

## HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC meeting, 10:00am, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
on MS Teams

### Attendees:

Lyll Cairns [LC]	SCG Chair (Coastal Partners)
Matt Hosey [MH]	SCG Vice-chair (BCP Council)
Dr Samantha Cope [SC]	SCOPAC Research Chair (Coastal Partners)
Dr Andrew Pearce [AP]	Coastal Partners
Dominic Henly [DH]	Chichester District Council
Emma Stainer [ES]	Coastal Partners
Jenny Jakeways [JJ]	Isle of Wight Council
Lauren James [LJ]	MMO
Lucy Taylor [LT]	Coastal Partners (minute-taker)
Mark Stratton [MS]	Coastal Partners
Martin Hurst [MHu]	Southern RFCC
Matt Penney [MP]	Dorset Council
Matt Wadey [MW]	BCP Council
Rhian Edwards [RE]	Environment Agency
Samantha Box [SB]	Coastal Partners
Simon Cramp (SCramp)	Hampshire County Council
Steve Fitzmaurice [SF]	Coastal Partners
Nick Everington [NE]	The Crown Estate
Neil Watson [NW]	EA
Stevyn Ricketts [SR]	Gosport Borough Council
Peter Christie [PC]	BCP Council
Ben Meredith [BM]	EA
Fiona Crayston [FC]	EA
Jonathan Griffith [JG]	EA
Alex Powell [APo]	Coastal Partners
Thomas Dhoop [TD]	CCO
Esmari Steenkamp [ES]	Dorset Council
Keith Nursey [KN]	EA

### 1. Welcome & Apologies were received from:

Lorraine Horsted	Coastal Partners
Dave Picksley	EA
Mike Jones	EA
Vicky Farwig	Wessex Water
Gavin Holder	Coastal Partners
Bryan Curtis	Coastal Network Group
Uwe Dornbusch	EA
Dave Jenkins	Wessex RFCC

Charlie Thompson	CCO
Jane Ryan	Coastal Partners
Hilary Crane	Coastal Partners
Alan Frampton	BCP Council
Clare Newton	CP
Steve Cook	NFDC
Kim Catt	Gosport Borough Council

## **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Paper A Lyall Cairns**

The Chair proposed the Minutes a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Neil Watson. All of the previous meeting actions have been closed off and Coastal Assurance will continue to follow up meeting actions going forward.

**Matters arising:** Martin Hurst raised that he had an item for AoB but couldn't stay until the end of the meeting. It was agreed to raise his AoB after Item 4.

## **3. Finance Report Paper B Lyall Cairns Budget Financial Year (FY) 2021/22**

In the absence of LH, the Chair led the group through the Finance Report. The summary reported details of over and underspends recorded against the main budget headings and workstreams. Surplus reported of approximately £100k at the end of this FY, most of which is from the Grant in Aid award for the Shoreline Management Plan Refresh that had to be drawn down this FY for spend in 2022/23. Some workstreams are affected by Covid restrictions and progress has been impacted.

### **Proposed Budget for Financial Year (FY) 2022/23**

Work stream theme leads were asked to propose ideal spend to keep the initiatives moving, however budget constraints mean a reduction in some of the work stream spends is proposed to keep within budget. The Chair opened the floor:

PC had a query regarding enhancements and environmental mitigations. MS responded this workstream is to share best practice on schemes where environmental improvements are built in. Coastal Partners (CP) have submitted a levy bid to address this in our schemes. Lucy Sheffield will be circulating case studies and summary sheets from last year's work.

**Recommendations:** Acknowledge and support the in-year budget 21/22 as detailed in the paper and propose the budget 22/23 as set out, aiming for 10% reserve to safeguard against overspend and note carry forward of £100k from this FY to next FY.

Proposed by the Chair and seconded by MH. **Approved**

Thanks was expressed to LH for making a complex set of accounts easy to understand.

## **4. Service Plan & 'Call to Arms' Paper C Mark Stratton Service Plan**

MS highlighted the progress and comments section with the main points regarding the budget constraints. MS will update the paper again at year end to clarify spend

and budget for next year. Funding from a local levy bid is in place until 2024/25 from RFCCs Wessex and Southern, which has been crucial for the work to progress.

