

**Minutes of the South Wales Regional  
Aggregates Working Party  
16<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

<b><u>Present: -</u></b>	<b><u>Action: -</u></b>
<p>M Hooker, (Chair) – Bridgend County Borough Council S Bool, (Secretary) – Bridgend County Borough Council M Frampton – QPA - Hanson K Hobden – QPA D Pollock – QPA M Russell – QPA - BMAPA R Amundson – Caerphilly County Borough Council G Bishop – WET N R Morgan – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council H Towns – Carmarthenshire County Council J Hooker – Newport City Council M Lucas – Vale of Glamorgan Council A Wilkes – EAW J Millard – Cardiff County Council S Williams – Cardiff County Council Carol Williams – Pembrokeshire County Council / National Park Authority Martin Davies – Monmouthshire County Council Ruth Brown – Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Andy Bull – Powys County Council Ryan Kristiansen – Powys County Council Chris Morgan – Welsh Assembly Government Adrian Wilcock – Torfaen County Borough Council</p>	
<p><b>1. <u>Apologies</u></b></p>	
<p>S Martin – Welsh Assembly Government M Lawer – Tarmac / QPA K Seaman – BMAPA Denis Canney – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Keith Warren – Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council <a href="#">Karen Maddock-Jones</a></p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Minutes of the last meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005</u></b></p>	
<p>Agreed as a correct record subject to paragraph 6, page 3 (penultimate sentence) being amended to include reference to the minutes of the RTS sub committee 13<sup>th</sup> December 2005.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Matters arising</u></b></p>	
<p>Paragraph 3. Marine <a href="#">critical path</a> flowchart to be pursued by WAG.</p>	<p><b>CM</b></p>

**4. Chairman's report**

MH referred to the recent QPA / WAG meeting regarding the recent impasse over the RTS. This situation has now been resolved.

It was agreed the QPA industry level of participation on the SWRAWP RTS sub committee meetings would be three representatives, with one representative from BAA.

It was reported a TSG meeting would be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006, and a NCG meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

**5. Secretary's report**

1. Liaison with North Wales RAWP

A meeting was held in March before the departure of Jeremy Gibbins. The matters discussed were RAWP contracts / progress on the RTS / QPA position. It was confirmed Gareth Jones would be the Acting Chair, Gwynedd County Council. Interviews were held a fortnight ago and the new NWRRAWP Secretary should be announced shortly. It is then intended to hold a further meeting to discuss the way forward.

**SM**

2. Annual Survey 2004

SB summarised the preliminary results. (See summary sheet). Some responses on secondary aggregates are still awaited but a decision has been taken to finalise the results. This means, unfortunately, a number of estimates have had to be made on non-return sites using 3 year averages. Also, some tables showing a breakdown of end use have had to be scrapped. Hopefully, the survey should be issued by June (next month). It will be posted on the SWRAWP website. Only a limited number of hard copies are to be produced. The MPA officers were thanked for their efforts.

3. AM2005

The form B regarding basic information (site address / operator) has already been circulated. All officers were requested to complete and return to BGS as soon as possible.

**All**

The training day for Welsh RAWP MPA's has been organised for the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006, in Newtown. All officers were encouraged to attend.

**All**

Form A will be sent out electronically to all MPA's very shortly. (Excel spreadsheets and 'Access' database).

**6. Progress on RTS**

**SM**

<p>It was agreed a list of dormant sites would be sent to industry. SW enquired as to whether there would be a screening process for the SEA. MH confirmed that according to his interpretation of the relevant regulations one was not required and this view had been relayed to WAG for comments.</p>	<p><b>SM / CM</b></p>
<p>JH enquired as to whether or not an appropriate assessment was going to be carried out as part of the Habitat Regulations. SB to investigate.</p>	<p><b>SB</b></p>
<p><b>7. <u>Safeguarding areas</u></b></p>	
<p>Reference was made to the recent BBNP UDP decision. The Inspector concluded that they should not be included. BBNP are considering the decision further. As the area is a National Park the Inspector concluded the likelihood of working is very limited because of the presence of other policies and countryside protection. This will need to be dealt with under the LDP process. The question was raised as to whether or not money should be invested to investigate the resources to get a better handle on the level of resources. CM confirmed it would be difficult to justify expenditure from the public purse and consequently there was a strong case for industry to be responsible.</p>	
<p>AB – Powys – issue of high psv roadstone. Should areas be safeguarded bearing in mind they are covered with ancient woodland with a high landscape / nature conservation designation?</p>	
<p>AW – Blaenau Gwent drew attention to a reserve of high psv which could come on stream in the near future. SB to obtain details.</p>	<p><b>SB</b></p>
<p>It was agreed the RTS should seek to address high psv / high quality aggregates as part of the process.</p>	<p><b>SB</b></p>
<p><b>8. <u>Development Plan update</u></b></p>	
<p><u>Powys</u> – About to <a href="#">go to inquiry</a>.</p>	<p><b>Deleted: adopt the UDP</b></p>
<p><u>BBNP</u> – Discussing <a href="#">post inquiry</a> modifications.</p>	
<p><u>Monmouthshire</u> – Reporting service Delivery Agreement for adoption.</p>	
<p><u>Pembrokeshire CC / NPA</u> – It is proposed to adopt the joint UDP in July and beat the SEA deadline.</p>	
<p><u>Cardiff</u> – The Delivery Agreement has been approved.</p>	
<p><u>Vale of Glamorgan</u> – The high court challenge to the UDP was unsuccessful but the objector is still pursuing the case via the Court of Appeal.</p>	

