



**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**23 January 2007**  
**WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST, PENCLACWYDD, LLANELLI**

**Present**

Deb Hill (DH) Chair	City & County of Swansea (CCoS)
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)
Jane Hodges (JH)	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)
Simeon Jones (SJ)	Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)
Jeff Morgan (JM)	Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water (DCWW)
Ziggy Otto (ZO)	Countryside Council for Wales
Dusi Thomas (DT)	Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water
Rebecca Wright (RW)	Countryside Council for Wales

**1 Welcomes & apologies**

Apologies: Trevor Theobald (TT)	Pembrokeshire County Council
Isabel Macho	Carmarthenshire County Council (Standing apology)

DH welcomed members and welcomed Jeff Morgan's replacement on the Group, Dusi Thomas.  
Kate Collins apologised that her maternity cover, Lian Potter, was unable to attend.

**2 Minutes of meeting 16 November 2006**

Received without amendment.

**3...Matters arising from minutes of 16 November 2006 & not on the agenda**

*Item 3* Noted: CCoS would be able to accommodate translation f.o.c. to the Group; CCC would have to charge approximately normal commercial rates.

*Item 5, RA officers and members seminar.*

*Noted:*

- RW to check again with Adam Cole-King (CCW) whether CCW plan to repeat CCW's "roadshows" **ACTON: RW**
- "roadshow" content is technical and primarily aimed at planners, not members and senior officers.

- likely take-up from CCoS, CCC, possibly new or local authority SWSFC members. DCWW unknown. Agreed need to confirm likely interest **ACTION: ALL**

*Agreed:* suitability of presentation currently prepared for a proposed short slot in a CCC Heads of Service meeting to be assessed for wider use for briefing members and senior officers.

*Noted:* no action on website or leaflet production since last meeting as both deemed lower priorities than other tasks. Outstanding actions **ACTION: BB**

#### **4 Budget**

*Noted:*

- invoices for financial contributions to be sent imminently. Awaiting copy of MoA from EAW prior to invoicing them.
- several members were unable to locate previously circulated budget paper. Agreed to resend.

**ACTION: BB**

- DCWW and PCNP remain committed in principle to funding year on year, but contributions are subject to annual bidding rounds and confirmation. DT noted task for her in future.

*Agreed:* review budget later in calendar year but prior to member's annual internal resource bidding rounds.

#### **5 Activities & issues information collation**

*Noted:* data files have been transferred / copied to the new, CB&E EMS-dedicated, laptop (previously files were held on three different computers). Some work to better organise and rationalise files has been necessary and continues.

##### **a) GIS**

*Noted:*

- base maps and CCW datasets requested from CCW via Mike Camplin and GIU have not yet been received.
- designated site map data available from CCW's website has been acquired. Other extant datasets (eg collated by Adam Cooper) had been previously converted to MapInfo format; other data sets from various sources have been acquired and are being rationalized / edited for use for CB&E. Examples were shown on screen.

##### **b) Database**

*Noted:* an activities data-base has been designed and constructed in MS Access; data entry has begun. The data entry screens were demonstrated.

##### **c) Existing information**

*Noted:* existing information includes that collected by Adam Cooper, data with wide geographical coverage acquired by Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and provided to CB&E (eg DCWW, EA datasets), outputs from the 2005 Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum recreational audit.

#### **d) New information.**

*Noted:*

- acquisition of new information has been generally difficult and slow. Requests have routinely been met with queries, lack of understanding as to the requirements, redirection to alternative sources and/or modesty about ability to contribute useful information.
- JH had trawled relevant current and former members of PCNPA staff and provided considerable range of information, some of which requires additional follow-up.
- SJ had provided a range of indicative information, which also requires additional follow up.
- valuable meetings or discussions have been held with Mike Camplin, CCW; Andy Woolmer, SWSFC; CCoS Recreation & Tourism staff; Mark Winder, CCoS (formerly NT), requiring further follow-up or additional discussions.
- Other recently acquired information include a CCW fisheries report summarising parts of a School of Oceans Sciences (Bangor) PhD thesis which highlights Carmarthen Bay as an effort hot-spot and needs following up to determine data sources.

#### **Future meetings**

*Noted:* forthcoming planned meetings:

- Huw Jones, CCoS drainage and coastal management (29 Jan)
- RAF Pembrey (5 Feb)
- Paul Edwards, Environment Agency (5 Feb)
- Conservation interests, hosted by WWT (15 Feb)
- Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Recreation Audit – the next phase (27 Feb)
- CCC – awaiting response from Isabel Macho

Further / additional remain to be planned with: SWSFC; SWWFC; Lewis Keil (DCWW); Qinetiq, Pendine; MCP staff.

#### **6 MPA ‘score-card’**

*Noted:* completed scorecards had only been received from AB, PC & SJ.

