

Minutes of the Southern Coastal Group meeting held via Skype, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, 10:30 AM.

**Present:**

Lyall Cairns (LC)	SCG Chair (Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership ESCP)
Matt Hosey (MH)	SCG Vice-chair (BCP Council)
Dr Samantha Cope (SC)	SCOPAC Research Chair (ESCP)
Alan Frampton (AF)	BCP Council
Andy Pearce (AP)	ESCP
Bryan Curtis (BC)	Chair, Coastal Group Network
Charlie Thompson (CT)	Chanel Coastal Observatory
Clare Newton (CN)	ESCP Meeting support
Dave Picksley (DP)	Environment Agency
Dominic Henly (DH)	Chichester District Council
Dr Matt Wadey (MW)	BCP Council
Dr Uwe Dornbusch (UD)	Environment Agency
Emma Stainer (ES)	ESCP
Jenny Jakeways (JJ)	Isle of Wight Council
Karen McHugh (KMH)	Solent Forum
Keith Nursey (KN)	Environment Agency
Lorraine Horsted (LH)	ESCP
Lucy Taylor (LT)	ESCP Minute taker
Mark Stratton (MS)	ESCP
Martin Hurst (MHu)	Southern RFCC
Matt Penny (MP)	Dorset Council
Mike Jones (MJ)	Environment Agency
Nick Everington (NE)	The Crown Estate
Nick Gray (NG)	Environment Agency
Nick Hardiman (NH)	Environment Agency
Peter Ferguson (PF)	New Forest District Council
Rhian Edwards (RE)	Environment Agency
Robert Thomas (RT)	Dorset Council
Samantha Box (SB)	ESCP
Simon Cramp (SCramp)	Hampshire County Council
Stephen Woolard (SW)	ESCP
Steve Cook (SCook)	New Forest District Council
Stuart McVey (SMV)	Channel Coast Observatory, South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

**1. Apologies**

Stevyn Ricketts	Gosport Borough Council
David Pickett	Eastleigh Borough Council
Joanna Matthews	Environment Agency
Angela Marlow	Natural England
Peter Christie	Dorset Council
Vincent May	Vice-Chair of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Partnership Committee
Kim Catt	Gosport Borough Council
Neil Watson	Environment Agency

## 2. Minutes of Previous SCG Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Actions and Matters Arising (Paper A) – Lyall Cairns

All Actions had been completed and it was confirmed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting. For accuracy, Matt Hosey added that:

- Item 46 Dorset Devolution: The MOU between BCP and Dorset Council was verbal at the time of the last meeting and has now been signed.
- Item 47 Review of membership arrangements and fees: The lead is Councillor Felicity Rice, not Councillor Andy Hadley as stated in the minutes.

**Action:** Lucy Taylor to amend item 47 of the Minutes for accuracy.

## Minutes of Previous SCOPAC 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Actions and Matters Arising (Paper B) – Lyall Cairns

All Actions had been completed and it was confirmed the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## 3. Chair's General Update (Papers C & C2) – Lyall Cairns

### Paper C

#### FCERM Vision and Strategy:

- FCERM Vision is 'A nation ready for, and resilient to flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2020.
- FCERM Strategy ambitions, the first two ambitions stay the same with a new third ambition of 'A nation ready to respond to and adapt to flooding and coastal change'
- Final stages of getting Secretary of State approval, then laid before Parliament for 40 days (public document).
- EA is working with partners to produce an Action Plan, to take the three ambitions forward, by the end of 2020.

#### National Budget

- Award of £5.2 billion for a six-year programme 2021-27.
- £200m of the six-year programme will go towards place-based resilience and adaptation, but no further details yet.
- £140m brought forward to financial year 2020-21.
- £120m for the EA to repair winter damage to assets. Considerable disappointment that funding did not extend to Local Authorities (LA), Catherine Wright did try to get Treasury to try and influence towards also funding the LA but was not successful.