#### Place and Funding – MS

Working with LGA SIG to develop key funding priorities for the Coastal Group and local authorities nationally. A document is being developed to summarise / become a framework for action, which will be shared for feedback in the future.

#### Coastal Landfill - MS

Very strong progress made last year through a national RFCC workshop attended by senior DEFRA and EA colleagues, which led to several follow up meetings with DEFRA on the SCOPAC landfill study. Next steps: 1. circulate the questionnaire to the national LGA SIG in April; 2. develop a position statement on the topic 3. take it to the all-party Parliamentary working group.

The Chair thanked MHu for driving the initiative nationally. MHu added that DEFRA will be coming back to the group again and offered support in preparing for the working group.

NW informed the group a refresh is underway of the historic coastal landfill site database, with flood and erosion risks and published a set of maps for each RFCC. This product should be available in the next 2-3 months.

#### Adaptation – Sam Box

An integrated approach has been taken with the LGA SIG Coastal Adaptation working group, both SB and AF attend the meetings. The SIG Coastal Adaptation lead presented at the National Coastal Futures Conference in January, which was well received and raised awareness on Coastal Adaptation work, policy and funding gaps to a wide audience.

Coastal SIG have developed actions for the next year. Building on the successful workshop at the National Flood and Coast conference last year, the group hope to host another workshop at the conference this year.

The Chair added that a national workshop to define Adaptation would be useful, as the term has different meanings depending upon perspective and interests. It was agreed that Adaptation is key to managing future risks.

#### Asset Management - Andy Pearce

Quarterly update is sent to the group, which includes interested parties from across England. AP signposts to EA Asset Forum and Steering Group to which members of the group contribute. BC has lobbied to extend the EA group to include coastal erosion assets and the Forum are listening to what the Asset Management group has to say. If any SCG members are interested in joining the group, contact AP.

MHu asked after damage from Storm Eustace, he had only heard of damage near Medmerry. TD's presentation has slides of storm damage and he offered to share with MHu. The Chair responded that damage was incurred at Stokes Bay and Southsea and suggested everyone sends photos and a short description of damage in their area to Coastal Assurance. **Action**

Funding is a major issues and MH continues to lobby Wessex RFCC and suggested bidding for local levy funding even if it serves to just highlight awareness. PC asked if OGD funding might be available for storm event damage. MHu added an additional risk to funding comes from that the Levelling Up white paper and potential removal of funding from the LEPs.

**AoB** The Chair proposed a quick discussion on the increase cost of construction and recruitment issues for the sector.

Construction – increase of 40% in price of steel, 80% for timber and 20-30% for concrete, due to supply chains impacted by Brexit and Covid. Huge impact on live schemes and for emerging business cases. The Chair asked if this is reflected across SCG. MHu added it was variable, with some scheme costs increasing by 75% from OBC and others where contractors are trying to limit impacts. Mitigation ideas included working with other schemes to co-ordinate bringing in rock armour and stockpiling materials. AP also highlighted extended lead in times for materials which could impact on cost and programme.

MS explained the OGD funding of £600m over 4 years, which is allocated by the EA who map the benefit area of the schemes. OGD funding used to plug the gap for Partnership Funding for projects. MS offered to speak to anyone who needs clarification. However, the current understanding is that the entire pot has now been allocated across the programme.

Recruitment – It was agreed that the sector is an employee market, with an overall shortage of coastal engineers. Everyone is struggling to recruit and retain staff, but our contractors and supply chain are able to offer more attractive packages. MHu asked for a dedicated discussion and provide data for lobbying. **Action**

## 5. Procurement Frameworks

**Alex Powell & Andrew Pearce**

### PSC Framework – Alex Powell

The new framework should be live by the end March. Scope has been extended beyond the usual FCERM core services and includes non-core items. It is available for coastal teams and contracting authorities across England and has 4 suppliers on the top tier and 2 reserve, which saves time and money. Top tier ranked as 1. AECOM; 2. JBA; 3. Royal Haskoning; 4. Atkins, reserve tier 5. Binnies; 6. SWECO. Framework award and management has been improved for procurement to save time. Local Authorities will be invited to a briefing in April.

