



MINUTES OF MEETING

FRIDAY 8 JULY 2011

WELSH WILDFOWL CENTRE, PENCLACWYDD, LLANELLI

Present

Jane Hodges (JHs) Chair	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)
Eifion Bowen (EB)	Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)
Blaise Bullimore (BB)	EMS Officer
Anne Bunker (AB)	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Kate Collins (KC)	Environment Agency Wales (EAW)
Alex Harding (AH)	CCW
Deb Hill (DH)	City & County of Swansea
Eve Read (ER)	Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water (DCWW)(Environmental Policy)
Lindsey Rendle (LR)	CCC

1 Welcome, apologies & domestics

Apologies:

Ged Davies	EAW
Simeon Jones	CCC
John Hogg	EAW
Fergus O'Brien	DCWW
Trevor Theobald	Pembrokeshire County Council

Introductions were made for the benefit of ER, deputising for FO'B.

2 Minutes of meeting 13 April 2011

Agreed without amendment.

3 Matters arising from minutes of 13 April 2011& not on the agenda

Item 3; David Tyldesley comment on clarity of CCW conservation objectives: Confirmed that no formal note of meeting was taken. Recollections of DT's views had been provided to BB by Mark

Winder, CCoS ecologist ¹.

Item 3; scoter monitoring: AH to follow up concerns regarding fit for purpose monitoring and also distribution of CCW monitoring reports with Mike Camplin in new role as Marine Monitoring Team Leader. **Action: AH**

Item 3; Burry Inlet fisheries management:

Release of cockle mortality report delayed; revised date for release unknown.

Noted: concern expressed as to consequential effect of delay on other decision making processes.

Action for presentation on EAW work in Burry inlet including development of fisheries management carried forward. **Action: JHg**

Item 5: the proposed duration of EAW's automated monitoring was unclear. KC to determine. **Action: KC**

Item 7; notes of GEMS workshop: action carried forward

Item 8: Cefas report: commissioning authority and source of copies unknown but assumed to be EAW. KC to follow up. **Action: KC**

Item 8: Burry Inlet MoU Group

(EB) Recent technical sub group meeting. Focussed on "betterment" through removal of surface water; discussions on going; proposals to be detailed in annex to MoU.

Registers have been released to public domain as result of an FoI request.

Works undertaken by DCWW to reduce surface water input to waste water system are being factored in.

(DH) CCoS has commissioned David Tyldesley to advise on the HRA for their 1000 unit allocation under the MoU and their LDP.

4 Management Scheme

Release of MS for consultation

Noted: written (e-mailed) agreements had been received from CCW, DCWW, MoD/DOI, PCC, WG and verbal from PCNPA.

EB confirmed CCC were content to release for consultation;

DH confirmed head of CCoS planning had agreed but was waiting for further confirmation from legal department;

KC undertook to obtain written approval by close of Monday 11 July.

Next steps:

Agreed:

All cover letters and web pages regarding consultation to be bilingual.

¹ "David said (paraphrased): the first problem I see is no clear guidance set out in the Conservation Objectives on what are specific (e.g. ppm) acceptable limits. He also said what are the existing statutory limits and what are the ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long term maintenance of the features. David also asked how do we know if we are at or below the acceptable standards now? He suggested a technical annex could be added."

MS document to be provided as two individual documents rather than a single bilingual document to maximise clarity and ease of reading.

Noted: CCC able to provide translation service as contribution in kind; however, lead time estimated as 4 – 6 weeks. BB to provide cover letters, website text etc as well as MS text to LR for translation asap.

Agreed: Given the time required for translation, commence formal consultation at beginning of September with closure at end of October. In meantime, circulate English language version to relevant and key competent authorities immediately to give them additional time for consideration and response.

RAG reps to be responsible for cascading consultation within their parent authority.

Noted: CCW will arrange for media release.