#### New Partnership Funding Guidance.

- Positive step forwards but the Chair was not convinced it will significantly change calculations for coastal schemes.
- The Chair proposed the group work together to collectively to provide a response to EA/DEFRA on the new calculator.

#### SMP Refresh

- Nick Hardiman was clear that current phase of working is nationally led but with local input. Phase 2 will to be locally led and delivered with national oversight.
- SMP Refresh is also a separate agenda item.

#### Discussion points on the paper:

Nick Gray (NG) added that recovery money to LA was pinned to whether emergency was declared such as in Yorkshire for the flooding. NG was positive about the new approach to Partnership funding.

Martin Hurst (MHu) reported southern coastal authorities and districts have provided storm damage data to support the case for obtaining money for local authorities to undertake remedial works following the winter storms, with £4m of damage to districts and counties in SCG area.

### **SCG & SCOPAC draft Constitution (Paper C2)**

The Chair asked for initial comments on the draft Constitution of the merged groups, with further responses to be sent in by the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Summary of proposed new Constitution:

- Name change to Southern Coastal Group & SCOPAC to continue to value the brand alongside SCG Officers.
- To become a fully inclusive group based upon National Coastal Group approach, with unique research and political objectives.
- Full paying members contribute to Research Programme and only full members can vote on how this is used, with the EA entitled to two votes for their two regions
- To create a new role of Coastal Champion who will be an elected Councillor to preside over annual conferences, field visits and be a political signatory for political lobbying correspondence.

#### Initial feedback points were:

- Alan Frampton asked as SCOPAC is bigger than SCG, do we need to describe the two regional extents? SCOPAC has operated beyond the boundaries of Portland Bill to Selsey Bill, so would it stop at those boundaries or would decisions beyond the boundary points depend upon contribution?
- Bryan Curtis responded that they would be reluctant to change boundaries.
- The Constitution could maintain Portland Bill to Selsey Bill
- but the group could look at beneficial activity beyond those points. For instance, Chichester District Council extends to beyond Selsey Bill.
- Nick Gray questioned retaining SCOPAC in the name if the groups are merging.
- Matt Hosey stated that all officers need to feed into what the group does, from all of the Local Authorities, especially with all of the recent changes. He also asked if there should be a standard set of recharge rates for SCG/SCOPAC related activities? All members are paying fees and it would be an opportunity to recover costs.  
**Action:** Lyall and Matt to speak further regarding adding guidance for recharge alongside the Constitution. To be reviewed annually by the Chair and Vice Chairs
- It was suggested strengthening the wording on 7E, to include research beyond the boundaries of the Group where there are perceived benefits.  
**Action:** Steve Cook or Sam Cope to work with Lyall on the wording.
- Bryan Curtis added that voting for the Chair and Vice-Chair virtually instead of in person should be added to the Constitution and offered to share the South Eastern Coastal Group Constitution with Lyall.  
**Action:** Bryan to send across South East Coastal Group Constitution

- It was also agreed that a more flexible approach to meetings would be adopted, with more virtual meetings and face to face meetings at different venues across the SCG region.

### **Climate Champion**

At the previous meeting the role of Climate Champion was discussed. It was noted that some local authorities have declared Climate Emergencies, some of which have appointed Officers corporately. BC added that the South East Coastal Group have a similar role and the Officer must have capacity to take on the additional role and budget may need to be allocated. MH added BCP also have a similar role and suggested aligning the meetings.

To move this forward, the Chair suggested setting up a working group, which was supported with suggestions of Dr Ivan Haigh and Dr Matt Wadey being included. The working group could undertake an audit of current activity across all organisations within the SCG alongside the SE Coastal Group.

