

Draft minutes of the SWRAWP meeting
Thursday 6th February,2014.

Present: -

Martin Hooker (Chairman) – Consultant
Steve Bool (Secretary-SWRAWP/Bridgend CBC)
Mark Frampton (MPA-Hanson UK)
Hugh Towns (Carms County Council)
Ruth Amundson (Caerphilly County Borough Council)
Malcolm Lawer (MPA-Lafarge Tarmac)
Joanne Smith(WG)
Graham Dorrington(Ceredigion CBC)
Gary Nancarrow(Secretary- NWRAWP/Flintshire CC)
Ken Hobden(MPA)
Owen Jones(RCTCBC)
Ceri Morris (NPTCBC)
Lindsay Christian(Newport CC)
Adrian Wilcock(Torfaen CBC)
Lynda Healey (Blaenau Gwent CBC)
Tom Boothroyd (Carms CC)
Justin Waite(Merthyr Tydfil CBC)
Mike McGee(MPA-Cardigan sand and Gravel)
Karen Maddock-Jones(NRW)
Martin Davies Monmouthshire CC
Bob Smith (Pembs CC)
Nick Everington (The Crown Estate)
Chris O'Brien(Powys CC)
Ivan Skidmore (RWEpower)

24 no. total

1.Apologies

Karen Maddock–Jones (CCW)
Basil Hollington-(WG)
Chris Morgan(BBNP)
Murray Alston (BAA)
Ruth Henderson(City of Swansea)

2.Minutes of the last SWRAWP meeting 12.9.12

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

3.Matters arising.

None.

4.South Wales RAWP update.

AS2012 issued.

SWRAWP contract expires 31.3.14.SB(current SWRAWP sec) retires. WG discussing new RAWP contract for next 3-4 years.Ideally a local authority will take on the work.

AS 2013 forms to be despatched on 1.4.14 by the new authority undertaking RAWP duties.

The 4 yearly AM survey will be undertaken asap. Training anticipated autumn 2014 for all LPA officers.(4 year period between surveys to continue)This will give important import/export data.

MPA endorsed the position that the RAWP chair should be financed under any future WG contract.

Carms CC likely to express interest in taking on any new contract but not the role of Chair of SWRAWP. Other authorities were invited to express any interest but none was forthcoming.

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5.NWRAWP update.

The 2012 survey report is still outstanding but it is anticipated it will be ready shortly .In the interim, it is evident limestone sales are relatively flat compared to previous years with a figure of 3.2 mt .Also 400,000 tonnes of limestone is being used for industrial use. There is a reduction in the overall level of reserves for limestone. This may be the result of a re-evaluation exercise by operators and/or the expiry of some planning permissions. Igneous/metamorphic reserves have increased slightly. Sales in this category are down by 30% to 0.7mt.The reason for this reduction may be that the sites are in the relatively remote north west which is some distance from markets. Sand and gravel sales are reduced but only by a small amount to 0.63mt.Slate sales are also fairly flat. Penrhyn quarry has been granted an extension but the site has also been beset by a landslide. Reserves at this site now total 20mt. A brief update of the LDP situation was given and most authorities are at an advanced stage in the process. Several planning permissions are expiring, particularly in the National Parks.

Cement production appears to be increasing which is usually indicative of an upturn in the market.

Some major developments are likely at Runcorn, Wylfa(Anglesey) and coastal defences which have been affected by the prolonged bad weather.

6.RTS first review

It was noted the RTS process has progressed to an advanced stage and is on schedule to be issued on the 1st April at the Member Forum. A final draft has been circulated to all members of the SWRAWP. The RTS steering group has been considering the key stage documents. Any inconsistencies with MTAN1 and MPPW policy have been acknowledged. This reflects changing circumstances to the nature of

