

**Minutes of the South Wales Regional
Aggregates Working Party
Wednesday 13th October 2004**

<u>Present: -</u>	<u>Action: -</u>
<p>Martin Hooker (Chairman) – Bridgend County Borough Council Steve Bool (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council Mark Frampton (QPA) Neville Morgan (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council) Hugh Towns (Carmarthenshire County Council) Martin Lucas (Vale of Glamorgan Council) Ruth Amundson (Caerphilly County Borough Council) James Hooker (Newport City Council) Basil Hollington (Assembly Government Agriculture) Chris Morgan (Welsh Assembly Government) Ruth Brown (Brecon Beacons NPA) Ruth Henderson (City and County of Swansea) George Reay (National Ash) Keith Warren (RCT) Stuart Williams (Cardiff CC) Malcolm Lawer (QPA) Dennis Canney (Blaenau Gwent CBC)</p> <p>1. <u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Duncan Pollock (QPA) Sue Martin (Welsh Assembly Government) Carol. A. Williams (Pembs CC/CNP) Andy Bull (Powys County Council) Graham Dorrington (Ceredigion County Council) David Highley (BGS) Kevin Seaman (QPA) Karen Maddock–Jones (CCW)</p> <p>2. <u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <p>These were agreed as a correct record subject to the revisions on pages 3 (para 4) re. definition of waste, 4 (penultimate para) re. Caerphilly UDP, as set out in the revised minutes.</p> <p>3. <u>Matters arising</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p>4. <u>Chairman’s report</u></p> <p>No meetings of the NCG have taken place since the last SWRAWP</p>	

<p>meeting.</p> <p>Scarweather sands update. WAG have resolved not to debate the proposal further so it is deemed approved. Evidence on the possible sterilisation of marine sand and gravel reserves was presented to the inquiry by the Chairman.</p> <p>5. <u>Secretary's report</u></p> <p>(i) Correspondence-consultation on proposals for marine dredging application in the Outer Bristol Channel received - no comments made.</p> <p>(ii) Letter from the Council for National Parks - concerns raised re. lack of RAWP website and availability of minutes (electronically). Acknowledged that WAG have now developed website.</p> <p>(iii) Letter from ODPM re. progress statement on aggregates planning research. E-mailed to Members in April 2004.</p> <p>(iv) SWRAWP letter sent to all MPA's requesting confirmation of nominated Member to represent each unitary on the Members Forum for the RTS. Agreed that all MPA's who have not responded should respond ASAP.</p> <p>(v) Annual Survey 2003 - now completed and issued electronically and in hard copy. Significant increase in tonnages sold noted for all rock types.</p> <p>(vi) BGS presentation - noted that the invitation to BGS to give a presentation would be deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p>6. <u>Development plans update</u></p> <p>Newport - Inquiry scheduled to commence mid October 2004. Adoption of plan anticipated before the key date of July 2006.</p> <p>Caerphilly - Little change from last report. i.e. Council approval only - not proceeding with UDP to adoption. <u>Preparatory work has begun on the LDP but WAG approval has been sought to authorise a formal start prior to the August,2005,commencement date .</u></p> <p>BBNP - Pre inquiry modifications anticipated in November 2004.</p> <p>NPT - Objections to the proposed changes to the deposit plan to be reported to committee shortly. A SEA has been commissioned.</p> <p>Swansea - Progress is being made with the deposit plan and this will be adopted as SPG and not progressed to formal adoption. The LDP will be commenced in September 2005 and a SEA commissioned.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>ALL</p> <p></p> <p>DH</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>MPA's</p>
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<p>Carms - The inquiry finishes this month. Adoption anticipated in 2006. RCT - UDP has been abandoned and LDP is being pursued.</p> <p>Cardiff - Pre-inquiry changes will be considered Dec/Jan. A P.I. is anticipated at the end of the summer of 2005. The necessity for a SEA is being kept under review.</p> <p>Vale - Further proposed modifications (including sand and gravel) will be considered in Oct/Nov. when the next consultation period commences.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent - Further changes are being made to the modifications and a P.I. is likely to be held in February 2005.</p> <p>Bridgend - Adoption of the plan is anticipated early next year. At present, further changes are being made to the modifications including the inclusion of land based sand and gravel safeguarding areas. No inquiry is anticipated and a judicial review cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>Powys - it is anticipated that the plan will go on deposit in October 2004.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Regional Technical Statement</u></p>	
<p>(i) Membership of the SWRAWP - in view of the need to encourage active attendance and dialogue from all members it was agreed that all members who do not attend meetings on a regular basis would have their membership terminated.</p>	<p>EWS / BRITISH STEEL</p>
<p>(ii) Sub-Group - the setting up of a SWRAWP sub group was discussed at length. It was agreed that all members e-mail the Secretary before the 25th October with any views. It was agreed that the sub-committee would need terms of reference. An invitation was extended for nominations to be forwarded for membership of the sub group. The composition of the sub-group was agreed as follows: -</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman of SWRAWP Secretary of SWRAWP QPA (2 reps) BAA (1 rep) WAG (1 rep) CCW (1 rep) EA (1 rep) MPA's (4 reps)</p>	<p>SB</p>
<p>It was proposed that a sub group meeting take place prior to Xmas. It was proposed that an even geographical spread of MPA members would be desirable based loosely on the former County Council areas</p>	