**Action:** SCG Members to send their ideas or volunteer to become a member of the Climate Champion Working Group (via Lyall Cairns or Lucy Taylor)

**Action:** MS to add to the Business Service Plan

### **CGN Priority Themes and Leads**

The Chair stated that since being appointed, the group has tried to influence many issues nationally with varying degrees of success. The Chair proposed working with all seven Coastal Groups and focussing efforts on four specific themes:

- Place making
- Asset management
- Adaptation
- Coastal Landfill.

MH agreed and suggested it could work well with virtual meetings.

BC also agreed but pointed out that it would need financing.

AP: Already in business plan narrative, so some should be extracted and resourced.

## **4. Finances and Business Plan (Papers D & E) – Lorraine Horsted and Mark Stratton**

MS covered the highlights of the report and gave a year end summary of 2019/20 and set out 2020/21 budget position. At the end of 2019/20 a £36k surplus has been reported, which is mostly from research to be carried forward and levy bid.

Total budget £118k for 2020/21 which includes funds carried forward. The Budget position for 2019/20 and 2020/21 Budget were noted and the subscriptions schedule within the report was approved. A 10% surplus of the 2020/21 Budget to be maintained to mitigate overspend. LH added that the accounts are healthy.

The Expenditure will be aligned with the updated SCG Business Plan but there could be a slight surplus at the end of this year. MH noted an error on page 3 'Budget Subscriptions' should read £36k instead of £33k.

### **RFCC Levy Bid (Paper F)**

Following submission of a successful bid a few years ago to support delivery of the Coastal Group work, MS has submitted another bid to build on this work. This has been provisionally

approved but the ratification required is on hold at the moment until the next RFCC meeting given restrictions on RFCC members not being able to approve bids virtually.

MH asked that when next draft of Business Plan is ready, MS will forward on to him to take to Wessex. MS agreed as he is keen to get more people involved, as there is more budget and people resource. MH added that LA flood and coastal issues are getting more backing in these changing times.

**Action:** MS to send MH the updated SCG Business Plan.

## **5. Research Programme: Progress update and future research initiatives (Paper G) – Dr Samantha Cope**

SC reported that the team are very busy and summarised activity as follows:

- Nine of the studies have been carried forward to this financial year.
- Section 1.2 Sub-group had a useful meeting in April. Future five-year research programme on acoustic tag work and bibliographic database scanning is delayed due to COVID-19.
- Grants and Bursaries:  
Bradbury's Bursary award winner Gladys Ong's MSc thesis on Hydrodynamics in Poole Bay is on the SCOPAC website.
- Utilisation of Data:  
Toby Miller's MSc thesis on Swanage Pier WaveRex analysis 2019 is also on the website.
- Kirk Arrow Spit  
ESCP has carried out work on behalf of Chichester District Council (CDC).
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management:  
Invitation to the webinar on 18<sup>th</sup> June to present the manual has been sent out by SC. PF added that the webinar is free, but participants are required to register by 12<sup>th</sup> June. SC thanked PF for presenting.
- Historical Scanning project has closed. The old photos have been scanned and are currently being uploaded to the CCO website.
- Storm Analysis project  
Storm damage analysis project by MW, IH and ESCP. The team will present the latest findings at the next research sub-group.
- Tracer studies across the SCOPAC region have all been brought together on the SCOPAC website.
- Surgewatch  
SCOPAC continue to support maintenance of the website.
- Three 2018-2020 Minor Projects:  
Poole Harbour is complete and being reviewed by SC; Langstone tracer study is being written up and the Healthy Estuary report is being finalised.
- SC asked what would happen to the SCOPAC website following the SCG and SCOPAC merger, as the website holds a significant amount of information. It was agreed to keep the websites separate, maintain the branding but keeping each site defined with the appropriate links to appear as a single site. This approach is preferred by Vivid who maintain the site. Another option is to use SCOPAC-SCG as a name. If the group have any queries, they are to email SC. A budget of £4.5k has been allocated in the Business Plan.  
SCG members to contact SC if they have queries regarding merging the website.