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<p>the aggregates market and planning. After the RTS has received Minister endorsement the WG will issue a letter to clarify the relevant departure(s) from current mineral planning policy in MPPW/guidance in MTAN1.</p> <p>There was some concern that the WG statement ought to be in the RTS before it is presented to the Member Forum. It was confirmed it would be difficult to carry this out because the decision of the Member Forum would be required first.</p> <p>In answer to a question as to when the RTS would formally be endorsed it was confirmed it would be the 1st April at the member forum. Thereafter, the Minister will endorse it asap.</p> <p>An issue relating to RCT's LDP was raised and it was agreed matters relating to recent adoption of the development plan ought not to be referred to in the RTS. It was a matter for the individual LPA's to deal with and demonstrate to any Inspector at EIP's the appropriate change in circumstances. However, it was agreed that a short update relating to planning permissions granted since the RTS base date of 31/12/10 ought to be included (re Forest Wood quarry).It was agreed an appropriate amendment to the RTS would be made.</p> <p>Other agreed amendments were as follows:-</p> <p>(i)relating to para 5.7 of the main document- that reference ought to be made to Pembroke Dock and Burry port re landing of marine dredged material.</p> <p>(ii)para B74 of the S Wales Appendix, delete second sentence as it contradicts the wording in B76.</p> <p>(iii)page 51 3rd para of the S Wales Appendix, delete reference to allocations and insert appropriate term.</p> <p>(iv)overall it was considered the use of the different terms i.e. landbank/allocation/provision throughout the RTS needed to be checked for consistency and meaning, and that the report author, Dr Alan Thompson, should be asked to carry out a final read through. It was confirmed the Member Forum would be convened on Tuesday 1st April in Llandrindod Wells Details to be circulated asap. It was agreed the MPA/BAA and NRW be invited.</p> <p>If LPA's are not able to attend then they should forward their endorsement via e mail prior to the event so it can be recorded. Attention was drawn to the format of the front cover of the RTS. It was agreed there should be reference to only <u>one</u> Regional Technical Statement rather than plural. WG/SWRAWP/NWRAWP logo's to be included on front page. Consultants' logo to be included on inside page.</p> <p>In the "Foreword" ,reference to "I" should be changed to "We" as the foreword represents the views of both chairman of the RAWP's in Wales.</p> <p>With regard to the translation of the document it was confirmed all of the document would be translated into Welsh.</p> <p><u>7.MPA report</u></p> <p>There is cautious optimism that the upturn in the market will continue</p>	<p>JS/AT</p> <p>JS/AII</p> <p>AII/AT</p>
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and Central Government have expressed their concern about how the quarry industry can meet the demands of new infrastructure in a short timeframe. Hence, meetings to be held between the parties shortly. It is evident the current exemptions under the Aggregates Levy are to be suspended as a result of EC concerns about state aid. Certain extraction operations involving shale, slate waste, china clay etc currently are not liable to the levy. C and D waste is also not subject to the levy but pfa is included.

Industry is anxious that a level playing field is maintained and no business is given an advantage. Hence control measures need to be precise and fair. There are also questions about the introduction of back charging which may impose an unfair financial burden on businesses which have acted in a manner which they deemed legitimate. They should not be made to pay.

Small shale pits were identified as a difficult problem.

Details of the changes can be accessed via Google.

Regarding the Competition Act-the only significant implications have been for the ready mixed concrete/cement industry where some changes have been enforced. There has been no effect on plants in Wales.

8.Welsh government update

Expiry of the Planning Bill consultation period is 28.2.14.Once representations have been received the Bill will be laid in July and then the scrutiny process commences. There will be a second consolidating Bill. Some of the proposals in the Bill may affect the delivery structure and it is not yet clear where "minerals" fits. It is evident there is a proposal to merge MPPW with PPW. This may seem sensible in principle but it is not straightforward as there will be implications for guidance contained in the TAN's. New or revised TAN's may be required but this will need further consideration.

The deadline for the response to the Williams Commission report is Easter.

The draft Bill includes the provision for future decisions on major infrastructure projects which will be classified as development of national significance to be taken by Welsh ministers. The list of these is contained in Annex B and includes some mineral matters. Defining what would fall within such a regime would be the subject of further regulations and be consulted upon.

At present it is proposed that mineral matters will form part of the new strategic development plans. This seems questionable given the existence of the RTS but it is acknowledged the RTS does not cover coal.