Agreed: In addition to media release and advising existing contacts on contact list:

All members to request addition of notification of consultation to most appropriate page of their parent RA's website; *eg* (EB) the "what's new" section of the CCC on the planning pages;

BB to cascade via LBAP networks;

BB to include alert on website that consultation will begin in September.

Noted:

MS seminar has been arranged for BB to present the MS to CCoS officers to help inform response; offer of similar seminar has been made to MoD / DOI. Same offer extended to all R&CAs. All to determine whether seminar / presentation would be useful. **Action: ALL**

Some members have yet to confirm which public libraries offer internet access and / or which offices could host hard copies of the MS. **Action: ALL who have not yet responded**

Written notification will be necessary for many consultees as no e-mail address is held for a large proportion of names on the contacts list.

5 CCW MPA MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Members were taken through the CCW MPA management questionnaire by AB. AH recorded responses and will provide the responses to CCW after clearing the draft with members.

6 WORK PROGRAMME

Noted:

Proposed programme for forthcoming few months is focussed on the MS consultation:

- Promoting the MS consultation;
- Responding to consultation queries;
- Liaison with R&CAs.

BB will be away for a month from 15 July, including taking unpaid leave on compassionate grounds to deal with family matters in the USA.

Presentation to WBP conference in September 2011 in Carmarthen; reference to the MS consultation will be included.

Agreed: future work programme, including implementation of MS, to be a key agenda item for next meeting.

BB to attempt to secure current job descriptions for other EMS Officers operating post adoption of MSs. **Action: BB**

7 BUDGET & RESOURCES

Noted:

No significant overall change since last meeting.

Unpaid leave will save a half months salary in Aug.

A small amount of unplanned additional cost had been incurred to improve the website's security following a hacking attack (that affected many thousands of sites – it was not an attack on CB&E *per se*).

Further discussions had been held with the SEACAMS team at Swansea University. Whilst no funding was available to help meet core costs and the RAG as a partnership of public bodies is ineligible for funding assistance, there is considerable interest in organising a Burry Inlet conference as a follow up to those held in 1976 and 1995. BB will liaise to develop the idea further.

CCW and EAW contributions for the *current* FY remain to be confirmed. Nil contributions from the local authority members are assumed. Action on all contributors to confirm / reconfirm / bid for resources. **Action: ALL**

BB's contract currently expires on 30 September; DH advised that an extension to the end of the FY has been approved and is in hand.

Agreed: Budget and resources to be a key agenda item for next meeting. BB to circulate revised current budget prior to next meeting. **Action: BB**

7 EMSO REPORT

Noting further to work noted above reported other than a planned GEMS liaison meeting with the Wales environment Link Marine Task Force on 13 July.

8 RA UPDATES

Research & monitoring

As noted, cockle mortality report still awaited.

Members had been alerted to three CCW reports on SPA feature's distribution and behaviour within the SAC for the period 2007-08 to 2009 -10. The distribution of these and other relevant reports outside CCW HQ appeared extremely poor; CCW to be advised of need to circulate more widely to appropriate authorities. **Action: AH**

As noted above, KC to secure further information on EAW's future Burry Inlet monitoring.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

(ER) DCWW are actively pursuing development of sustainable wetland systems to mitigate nutrient inputs. FO'B had e-mailed: "DCWW is in the process of setting up a working group to look at establishing "wetland" systems chaired by Geoff Profitt of Swansea University and I would be grateful if the members of the RAG could suggest people they think should be part of this

working group.” BB has expressed interest and advised that several other members would likely also be interested in involvement. Those interested to advise FO’B. **Action: ALL**

(EB) Atlantic Array wind farm exhibition tour. Burry Port 18 August.

10 Date(s) and agenda items for next meeting(s)

10.30 hrs Thursday 22 September 2011, WWT Penclacwydd

Key agenda items:

- MS consultation update
- Future work programme
- Budget and resources

Meeting closed at 14.20hrs