**South East Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and National Programme Bid update (Paper H) – Stuart McVey**

The March CCO update paper was replaced with the June report and SMV talked through the items in the report, adding that:

- The UAV and laser scan results at Milford-on-Sea were repeated 2 weeks ago.
- Update on the OBC for the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme - waiting for financial approval, indication from EA is that the official allocation may not come through until November. Hopeful of receiving amount applied for and plans being made accordingly with risk profiling in case a cut to funding (10%) must be absorbed.
- Hosting a virtual meeting – live stream presentation, then afternoon of smaller workshops and meetings to plan for Phase Three.
- The monitoring programme have sight of the health check reports and will be reviewing in light of plans for Phase Three and strengthening links & engagement where/if any gaps are identified.
- MH added that BCP are investing in GPS kit, and could help with surveys on BCP patch if required.

**6. SMP Refresh Presentation (Paper I) - Samantha Box and Action Plan Update – Nick Hardiman**

NH gave an update on the messages coming out in the national context, referring to the presentation slides with some additional points:

- Slide 1: SMP Forum and Health Checks – SMP Forums were completed last year and Health Check Reviews are almost finished and will be finalised towards end of July.
- Triggers and thresholds from moving to a different policy are now better understood in SMPs. More strategies are completed now to enable SMPs to be updated.
- Monitoring actions are being carried out. Assessment actions are often missing. Monitoring data needs interpreting to confirm or change coastal change predictions.
- Planning process: Improvements with interaction with SMPs but further work is needed.
- Environmental: Evidence on habitat change, further work is needed to link to habitat compensation. Environmental opportunities and enhancements etc will become more important with EA 25-year plan.
- Climate change: Do the SMPs take into account UKCIP18 changes? Need to state the case to people to demonstrate that implications are considered.
- Monitoring programme allocation - working to get issues taken forward on landfill and contaminated land, adaptation work, (not a repeat of pathfinders ten years ago). Detail is currently high level but good news in SR19 funding.
- Programme to completion: Health-check report finalised by the end of July with an August finish. Key items are health-checks and guidance. Feedback asked for in January on refreshing SMPs will go into SMP guidance for health checks.
- Next steps: Over to you. So far this has been nationally led but this is being transferred downwards via health-check reports with re-established governance groups. EA will facilitate and there is some funding available to help. NH is working on the business case.
- Guidance materials: Policy units will be defined further so they are standardised, and will also identify work not previously done before such as management triggers, R&D.

- 2020/21: SMP teams to clarify policy units and identify where their own needs are and update action plans to reflect it. Funding available is £15-20k per coastal group this year and more funding is likely over the next five years.
- Develop Planner interface building on planning Note for Planners 10 years ago and climate change statement for all SMPs.
- Work package 4 pilots in north west – very well received and it will be rolled out over next 2 years. Nationally led and procured but needs local liaison.
- SCG first group to get this information so NH welcomes feedback on how to use funding e.g. for own resource or contract out.
- BC cautioned that outputs are not agreed yet. Whilst supportive of the idea that Coastal Groups own the SMPs, they must be aware of what all this entails and have sufficient resources in place.
- SB asked when the SCG need to update the action plan using the new template, as the current plan has only just been updated.  
NH: A new Action Plan template is being developed by the SMP-R team for consistency across all the SMPs. NH confirmed that the next update of the SMP action plan will not be required until April 2021.  
NH would like sight of updated plans nationally to collect good ideas. There will be a new post to support this work in the summer.
- SB: When the updated SCG SMP action plan is circulated, SB also to copy in NH and the SMP-R team.
- SB: Gave an update on the activities undertaken as part of the SMP refresh project. Workshops were held last year, interim discussion notes reviewed, draft health checks commented on and health check calls are being held this and next week. SMP 13, its been really good to see how involved planner have been in this process.
- JJ fed back that the IOW SMP call yesterday. SMP leads know their areas best so more support and collaboration welcome. Health-checks flag up issues large and small. The SCG work has focussed work and action plan will expand them again.
- ESCP Action Plan – SB has been working with JJ and AF to update the action plan spread-sheet. Feedback to NH at National. The briefing report is now finished (thanks AF), and will be sent out to the SCG in the next few weeks. Agreed more actions will need to be fed in following completion of the health checks.
- AF will join SMP 15 call next week, had planner feedback and new Dorset local plans include CCMA policy, so will be interested to see supplementary guidance docs.
- SB thanked AF and JJ on collaboration. MS added it has been a positive experience.