<p><u>Newport</u> – UDP adopted today.</p> <p><u>Carmarthenshire</u> – The modifications are still on the deposit period. Adoption anticipated end of June.</p> <p><u>Neath</u> –Still awaiting Inspector’s report.</p> <p><u>Torfaen</u> – The Delivery Agreement has been approved.</p> <p><u>Caerphilly</u> – The Delivery Agreement is still with .</p> <p><u>Bridgend</u> – Still working on Draft Delivery Agreement and SCI.</p> <p>In future, SB to pursue pre-meeting summary in ‘Word’ format.</p> <p>MH questioned how the QPA deals with the massive number of the Development Plan documents. DP confirmed Entec deal with it on contract but the process is more complicated with more stages and it is difficult to process. The problems of <u>CIS’s (SCI’s in Wales)</u> being objected to in England and the need for inquiries was referred to which highlighted the potential delays facing the new process. The clear message was be prepared for delays.</p> <p><b>9. <u>Monitoring of mineral and landfill sites</u></b></p> <p>HT reported Carmarthenshire had produced a set of forms and conditions had been grouped together by subject matter. 2 / 3 surveys have been carried out to date.</p> <p>DP confirmed there had been some discontent from small operators. In the West Midlands RAWP, concerns have been expressed about the need for it to be undertaken.</p> <p>ML confirmed there was a lot of dormant sites and could these be assessed but ignored for regular surveys. It was agreed each authority should set out and agree their plan / programme with elected members.</p> <p>MH confirmed a joint collaborative approach for monitoring was not being pursued by any authorities. HT confirmed, <u>that the BBNP is considering arranging for Carmarthenshire to undertake monitoring on its behalf.</u></p> <p><b>10. <u>Marine aggregates</u></b></p> <p>Projected tonnages as follows: -</p> <p><u>Nash Bank</u></p> <p>2006 / 750,000 tpa 2008 / 600,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SB</b></p>
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**Deleted:** SCI's

**Deleted:** however, Carmarthenshire were working with the BBNP to a certain degree on joint working.

2010 / dredging to cease

Helwick Bank

Inquiry due to commence in June 2006.

Nobel Banks

Positive Government view issued early April, confirming approval for 300,000 tpa over 10 years (15 year proposed).

The issue of fisheries has been addressed and base surveys are commencing shortly.

North Middle Ground

Severn Estuary Working Group has been set up and the inaugural meeting is to be on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Organised by Crown Estates. SB to attend.

**SB**

A submission has been to the DCLG. No news as yet. WAG are reviewing existing consents assessing impacts on SAC's. This work will be undertaken independently.

Separate Welsh regulations to be sought from England. Problem with harbour authorities over the levels of harbour dredging – some of this material is sold on the open market and no levy paid. Spring 2007 has been set as the target date for the issue of the regulations. Any future applications may attract a fee of up to £28k.

MR (BMAPA) questioned what the consultation draft timetable was and CM confirmed it would be available in the autumn.

MR – Crown Estate have produced a marine reserves paper as requested by ODPM. The principle driver is to allow some comparison between the landbanks, because at present there is inconsistency in the reporting of reserves. BMAPA are seeking to address these inconsistencies. These stats will be produced annually. MR to send link to SB.

**MR**

[Link confirmed www.thecrownestate.co.uk / 43 landing port statistics 2005.pdf](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/43%20landing%20port%20statistics%202005.pdf)

[www.thecrownestate.co.uk / 43 reserve summary final 06.pdf](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/43%20reserve%20summary%20final%2006.pdf)

MR reported that in the Eastern English Channel – 6 companies have got together to achieve a regional research approach, so that issues such as cumulative effect can then be better addressed.

**11. NWRAWP Secretary**

CM reported four candidates had been interviewed on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The successful candidate will be notified shortly with a view to the contract starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006. Gareth Jones (Gwynedd) has agreed to continue as Chair. All meetings will be held in Mold.

**12. Minerals research** (WAG / ODPM / DCLG)

It was confirmed Peter Bide would replace Richard Hilton as DCLG representative.

CM – (1) coal research – immediate research is being carried out.

(2) A contribution has been made to carry out the AM2005 by WAG.

(3) Construction and Demolition and quarry waste (2005) – stats for 2005 should be available by the end of the year.

(4) IMAGIN (Irish Sea) – contract to be let in the near future.

WAG contributing to this resource investigation programme which covers the Irish Sea.

**13. AOB**

MH – Severn Barrage – this project has re-surfaced again and is generating lively debate.

CM – Scoping study for the tidal lagoon (This is an oval shaped rock feature proposed in Swansea Bay designed to harness energy from the tide) Environmental Assessments carried out so far have been very poor quality.

MR to forward project contact to SB.

AW reported that current housing projections envisaged a further 30,000 homes were required in South Wales by 2010.

CW – LNG pipeline. Primary aggregates being used for haulage tracks (required by legal docs). Problem of safeguarding areas also an issue but difficult to resolve due to lack of relevant UDP policies.

GB – crushed glass being used on a section of the LNG pipeline near Swansea but barriers / other markets are appearing such as the use of cheap quarry dust.

Concerns were expressed about the DTI consultation process, specifically: -

(i) mineral resources / decision making

MR