*Agreed:* Completion of “score-card” could provide an interesting indication of members perceptions concerning development of the EMS; all to complete prior to next meeting. **ACTION: ALL**

BB to recirculate “score-card”

**ACTION: BB**

#### **7 EMS Officer report**

*Noted:*

- New, dedicated, laptop purchased from RAG budget. Almost all relevant software and data files have been installed / transferred.

- BB had attended a meeting convened by SFIA to develop a proposed, EU funded, experimental electro-fishing trial project, to provide advice on EMS. A prolonged and confused discussion followed that strayed into the jurisdictions of several competent authorities.

***Welsh GEMS (Group of European Marine Sites) officers***

- Next meeting postponed to early March.
- Proposed RAG chairs letter to WAG. The GEMS officers had agreed that the Welsh RAGs needed to “take coordinated action in effort to release direct, long-term, secure, core funding from WAG”. To this end, they had proposed that the RAG chairs send a joint letter to the minister, Carwyn Jones.

*Agreed:*

- potentially valuable but required a more detailed proposal for action. BB to take need for draft letter and liaison mechanism between RAG chairs to next GEMS meeting. **ACTION: BB**
- action best postponed until after Assembly elections in May.

*Noted:* Proposed GEMS briefing to AMs. The GEMS proposal is to capture ‘hearts and minds’ of AMs who are known, or likely to be sympathetic to the management of EMS, as a parallel and background exercise to the proposed integrated RAG approach to the Minister and the WAG Executive regarding core funding for RAGs. The proposal is for an informal, low-key briefing on the current state of development of EMS MS and the key challenges, including resources, to a small group of AMs at, at the suggestion of Christine Gwyther, the NAW in Cardiff.

*Agreed:*

- any formalised briefing meetings should be inclusive and invitations extended to all AMs bordering EMS;
- potentially valuable but required a more detailed proposal for action. BB to take need for more detailed proposal to next GEMS meeting. **ACTION: BB**
- possibility of a presentation to EPC committee should be investigated; **ACTION: BB / GEMS**
- integrated briefing best postponed until after Assembly elections in May; but
- informal one-to-one briefings could be held in the meantime.

*Noted:* the need for participation by RAG members was discussed. Concern was expressed both about EMS officers meeting AMs without RAG member presence, but also of the potential political difficulty such a meeting may cause some RAG members.

*Agreed:* consider including RAG chairs and discuss at GEMS meeting. **ACTION: BB**

*Noted:*

- Outputs from the CMS marine climate change conference attended by BB in December are available from the CMS website<sup>1</sup>; BB commended the UK marine climate “report card” available at <http://www.mccip.org.uk/arc/default.htm> to members.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.coastms.co.uk/cgi-bin/ftpex/FTPex\\_conferences.cgi?browse&Outputs%20and%20Reports/Climate%20Change%20Nov%202006](http://www.coastms.co.uk/cgi-bin/ftpex/FTPex_conferences.cgi?browse&Outputs%20and%20Reports/Climate%20Change%20Nov%202006)

- The recent Coastal Futures conference attended by BB, JH and ZO had proved interesting and worthwhile. Outputs should be available on the CMS website soon. BB had made a potentially valuable contact with the Deputy Secretary of the Common Waddensea Secretariat (the CWSS have significant nature conservation issues regarding cockles & mussel populations and exploitation).
- BB had received an invitation to the National Trust's launch of its "*Shifting shores- Living with a changing coastline*" report in Cardiff on 13 February, which it is planned to attend as it is both relevant and appears to be a useful liaison and networking opportunity.
- CCoS's Environmental Conservation Manager (DH's Group Head) has made some time available from an oceanography graduate working in a secretarial role, Sarah Bevan, to assist BB and provide additional interest for her role.

## **8 Relevant authority updates**

### **a) information exchange**

*Noted:*

- Unusually high mortality of juvenile, pre-spawning, cockles is occurring in the Three Rivers and Burry Inlet and there is concern for nature conservation implications of a substantial decline in brood stock; (PC) samples have been provided to CEFAS for analysis;
- (PC) The MSC accreditors are minded to reissue the Burry Inlet cockle fishery accreditation, but there will be a further 21 day opportunity for comment from previous respondents before they do so.

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

*Noted:* second phase of CCW bird food modelling project has reported.

## **9 Other business**

AB suggested that communication with the EMS officer could be improved, which would both improve the EMSOs awareness and, in turn, enable improvements in communication by the EMSO.

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

### **RAG meetings:**

10.30 hrs 26 April 2007, WWT Penclacwydd.

10.30 hrs 10 July 2007, WWT Penclacwydd.

**Work programme sub-group:** to follow the above RAG meetings

**Liaison Forum 'surgery': 15.00 – 19.00 hrs 29 March 2007,** WWT Penclacwydd. Volunteers are required to cover duration of surgery; DH and JH offered their time.

The meeting was closed at 1300 with best wishes to Jeff Morgan in his retirement.