Moved to NEC4 contracts for PSC and short contract, and templates will be

available. This is free for SCG members. It is also available for all contracting authorities in England to hopefully generate some income via a rebate fee to use, with the fee going directly to SCG. Kick off meetings for suppliers and users in April and introduce the framework with user guidance and a web page is under development to market it. Marc Bryan will be the Framework Director, supported by an Advisor and an Administrator. APo is leaving CP at the end of March.

APo asked if anyone is planning to use the framework in the next 12 months, let us know what the project is, professional consultant fees envisaged to help manage demand. Procurement product is very polished and hoping will be successful. A Powell was thanked for his work to on this piece.

#### Minor Works Framework – Andy Pearce

Minor works framework is for undertaking repairs to coastal asset repair and small-scale replacement. There are two lots, a civil engineering lot and a beach management lot to provide efficient route to market. Similar to the PSC framework there will be a delivery tier and reserve tier and is open to Wessex and Southern RFCC members and access is free to SCG and SCOPAC members. Other authorities can also use under our supervision and guidance. Lot 1 – there were 8 returns, this was shortlisted to 6, Lot 2 drew 6 returns, shortlisted to 5. The shortlisted suppliers were invited to bid for a place on the framework. Evaluations are ongoing of these returns, with the aim to have the framework ready to go live in May 2022. NEC4 contract templates will be available along with a user guide and a supplier briefing in June. Andy Pearce is the Framework Manager, and other PSC Framework support roles will be shared with Minor Works Framework to provide efficiencies and a common approach/experience to both frameworks for local authority users.

**Action:** Feedback to Coastal Assurance with examples of projects coming up and if likely to use the PSC or Minor Works framework over the next 12 months.

## 6. SMP Refresh

### Sam Box

All three SCG SMP Management Groups are continuing to progress Phase 2 work packages. These include WP7 – Improving the interface between local planning system and SMPs; WP8 – Updating the action plans into the new template, prioritising and progressing actions; WP9 & 10 – Inputting into the development and delivery of the SMP Explorer (online platform)

JJ, AF and SB as SMP Leads have attended monthly national SMP leads meetings and submitted the first quarterly reports for the end of 2021, with the next report due in April 2022. Nationally, the EA team are aiming to provide local authorities with access to consultants on the SEAFS framework, which could help with local consultation materials / plan activities.

SMP 13 – North Solent Update: Second management meeting held in November 2021, next meeting end of March 2022. Action plan has been transferred to new template with new actions from health checks ready for issue to national team at the

end of March.

SMP15 – Poole and Christchurch Bay Update: Action plan transferred to new template and submitted to national team. Management group meetings are progressing policy unit health check recommendations, with two policy statements looked at so far and a third will require funding. AF is also supporting SMP 16, 17 and 18.

SMP 14 – Isle of Wight: JJ continues to liaise with national team and has recently moved the SMP from a dedicated website to the council website with the link updated on SCOPAC and national websites. Currently working on the action plan transfer.

MS added that instances have been recorded of Natural England beginning to object to maintenance work or works at the coast on hold the line frontages where no assets are at risk to avoid unnecessary coastal squeeze. Suggested further discussion to understand NE position as this could impact upon maintenance works.

## **7. Research Programme**

**Sam Cope**

### Previous 5-year Research Programme

The only outstanding project is the historical photography scanning project which is in progress. Other project outcomes have been disseminated through webinars and SC hoped the group felt the funding had provided good value for money.

### Current Research Programme

Annual allocation of £20k, some of which will be carried over to the next FY. A Removing Assets project will be led by Alan Frampton.

Seven projects reviewed and uploaded to website, research webinars, research sub-group meeting in May.

Bradbury Bursary - none of the applicants met the criteria this year. SC will try and review them earlier next FY and if necessary, go out to other universities.

Engineering in the Coastal Environment Master's degree has stopped running at the University of Southampton and may have impacted the calibre of applicants.

SC led the group through the risk register and the status of all of the programmes. All of the completed pieces of research are uploaded onto the website and the programme of webinars will continue to disseminate the findings.

