



**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2008**

**WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST, PENCLACWYDD, LLANELLI**

**Present**

Jane Hodges (JH) Acting-chair	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)
Blaise Bullimore (BB)	EMS Officer
Anne Bunker (AB)	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Phil Coates (PC)	South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (SWSFC)
Kate Collins (KC)	Environment Agency Wales (EAW)
Sean Hathaway (SH)	City & County of Swansea (CCoS)
Simeon Jones (SJ)	Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)
Rebecca Wright (RW)	CCW

**1 Welcome, apologies & personnel matters**

Apologies:

Julian Atkins	City & County of Swansea
Deb Hill, Chair	City & County of Swansea
Isabel Macho	Carmarthenshire County Council
Trevor Theobald	Pembrokeshire County Council
Dusi Thomas	Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water

Introductions were made for the benefit of SH, standing in for Julian Atkins. Members brought up to date with Deb Hill's progress and again extended their best wishes.

**2 Minutes of meeting 20 November 2007**

Received without amendment.

**3 Matters arising from minutes of 20 November 2007 & not on the agenda**

*Item 4, page 3:* Dusi Thomas' action carried forward.

**4 Burry Inlet storm-water discharges**

Briefing from DCWW postponed as DT unable to attend meeting through illness.

*Noted:*

- (KC) EA producing a fact sheet on recent discharges to address public concerns

- (PC) discharges allegedly over statutory limits reportedly now in excess of 400. Informal meeting between CCW, EA and SWSFC planned for following day.
- (PC) complaint has been submitted to the European Commission by the Burry Inlet Handgatherers Association alleging breaches of the Shellfish and Urban Waste Water treatment Directives.

*Agreed:* carry forward when both briefings are available

## 5 Revised MoU

Following comment from CCoS, *noted:*

- references to Development Department at 3.4 and 3.5 are out of date; amend to read Environment Department;
- para 3.5 - text referring to role of “independent” auditor requires amendment to clarify CCoS role. **ACTION: BB / JA**

*Agreed:*

- new para 6.3, subject to minor grammatical amendment;
- subject to above amendments, revised MoU approved; recirculate on completion of amendments. **ACTION: BB**

## 6 Work programme

*Noted:*

- revised, draft work programme circulated prior to meeting;
- RA input to key tasks (identified by colour coding) is required.

Following brief discussion, *agreed:*

- revised work programme
- relative short-medium term priority is development of management scheme document over proactive liaison / awareness raising, noting that reactive (to invitation) opportunities should continue to be taken if relevant and potentially valuable;
- next review (as identified in work programme) scheduled for first quarter 2009.

*Noted:*

- production of a map-based, activities, end product document has been deleted as development of GIS will never be ‘finished’ as such. MapInfo files and / or maps in pdf could be circulated to members on a rolling basis or on request.
- SJ offered to scrutinize recently received Welsh translation of website text **ACTION BB / SJ**

## Liaison

Proposal for a short contract to make contact with all addressees on existing contact lists so as to begin re-establishment of liaison fora carried forward from meeting of 20 November 2007

*Agreed:*

- following task prioritisation previously agreed – no immediate urgency;
- scope of work to be developed and circulated, identifying skills required by contractor;

**ACTION: BB**

- consider engaging volunteer working for an RA to undertake task;

**ACTION: All – identify any suitable volunteers**

### **Information collection**

Potential bait collection effort survey and financial involvement in SW Wales Recreation Audit taken under agenda item 8.

### **Awareness raising**

*Noted:*

- previous **action points for all members** to make and take opportunities for CB&E EMS awareness-raising within their organisations and to identify further opportunities for inclusion of CB&E information in their RA's public facing operations (particularly providing links to the CB&E EMS website);
- CCW website now has a link to CB&E EMS website <sup>1</sup>;
- articles on CB&E EMS have recently been included in the Carmarthenshire BAP newsletter and will be in the Pembrokeshire BAP newsletter currently in print;
- the distinction between awareness raising and 'interpretation'; the former being a contribution toward management. Proposals currently under consideration were all intended as 'signposts' to the existence of the EMS in support of developing the management scheme
- there was an extended discussion on how best to target local communities; a future investigation into the viability of small (c.A3) posters for Community Council and public library notice-boards, and development of signs for railway stations and trains and for buses was agreed; there were strong reservations about adding to the plethora of outdoor signs in the countryside.

