

**Draft minutes of the South Wales Regional
Aggregates Working Party
Wednesday 10th March,2010**

<u>Present:</u> -	<u>Action:</u> -
<p>Martin Hooker (Chairman) Steve Bool (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council Ruth Henderson – City and County of Swansea Chris Morgan – BBNP Rosemary Thomas –Welsh Assembly Government Sue Martin – Welsh Assembly Government Jo Smith-Welsh Assembly Government Lindsay Christian – Newport City Council Owen Jones – Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Ruth Amundson – Caerphilly County Borough Council Graham Dorrington – Ceredigion County Council Adrian Wilcock – Torfaen County Borough Council Malcolm Lawer – MPA (Tarmac) Mark Frampton – MPA (Hanson) Richard Millard-MPA Ken Hobden-MPA M Davies –Monmouthshire County Council H.Towns –Carmarthenshire County Council J.Locke-Carmarthenshire County Council Neville Morgan-Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Stuart Williams-Cardiff County Council Linda Healey-Blaenau Gwent CBC Tony Gilman-BAA Ruth Amundson-Caerphilly CBC I.Fox- RWE Npower Julie Kirk-Pembs NPA</p>	
<p><u>1. Apologies</u> Martin Lucas(Vale of Glamorgan) Basil Hollington(WAG) Mark Russell(BMAPA) Mark Wrigley(Crown estate) Karen Maddock-Jones-(CCW) Anthony Wilkes(EAW) Steve Packer(Powys CC) Roger Bennion(Sec. NWRAWP/Flintshire CC)</p>	
<p><u>2. Minutes of the last meeting 30/9/09</u></p>	
<p>These were agreed as a correct record subject to: - Page 3. RM action point re industry update-RM advised a national MPA sustainability report (Dec.2009)had been produced and work was</p>	MH/RT

<p>in progress in Wales to take appropriate action. Page 4.MH action point-MH advised the meeting with RT was still outstanding.RM confirmed she was happy to meet. Page 4 Item 7-fifth linethe words"that most people already felt it was a good idea in principle" be replaced with"<u>that most non-industry respondents felt it was a good idea in principle</u>". The MPA felt their consultation response had not been correctly processed by the WAG as it was recorded as one representation from an organisation but it should reflect the representation covered a number of operators. On the subject of the proposed fees for mineral review applications RT confirmed the regulations would not be issued this April as planned. Page 5.3rd para to be deleted. Para 10 .Marine update.JS to forward list. Clarification was sought on the "PERC" code which is widely used to estimate the reserves.PERC stands for <u>Pan European Code for the reporting of exploration results,mineral resources and reserves</u>. The code does state "there can be no fixed definition for the term economically mineable" which implies the term will always be open to interpretation.</p>	<p>JS</p>
<p><u>3&4.Minutes of the Sub committee 5/2/10</u> MPA expressed concern the paper produced on the National Parks/AONB issue and it exceeded the remit of the SWRAWP.The paper commented on local sites which may breach the Competition Act.The fact the RAWP's were technical working groups and not able to produce policy should be acknowledged. WAG felt the paper did not include any recommendations on local issues.It focussed on regional/national based actions some of which relected the recommendations of the Mineral Forum. MPA still considered RAWP's should not be policy making bodies as a matter of principle and they also had insufficient representation.This latter point was queried in view of the current representation of the group's 36 members with a wide variety of expertise. CM felt unsure about the MPA's reaction to the paper and MH referred to appendix 21 of the RTS which stated the issue of alternative supplies outside of the National parks ought to be investigated and with the co-operation of all parties this may be achievable in a relatively short time period. It was emphasised there was a need for technical statistics for extraction in National Park's to determine the level of apportionment for LDP inquiries. WAG considered any new policy formulation needed to be based on a strong evidence base and the SWRAWP has the opportunity to provide this with the groups'experience and practice in the field.When new policy is being considered,technical working party/steering groups are set up to drive/steer the work being developed.MPA sought to give assurances they wanted to work in a cohesive way but they also had an important duty to take into account the needs of their members. It was proposed there should be either a further sub committee or the</p>	<p>SB</p>

