

**FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AVOIDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2006, conference room 2, Victoria Quay,  
Edinburgh.**

**Present:** Jim Conlin, Scottish Water – chair.

**Scottish Executive:** Debi Garft (SE, Climate Change and Air Division), Philip Wright (SE, Climate Change and Air Division); Katrine Feldinger (SE, Water Division).

Prof. Alan Werritty (University of Dundee), Jonathan Chapman (Environment Agency (EA)); Steven Tingle (Renfrewshire Council), Dr. Roy Richardson (SEPA), Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH), David Rae (Forestry Commission), John Smith (Royal Town Planning Institute), Iain Matheson (NUF); Morag Garden (Scottish Water); Mike Donaghy (Environment Link).

**Observer:** Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs Babbie); Hugh Clayden (Forestry Commission).

**Apologies:**, John Hood (SE); Andrew Smith (Homes for Scotland); Arthur Philp (Norwich Union).

**Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair and introduction**

1. Jim Conlin (JC) welcomed everyone to the fourth Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC) Avoidance Sub-Committee meeting. He introduced David Rae from the Forestry Commission who was taking over from Jo Ellis on this Sub-Committee and Hugh Clayden who would be taking over from Helen Mackay on the main FIAC Committee. He proposed that Morag Garden becomes the formal Scottish Water representative on the Sub-Committee, which would free him up to chair meetings. Members agreed these changes. Philip Wright (PW) explained that he was attending this meeting for Judith Tracey, who is on maternity leave.

**Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from the third Avoidance Sub-Committee meeting on 2 March 2006.**

2. Members agreed the minutes from the last meeting subject to a minor amendment proposed by Stephen Tingle.

**Action point 1: Secretariat to amend minutes from the previous meeting.**

3. Secretariat confirmed that all the action points from the last meeting had been completed.

**Agenda Item 4: Update on River Basin Management Plans – Katrine Feldinger**

4. Katrine Feldinger (KF) gave an update on progress on River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and explained that SEPA, the EA and EHS (NI) were working on a joint paper (for internal use only) on regulatory economics. KF explained that Members would be able to comment at the development stage. An Executive paper on objective setting in RBMP will be available in September and Members will be able to comment.

### **Agenda Item 5: EC Floods directive – flood risk management plans – Jim Conlin**

5. JC explained the draft directive requirements and said it was encouraging that we did not have to start from scratch in Scotland. PW explained that as a draft document the Directive could be amended significantly and become more onerous for Member States. He added that Scotland would have 2 years to transpose the directive to Scots law if passed.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Links between the River Basin Management and catchment flood management planning processes – paper and next steps – Charles Ainger/Alan Werritty**

6. Charles Ainger (CA) introduced a paper he had produced for this item and suggested a timeline for making links between the 2 processes. He suggested that 2007/08 would be critical for making the most of the opportunities to implement sustainable flood management. Members discussed the options for the type of organisation needed to implement catchment flood management plans and whether they should be taken forward in parallel to WFD plans or as a subset.

7. Members commended the paper and agreed that we had an opportunity to start from scratch and get the best model for Scotland. Members also agreed that it was important to allow for maximum community engagement in the process. Although the option of running catchment flood management plans as part of the WFD process by a ‘virtual’ organisation at catchment level seemed to be most likely it was agreed that all options should be considered. Although Members recognised that it is difficult to set up new organisations in a short period of time. It was agreed that we must not lose sight of the importance of protecting lives and therefore it was important that any work is linked to the final objectives and principles for sustainable flood management.

8. Jonathan Chapman emphasised the importance of taking a strategic approach and suggested that Scotland look to the Welsh model for comparison not just England.

9. JC suggested that the priority was to decide how far FIAC could take this work within its lifespan and to ensure that catchment flood management planning is properly integrated with the WFD work. JC asked for ‘high level thinking’ written answers to the questions posed in CA’s paper; for the working group to meet again to review the responses and report back in time for the next full FIAC meeting on 2 November.

**Action point 2: Members to forward written comments on the paper to CA (copied to Secretariat) for discussion by the end of August for review at the next working group meeting. (Arranged for 22 September at Dundee University).**

**Action point 3: Sub-Committee to report progress at next FIAC Committee meeting on 2 November.**

### **Agenda item 7: Update on the rural development plans consultation – paper from John Henderson**

10. Members were concerned that the summary of the responses to the consultation did not record any mention of flooding. Secretariat agreed to contact agriculture colleagues to find out why there was no record of these responses.

**Action point 4: Secretariat to consult agriculture colleagues about lack of reference to flooding in the responses received.**

**Agenda item 8: Sustainable flood management and land use – paper FIAC2006(5) – next steps – Mike Donaghy.**

11. Mike Donaghy (MD) introduced the revised paper FIAC2006(5). Members agreed that:

- lowering flood risk should be an objective of rural land use policy in Scotland;
- rural land use solutions should be included in flood prevention option assessments and should be viewed as complimentary rather than alternative to more engineered solutions;
- we need clear examples of what each solution can achieve, cost etc;
- the opportunities in the Scottish Rural Development Programme to encourage flood risk reduction through land use measures must not be lost;
- we can't expect landowners to be altruistic about flooding – it's about incentives; and
- the paper should be amended to make it clear that land use measures are part of a portfolio of responses to flood risk management.

MD suggested that the Mountain Environment flood planner and reports from the measures piloted on the River Devon would give some data. Also work planned by the Tweed Forum at a catchment level will give valuable data in time.

**Action point 5: MD to update paper FIAC2006(5) to make it clear that FIAC views land use measures are part of a portfolio of responses to flood risk management.**

**Agenda Item 9 – Update on the sustainable flood management consultation exercise – Debi Garft**

12. Debi Garft (DG) gave an update on the sustainable flood management consultation and explained that the timetable had slipped but the Executive was looking at including interactive workshops during the consultation period and these would have to be organised before the consultation paper is released. She asked Members for their helping attracting target audiences to these workshops.

**Agenda item 10 – The planning system – PPS25 and SPP7 – Nick Evans**

13. This item was postponed until a later meeting.

**Agenda Item 11 – Any Other Business**

14. Members had no other business.

**Next meeting**

15. The next meeting was arranged for 23 November 2006 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

**FIAC Secretariat  
August 2006**