### **7 Management Scheme development strategy**

*Noted:*

- previous comments had been accommodated, version 4 was re-circulated 3 January 2008 with deadline of 14 February for last comment;
- no further comments received;
- the strategy is the RAG's and RA's own, internal, strategy for delivering its Management Scheme obligations
- version 4 confirmed as *agreed* strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/marine-policies.aspx](http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/marine-policies.aspx) where it is the only EMS so linked!

## 8 Budget & finance planning

### a) Income

*Noted:*

- invoices for current FY contributions had been raised and payments were either completed or in hand;
- commitments to next and subsequent FYs now need to be initiated or confirmed for all contributing members that have not yet confirmed.

**ACTION ALL (EXCEPT CCW(?) & SWSFC)**

- reinstated contributions need to be pursued for the three local authorities.

**ACTION: BB & LOCAL AUTHORITY RA REPS**

- resource contributions had been identified in a recent presentation on the EMS to Carmarthenshire County Council's Regeneration & Leisure Director and Heads of Departments. PowerPoint presentation will be circulated to members **ACTION: BB**

### b) Potential European funding opportunities

*Noted:*

- BB & JH to attend a CCW launch / workshop for EU 'LIFE+' funding
- the EC "Atlantic Area Programme 2007-2013", funded from the ERDF .includes objectives to "Protect, Secure and Enhance the Marine and Coastal Environment Sustainability" and specifically includes *Natura 2000* site and fisheries management within its scope; BB has been and will continue to investigate opportunities under this programme; the scope and criteria of the funding favour major projects and require international partnerships; international collaborative proposals from fisheries managers to develop solutions to fishery management problems in *Natura 2000* sites would appear the most likely to succeed, BB recommended remaining alert for opportunities for involvement.
- CCW had submitted an expression of interest under the "Communities & Nature" (CAN) programme with EAW; projects must "connect people with nature" and have an economic link; *agreed* unlikely to be source of EMS funds.

### c) EMS officer contract

*Noted:* EMS officers contract expires on 23 July 2008

BB withdrew from meeting. Following notes recorded by Chair.

*Agreed:*

- continuation of post was necessary
- refer to host employer (CCoS) for determination of personnel procedures necessary to carry forward. **ACTION: SH**

BB rejoined meeting.

#### **d) Expenditure planning**

*Agreed:*

- location specific panels for priority sites, numbers dependent on unit cost within budget of approx £1800;
- purchase a banner 'pop-up' panel for taking to presentations, talks, events etc; cost c £300, to be met within above budget;
- BB to advise local authority members of the information and agreements required from public library services for placement of panels / banners;

*Noted:* SW Wales Recreation Audit seeking funds to improve and expand data in recently revised database; funding contributors requirements receive priority attention.

*Agreed:* inappropriate for RAG to contribute directly but members whose parent authorities are represented on the Audit partnership to strongly encourage funding by those authorities

**Action: CCW, CCC, CCoS, EA, PCC, PCNPA members**

*Noted:* information on distribution and intensity of bait collection effort is required; a survey project to collect quantified spatial information was recommended, noting CCW are undertaking such a survey within Milford Haven;

*Agreed:* postpone.

*Noted:* contract to re-establish contact with all addressees on existing contact lists and identify further contacts to revive liaison forum was recommended;

*Agreed:* commensurate with reduced short-term priority for liaison, postpone, but prepare a scope of work / specification for task. **ACTION: BB**

*Noted:* grant aid to support a *Seasearch* (Marine Conservation Society sponsored volunteer marine survey project) survey in western Carmarthen Bay / Caldey had been requested;

*Agreed:* inappropriate for RAG to contribute directly, but RAG should send letter of support and members whose parent authorities may provide grant aid should strongly encourage funding by those authorities **Action: CCW, EA? members**

*Noted:* decision on purchase of promotional products previously postponed;

*Agreed:* proceed with purchase of a suitable, ecologically acceptable, printed pens and printed business card-sized cards promoting website. **ACTION: BB**