<p>in S. Wales. There was general agreement to this proposal. Members' views were also requested on the issue of the Members Forum i.e. should it be a single Members forum or a two/split Member group.</p> <p>(iii) Timetable. The draft timetable for the Members Forum meetings was discussed as set out in the letter to SWRAWP MPA's dated 11.8.04. It was agreed there may be some slippage due to a slight delay on progress in the IMAECA (environmental capacity) report being carried out by Enviros.</p> <p><u>8. MTAN1 - assessment of the likely reactivation of dormant active sites</u></p> <p>The letter from DP of the QPA was discussed which requested that the SWRAWP take a proactive role in this matter. The Chairman referred to his response to DP and the progress of Gwynedd CC on serving several prohibition orders. The meaning of para 31 of the MTAN1 was discussed and there appeared to be a strong industry view on a specific interpretation. WAG were unable to comment on this interpretation. It was agreed that the SWRAWP request a list from MPA's to give to industry to stimulate progress.</p> <p>It was stressed that the Mineral Valuer (Martin Evans) was available to assist with any valuation/compensation issues and whilst there may be a charge, such a charge was generally quite small and may in any event be grant-funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. The recent seminar on Prohibition Orders run by the Welsh Assembly was referred to as a source of best practice. All MPA's are encouraged to engage in the process to reduce the list of dormant sites which are unlikely to be reactivated.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><u>9. Minerals research</u></p> <p>The following research projects were noted as ongoing in Wales: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">IMAECA (environmental capacity) studyGeological mapping - mid Wales (BGS)Smiths Gore - C&D and quarry waste (ALSF)WET - market development for mineral wastes, recycled aggregates and secondary aggregates (ALSF).Marine dredging research - Outer Bristol Channel (work on investigating the make-up (ecology, sedimentology etc) of the sand wave area).MADP - likely publication date November 2004. This document sets a strategic context for marine dredging. <p><u>Marine dredging update:</u> -</p> <p>Nash Bank - Level of extraction will diminish <u>from 2006 onwards.</u> WAG and the industry are in continuous dialogue re the implications of the</p>	<p>SB</p>

situation.

Outer Bristol Channel application - message seems to be that the industry are actively exploring resources in deeper waters.

Five marine applications are being processed (including Helwick Bank) Significant pressure is being exerted on the marine dredging supply process. The issue of the new marine regulations continues to engage DEFRA/ODPM in protracted discussions which has led to considerable delays. In addition, Harbour Orders pose specific problems as they allow harbour authorities to dredge material for maintenance purposes. This material is then sold on the market. Such Orders are difficult to control.

Bedwin Sands. This area supplies Newport/Monmouthshire and is the only area which is subject to a planning permission. This needs to be reviewed by January 2005.

Overall, it is evident that the demand for fine aggregates is increasing which is probably the result in the upsurge in the construction industry in S. E. Wales.

AOB(1)

(1) Discussion took place regarding the request from the BBNP for the SWRAWP to oppose the safeguarding of any land based sand and gravel resources in the BBNP. The view was taken that this was a WAG policy matter and did not fall within the remit of the group.

(2) It was confirmed that the Environmental Statement for Cornelly Quarry had been submitted to the WAG this week. Similar statements for Grove and Gaens Quarries would follow shortly. All of these quarries are the subject ROMP applications which were called-in by the WAG in 1998.

AOB(2)

MPA officers only discussed the BBNP request re safeguarding areas for sand and gravel in greater depth. It was noted that individual MPA's are at liberty to support the BBNP in their campaign but the SWRAWP cannot intervene. It was noted that political pressure may be used to support their campaign.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd February 2005.