There was a view expressed that "centralisation" is taking place to try and overcome parochial political decisions. It was acknowledged there would be an ongoing debate about this issue especially with the advent of significant changes such as local government reorganisation.

<p>In Wales, it was noted that only proposals generating in excess of 50MW were caught by the UK NIC(mainly windfarms and waste proposals)</p> <p>Current WG research has mainly involved the RTS but also the contract covering the restoration of opencast coal mining in Wales.This is being checked at present. Invitation to all present to submit any ideas for future research topics.</p> <p><u>9.Marine dredging</u></p> <p>A summary of the marine dredging applications will be circulated. A renewal of the unique Bedwin Sands (land based permission for marine dredging!) permission is under discussion. A Marine Aggregates Portfolio and Capability publication is available on the Crown estate website. The link is:- http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/495658/marie-aggregates-capability-and-portfolio-2013.pdf. If a hard copy is required e mail to:- marineminerals@thecrownestate.co.uk.There is also a website www.marineaggregates.info. The Crown Estate is currently undertaking a tender round, and engaging with public bodies, for marine aggregate licences.</p> <p><u>10.Cross boundary issues.</u></p> <p>This item has been generated by a cross boundary quarry site straddling the RTS/Vale admin boundary. Historically, the reserves for such sites have been allocated to the authority in which the main quarry plant and access has been located. Two other quarries in the SWRAWP area have been dealt with in a similar manner and the sales/reserves stats used for the annual survey have reflected this decision.</p> <p>The pro's/con's of the correct approach to be followed was the subject of much discussion It was agreed the SWRAWP's remit did not allow it to determine the manner in which the matter should be resolved. It could only offer advice. Nonetheless it was hoped collaborative working should be pursued in the first instance with a view to reaching a sensible agreement If no such agreement could be reached, the area of land /reserves in each administrative area may be counted separately, but the call on the reserve to meet any apportionment set by the RTS, would be determined by each LPA and ultimately examined by an Inspector at any LDP EIP.</p> <p>There was a call for revised WG policy/guidance to be issued/considered to give certainty but in the meantime continued collaborative working was advocated.</p> <p><u>11.AOB.</u></p> <p>(i)Gryphonn Ltd(Trefil Quarry) have made a request for SWRAWP membership which has been received via Harmers(consultants) The</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JS/SB</p>
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<p>longstanding constitution of the RAWPS provided for industry representation via trade associations(MPA/BAA).It was open to any operator to join one of these bodies, Hence, there was no agreement to individual independent quarry companies being invited to join the SWRAWP as it would set a precedent for any number of independent companies/persons to join and lead to excess membership numbers. The RAWP is not concerned with site specific issues at individual quarries. The current SWRAWP membership already totals 34 members.</p> <p>(ii)With regard to the increased use of concrete/cement, it was stated the strength specification for such material had risen over the years.(20 newtons to 35 newtons) and therefore more cement content was required.It was noted such increases could be as much as 50% higher.</p> <p>(iii)Details of the MPA/RTPI annual mineral planning conference at Edgbaston were outlined. The date is the 22nd May,2014.The main thrust of the event's programme will be the role of the MPA in delivering sustainable development. More details to follow.</p> <p>(iv)LPA officers were asked to briefly confirm around the table what the extent of the cuts meant for service delivery and training etc. In general there was a mixed response but common threads appeared to be:- less staff to deliver services; reduced training budgets; collaborative working where possible; changes in priority services; team mergers; changes in job descriptions; and overall significant budget cuts both now and over the next few years.</p> <p>Industry advised they produced an annual mineral planning report which was available on the MPA website. In general,whilst there appeared to be a substantial reduction in the number of applications submitted for approval this has not resulted in a reduction in the time LPA's need to process the applications.</p> <p>An example of the private sector (applicant)funding a service delivery agreements with LPA's to speed up the discharge of planning conditions was cited. This involved a significant windfarm development.</p> <p><u>Date of next meeting.</u> Provisionally the 10th September,2014. Time and venue to be confirmed by new lead authority.</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>KH</p>
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