#### **9 CB&E site assessment & report to EC**

*Noted:*

- feedback from assessment of site condition and conservation status prepared for reporting to EC is essential for informing site management and management scheme development;
- letter and brief assessment summary from CCW CX to chair of Pembrokeshire Marine SAC RAG circulated to members on 17 December 2007;
- detail contained in above assessment was helpful but still insufficient;
- CCW monitoring staff have not been directed to produce the information on a format suitable for release;

- EA had received spreadsheet detailing judgments for each feature (though no detail or rationale for judgements) from CCW to inform EA's review of consents; KC to forward for circulation;

**ACTION: KC**

*Agreed:* Chair to write to CCW CX requesting at least same level of information as provided to Pembrokeshire Marine and stressing need for detailed information underlying and rationale for assessment decisions as soon as possible.

## **10 Pressures, issues & threats (PITs) report**

*Noted:*

- further input had been received from Ziggy Otto;
- there remain many information gaps to fill – as identified in the document – to enable informed decisions regarding the need for management changes for many activities;
- a briefing was provided on information received from contacts, as distinct from published or reported sources, to date;
- a bibliographic database is being developed and data entry begun;
- considerable further work is required to bring GIS datasets bring up to date.

*Agreed:*

- approve existing version of PITs report as working document;
- focus data gap filling on most relevant activities and issues.

## **11 Wales Fisheries Strategy**

*Noted:*

- briefing from SWSFC circulated prior to meeting – noted Strategy a high level document with little detail;
- implications for EMS appear possibly neutral;
- references to sustainability appear to focus on fisheries (economics) rather than environment;
- primarily represents fisheries sector views with a WAG overview rather than actually being Government strategy;
- habitats and species protection legislation poorly addressed;
- consultation on future management of fisheries in Wales still not released.

## **12 EMS officer report**

*Noted:*

- BB had had one week's leave since previous meeting;
- website text translation recently received;

## **Presentations & meetings**

- Wales Biodiversity Partnership, 20 February
- Carmarthen County Council Regeneration & Leisure Heads of Department meeting, 11 February
- re-launch of CB&E Recreation and Tourism special interest group Carmarthen, 16 January
- Swansea University MSc students, 21 November, 2007
- GEMS officers meeting, 22 November 2007

## **Other meetings**

CMS Coastal Futures, London, 22-24 January

CCW Marine monitoring workshop, 28 November 2007

## **Forthcoming**

- Welsh Institute for Sustainable Environments workshop, 28 February
- Carmarthenshire BAP, 3 March
- LIFE+ EC funding launch / workshop, 4 March
- EA Catchment Planning Workshop, 17 March 2008
- UK MPA Centre steering group, 9 April

## **13 Relevant authority updates**

### **a) information exchange**

*Noted:*

- (RW) Site Management Statement for Burry Inlet SSSI is in preparation;
- (SH) SMP2 meeting scheduled for following day; Julian Atkins attending on behalf of CCoS

*Agreed:* all relevant members to ensure their authorities drawn attention to the need for SMP to take account of EMS **ACTION: ALL**

*Noted:*

- (PC) cockle mortality update; outputs from research projects awaited;
- (PC) SWSFC in receipt of vote of no confidence from cockle industry;
- (KC) review of consents for CB&E due for completion by end March 2008.

### **b) research & monitoring reports**

*Noted:* request for information and feedback on sightings etc from dye-marked oystercatcher study.

## **14 Other business**

*Noted:*

- the Wales Spatial Plan is being updated and the update is open for consultation until 24 April 2008; relevant information and documents can be downloaded from: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/improveps/wspconsult/?lang=en>; members urged to ensure attention is drawn to the EMS in their authorities' responses;
- the 2008 Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership annual 'report card' recently published and available at: <http://www.mccip.org.uk/briefingsARC.html>;
- the book 'Unnatural History of the Sea', by Prof Callum Roberts, describing historical impacts of fisheries overexploitation recommended as essential reading for all involved in marine management.

## **15 Date(s) of next meeting(s)**

Confirmed: 10.30 Tuesday 29 April 2008

Subsequent meeting: Weds, 9 July 2008

*Meeting closed at 14.05*