<p>formation of a new Mineral Forum for Wales.</p> <p>Industry considered they would be unable to comment on site specific issues if invited to such meetings. In view of the impasse, it was agreed MH/RM would meet to try and resolve the terms of reference any forum/meeting would have.</p> <p>7. North Wales RAWP report. In the absence of Roger Bennion SB outlined the main bullet points of the report forwarded by RB. Namely....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flintshire CC has not yet formally signed the new RAWP contract, although it remains committed to providing the service. • We await the BGS details for the 2009 survey. Unlike S. Wales, the NWRAWP agreed that the RAWP secretary should issue all the survey forms. • No change in quarry business activity, sales remain low in spite of some resumption in construction activity. 4 quarries are temporarily closed. • Secondary material continues to contribute significant amounts to the market. • The next meeting of the NWRAWP will be on the 13th May, 2010. 	<p>MH/RM</p>
<p>8. South Wales Report</p> <p>SB outlined his attendance at various meetings, seminars, and steering groups relating to regional aggregate planning. He also confirmed he was offering advice to those LA's considering aggregate planning issues as part of the LDP process.</p> <p>The new RAWP contract for 2010 onwards is yet to be finalised (start date 1.4.10). WAG advised the draft contract had been finalised but the contract period, provisionally discussed as 4 years, has yet to be decided. The SWRAWP have not received a draft contract for consideration to-date.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the provision of resources for the Severn Estuary Tidal Power project. It was acknowledged the quantities involved would be significant and probably over and above any current supply capability of the S. Wales market. It was noted any imported material from abroad would not be subject to the Aggregates Levy and this would assist imports rather than supporting local industry.</p>	<p>SM</p>
<p>9. Stalled ROMP regulations WAG advised these regulations came into force in January of this year but unfortunately due to pressure from time constraints some errors had been noted. These would be rectified asap.</p> <p>Industry felt there had been insufficient consultation/notification of the issue date. WAG considered adequate arrangements had been made. MPA were invited to forward comments to WAG asap. It was noted BAA are still pursuing the legality of the imposition of the Aggregates Tax in the EU.</p>	<p>SB</p>

<p>10.RTS review.</p> <p>Collaborative working amongst LA's is being encouraged where necessary. BAA felt the proximity principle ought to be emphasised in any review.Other issues such as the full sustainability of aggregate production in National parks i.e. support for socio-economic issues,needed to be emphasised and promoted. The LEK booklet ...Construction in the UK industry issued by the MPA was referred to.This is available on the MPA website. The date of the next RTS review was confirmed as 2013.</p> <p>11.Industry report</p> <p>MPA expressed their gratitude for the attendance of Jane Davidson at the MPA annual seminar in Cardiff last week.It was thought she gave an excellent presentation which was well-received. In general,markets for aggregates are very tight and whilst the North Wales market is propped up by exports to the north- west region the South Wales market is largely self contained. Demand is forecast to be flat this year but there are signs of a gentle recovery.The workforce remains strong but assistance is needed.In the light of the downturn many companies have consolidated with devolved administrative centres.There was a call for good and consistent regulations in Wales. Industry were requested to advise the SWRAWP of any changes to regional contacts for the purposes of survey work.It was noted the BGS have an updated list for the purposes of the AM2009 survey and this should be relayed to individual LA's.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>12.SWRAWP contract</p> <p>The new SWRAWP contract for 2010 onwards is still under consideration.SB to check contract details on request.</p>	<p>SB/SM</p>
<p>AOB.</p> <p>1.The latest round of offshore windfarms proposals may effect Nobel Banks which is a key aggregate source.Mark Russell to comment on any industry responses made to-date. 2.A programme is being prepared by the BGS for the release of free data at 1/50,000 scale. 3.The release/completion of research by GVA Grimley on the review of the planning application process in Wales is imminent.It is available on the website (draft for consultation)and comments are invited by April.It is considered to be an important opportunity to streamline the development control process so that economic recovery is speeded up. There will also be research into the planning process for economic development planning policy.This will commence in the new financial year. 4.re-Trefigin/Pantgwyn sand and gravel sites,Pembs.Inquiry to</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>All</p>

commence on the 16th March,2010.

5.The Lincs call for sites(candidate)questionnaire was cited as good practice.Different LA's,however,may have different approaches.Industry felt some degree of consistency between authorities would be useful to avoid confusion.

6.Reference was made to Flintshire CC taking a lead role in the field of minerals planning.This initiative should make authorities more aware of the benefits of collaborative working to share resources in specialist fields of planning.The SWRAWP have already produced a paper on this topic and Carms CC are taking a proactive position in dealing with mineral work for a number of other authorities in South Wales.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15th September,2010 at 10am
Innovation centre,Bridgend Science Park,Bridgend.(usual venue)

DP

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