## **7. Impact of Winter Storms**

The Chair thanked members for sending in photographs of winter storm damage to their areas to capture in the spreadsheet. This was prompted by a request from the Southern RFCC Chair Martin Hurst (MHu) to show the challenges faced across the SCG area. Presenting the information spatially on GIS would be very useful, and it was agreed the dataset is a valuable tool that can be built on annually and used to promote investment and maintenance for ageing assets from LA, EA or DEFRA.

MHu has shared with senior colleagues nationally.

BC added that the spreadsheet gives an understanding and evidence of what is going on around the country. In Suffolk they are undertaking a similar task but SCG are the only group to respond to the request in February following the three major winter storms.

MH added that Dorset have a database that records storm impacts and surveys of damage which is a good lever for funding.

SC: Suggested Officers share the spread-sheet with Dr Ivan Haigh to update the SURGEWATCH website, this was agreed.

MH: The Dorset coastline has suffered a lot of cliff movement with slips and slumping this winter. AF has studied greater rainfall on geologies that are prompting more movement on mud cliffs such as Swanage.

MHu: Agreed that the wet winter and dry spring has led to many cliff falls and continuing dry weather will lead to more such as seen on the Isle of Sheppey in Essex. The SMP was mentioned on the news so it could move coastal erosion up the agenda.

## **8. Field Visit and Conference - Lyall Cairns**

No summer field visit or Autumn conference has been organised yet due to the uncertainty of ongoing impacts of COVID-19. LC canvassed the group for their opinion on whether they should be organised for later in the year or deferred until 2021.

There was agreement that that the field visit and conference are deferred until next year and the budget rolled over.

In order to not lose momentum, it was also agreed that virtual meetings could provide an alternative format for sharing conference topics such as the Southsea Scheme which could be presented in a series of seminars or webinars.

SC: Asked that SCOPAC members remain involved.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- MH is setting up a partnership to look at cliff movements with LIDAR monitoring going forward. LC asked if it is worth SC setting up a research sub-group on this. BGS website national scale inventory of land sliding and erosion, although AF pointed out it is not recorded consistently on a national level. JJ agreed – the Isle of Wight is hard to document changes as no records are kept on cliff top line.

**Action** Discuss further in Research Sub-group. SC – this could be a potential Masters dissertation.

The Chair checked that members were well and able to work during lockdown:

- Members agreed it was nice to talk and technology has allowed effective remote working.
- SMV: The good weather during lock down would have provided great survey conditions and is keen to get back out asap.
- KMH: Solent Forum is working well. She is meeting with the Forum Chair regarding the Autumn programme. Unlikely that face to face events will be organised at this stage, although members like to meet up, they may be reluctant to attend unless numbers are very limited, and the venues are large.
- MS: IT in place has made it business as usual but it has been very busy. He is proud of how the team have adapted.

- PF: New Forest sorted IT out early on and everyone is doing well. The LA had just invested a lot of office space with hotdesking etc. LC added hotdesking could be over and any future office working will be very limited.
- The Chair asked members whether the format should change to more frequent but shorter meetings. It was agreed to maintain the current schedule to next meet in October, but if significant issues arise, such as SMPR health-check results or FCERM Strategy Launch, then an extraordinary meeting can be called for 1-2 topics.

10. **Date of Next Meeting** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020