## **8. South-East Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme** **Stuart McVey**

SMV led the group through highlights of the report:

- Update on the wave buoys around the region
- Topographical surveys were all completed last year, and the spring survey programme has started with routine surveys in Swanage and Weymouth and profiles carried out at Ryde and Seaview.



- Post storm surveys were carried out at Preston Beach, Hurst Spit, Milford on Sea – reports available on all of those.
  - Bathymetry: procured NORBIT system after trialling one last year.
  - SMV introduced Thomas Dhoop, the new South-East Programme Manager
- TD updated the group on:
- Organising training for April and June
  - Completed interviews with local authorities to ascertain what asset information is being collected and by whom and considering an update mechanism for asset register local authorities can feed into. CCO are recruiting for an assets post.

TD presented on recent storms that showed storm predictions verses actual recordings using wave buoys data from Weymouth to Bracklesham Bay. Fortunately, the impacts were not as severe as predicted in our region.

NW commended TD & team for putting out review in advance of the storm and setting out return periods, which was very useful.

#### **9. The Durlston to Hurst Sediment Resource Management Programme Matt Wadey**

MW showed slides with an overview of beach replenishment and sediment supply Durlston to Hurst Spit (Poole & Christchurch Bays).

MS asked after the sustainability of beach management. MW - issue in Poole Bay is use of hardwood timber groynes, what is the trade-off between that and bringing in rock. Bringing in sand if local can be fairly sustainable.

MH a lot of research still needed for beach evolution with sea level rises.

SC suggested future workshop to discuss further.

JJ asked if MW was considering independent verification of results, MW agreed that environmental impact process involving MMO, modelling etc would be required.

**Action: CA to circulate the slides**

#### **10. Field Visit, Webinars, Conference Chair**

- Beach Management, sustainable sediment systems – workshop as per Item 9
- At this point a lot of local authorities are taking a precautionary approach, so the Chair asked the group for their views.
- Recent webinars have been really successful
- SC proposed a field visit which would be relatively safe. PC agreed and suggested hybrid option going forward where face to face and dialling in LC agreed. MH agree that hybrid approach would give a bigger audience for reduce the carbon footprint. Webinars working well and SC has two planned for this year:
- Aggregate dredging brochure launch webinar
- Tracer study webinar for the autumn

The Chair asked for members to volunteer to host a visit, send ideas and timescales to CA.

**Action**

## 11. Climate Change and Carbon

**Steve Fitzmaurice**

Workshop initiative – SF set out a high-level programme at the last meeting with a potential climate change workshop date for April 2022 with a pre-workshop questionnaire. Other pressures have meant the timescale is behind schedule so this will probably take place nearer the summer. The draft questionnaire will be sent out shortly.

NW presented slides on Carbon Hierarchy and Blue Carbon. Construction carbon is notable for our schemes and developing carbon plans to reduce carbon goes across EA and local authorities. EA are aiming to be close to Net Zero target by 2030. Arne Moor project was given as an example of reducing the carbon impact of projects in the FCRM capital programme. Dorset Coastal Forum website has further information, project is going through planning process in a couple of months-time with construction planned for 2023.

Blue Carbon is very efficient at carbon capture through saltmarsh mud such as at Steart Marshes in Somerset.

## 12. AoB

**Chair**

MHu items were covered in item 4. No other further AoB was raised.

## 13. Date of Next Meetings

SCOPAC & SCG Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

SCG Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

SCG meeting are held on MS Teams by default but opportunities to meet in person will be considered if preferred.

## Summary of Meeting Actions

Agenda Item	Action Owner	Action
4	TD All	<u>Asset Management</u> 1. TD to send MHu slides of storm damage from presentation 2. Send Coastal Assurance photos and a short description of Storm Eunice damage across the SCG.
4 / AOB	LC	Arrange further discussion on recruitment issues.
5	All	Feedback to Coastal Assurance if likely to use the PSC or Minor Works framework over the next 12 months.
9	CA	Circulate presentation slides.
10	All	Volunteers to host a field visit, send ideas for a trip to CA.