on existing subscriptions as they are currently.

13 Refreshing and Reshaping the Group (Paper L) – Lyall Cairns

The Chairman confirmed to the Group that ten options for re-shaping the Group and SCOPAC to had been circulated to the Group for consideration prior to budget setting in November, with the aim of taking the Group back to their original principles and determining a more equitable fee structure.

The following points were raised:

- Discussions were ongoing between the Group and Dorset Council and the Environment Agency to determine fee structures.
- The Chairman had met with the portfolio holder of Hampshire County Council to discuss the prospect of re-joining SCOPAC, however current austerity presents a challenge to this.
- Option 9 – SCOPAC spatially-based regional subscriptions – would show a saving across Dorset and Chichester.
- Dominic Henly advised that Options 3 and 5 would be preferable for Chichester, if there was a need to move away from the existing Option 1.
- Matthew Penny advised that Options 2 and 4 would be preferable for Dorset, due to the potential savings and efficiencies.
- Option 10 – Merged Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC spatially-based regional subscriptions and assumption RFCC Levy successful – received positive feedback from all. This option would see the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC merged, with one annual SCOPAC conference and site visit for members to attend and a view to re-writing the constitutions with the Southern Coastal Group as lead.

The Group discussed the potential benefits and implications of Option 10 and raised the following points:

- An annual SCOPAC conference could be a positive way to share best practice and raise the profile of both the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC; provide an open forum and generate interest with members who are not usually invited; and seek potential sponsorship from framework suppliers.
- The principles of SCOPAC must be maintained and protected; the SCOPAC brand is key for keeping elected members engaged and research is a crucial aspect which must be preserved.
- Option 10 would fulfil the requirements of both the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC and presents the most streamlined option with devolution occurring. Avoiding an increase in subscriptions would be preferable for members.

It was AGREED that:

- Option 10 would be recommended to SCOPAC at the next meeting on 15th November. An election would not take place until the future directions of the groups is confirmed at SCOPAC.
- Mary Penfold would remain as the SCOPAC Chair in the interim of any change;
- When the constitutions are re-written, an elected Group / SCOPAC champion would chair the annual conference. If the conference were to change locations, the host's portfolio holder could open and close the conference; and
- The Environment Agency will maintain two votes when the combined constitution is drafted, due to the increase in subscription fees.

14 **AOB**

The Chairman invited officers to raise any other business to the Group.

Andrew Pearce highlighted the importance of the Group having a clear and consistent approach to coastal asset management and ensuring that common strategies are in place for monitoring.

ACTION: Andrew to set up date and venue to start this discussion and report back to the Group with the findings.

Nick Gray questioned whether the Group should declare a climate emergency as other Local Authorities have done so. Discussion took place around how the Group can champion climate change and communicate key messages. It was agreed that climate change should be a key theme for a Group / SCOPAC conference, with involvement from Dr Matthew Wadey and Dr Ivan Haigh.

Mark Stratton highlighted a NERC bid submitted by Queen Mary University of London in relation to coastal landfill.

ACTION: Mark to circulate CIWEM Environment magazine review on how this is being addressed nationally, once published.

Dr Samantha Cope called for research proposals for the next 5-year research period to be received by 11th October.

The Chairman welcomed Alan Frampton of BCP Council and Nick Everington of Crown Estates to the Group.

Positive feedback was received from all who attended the SCOPAC field visit to Weymouth and Portland on Thursday 19th September.

The next Southern Coastal Group meeting was scheduled for 15th November 2019.

The meeting commenced at 10:00 AM and concluded at 1:15 PM