

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2006, Conference Room 12, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

Present: David Faichney (SEPA) – **Chair.**

Scottish Executive (SE): Carolyn Girvan (SE, Climate Change and Air Division), Debi Garft (SE, Climate Change and Air Division).

Alan Motion (Met Office); Stephen McLachlan (East Lothian Council); Dr Andrew Black (University of Dundee); Dinah Keal (National Flood Forum (NFF)); Stephen Merrett (Environment Agency); Martyn Tulloch (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar); Fiona Mactaggart (SNIFFER).

Presenting: Sarah Junik (SEPA); Marc Becker (SEPA); Bridget Woods-Ballard (HR Wallingford).

Apologies: Lynn Mills (SE, Civil Contingencies Unit); Jill Boulton (Norwich Union); Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH); Alistair Dyer (Scottish Water).

Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair and introduction

1. David Faichney (DF) welcomed everyone to the fourth Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee and welcomed new members Martyn Tulloch in place of John Greaves, Stephen Merrett in place of Tony Andryszewski and Carolyn Girvan who is substituting for Judith Tracey. DF informed Members that John Greaves, who had retired from Highland Council because of ill health, sadly died in February. Members offered their condolences.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from the third Sub-Committee meeting held on 4 May 2006.

2. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed. Debi Garft (DG) confirmed that all but one action point had been completed. Action point 1 was outstanding but Stephen Merrett (SM) offered to forward copies of relevant EA material on producing and using flood maps.

Agenda Item 4 – Update on second generation flood map – Marc Becker, SEPA

3. Marc Becker gave a full update on the *Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map-Scotland*. He explained that local authorities would have access to 100, 200 and 1000 year outlines but only the 200-year outline will be available on the web. Contracts will be issued to local authorities this month and the official public release is scheduled for November. Stephen Mclaughlin (SMc) said that the map was a huge leap forward and would help him target the correct people for flood warnings. It was agreed that although the map was originally produced to support SPP7 and the planning process it is clear that it will have a range of users and uses. SM agreed to identify any EA information on updating and maintaining flood maps and pass these onto SEPA. Dinah Keal warned about insurance companies making blanket decisions on the basis of the map. DF explained that the map cannot be used for commercial purposes at the moment although agreed that this might be

difficult to police. AB commended SEPA on how it had reviewed the data and said it reflected well on the expertise within SEPA.

Action point 1: SM to forward useful EA information to SEPA on maintaining and updating flood maps.

Agenda item 5: Flood Awareness Campaign – Sarah Junik SEPA

4. Sarah Junik explained that a 6-month awareness raising campaign will be launched by the Deputy Minister for the Environment and Rural Development, Ms Rhona Brankin, on 10 October at Colinton Primary School, Edinburgh. Thereafter the campaign will focus on 15 flood warning schemes and aim to raise awareness of these schemes. The campaign will focus around a trailer and an educational play aimed at children and will work with existing community groups to tailor local requirements.

Agenda item 6 – Overview of Coastal Flooding Issues in the Outer Hebrides – Martyn Tulloch.

5. Martyn Tulloch (MT) gave an overview of the coastal flooding issues facing islands such as the Outer Hebrides. He explained the damage caused by the severe storm of January 2005 and how Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is responding. He highlighted the importance of raising community confidence after an extreme event. Alan Motion explained that the storm event had a 1 in 40 return year period.

Agenda item 7 – Assessing the benefits of flood warning – results from phase one – Bridget Woods-Ballard, HR Wallingford.

6. Bridget Woods-Ballard (BWB) presented the findings from the SNIFFER scoping study to consider the tangible and intangible benefits of flood warning schemes. The study reviewed how benefits can be assessed and a literature review was carried out. The study found that there is a paucity of data on the benefits of flood warning schemes. It recognises the importance of being able to assess the intangible benefits but found no models to evaluate the scale of these benefits.

7. DF explained that SEPA would use outputs from the study to help SEPA take a more strategic approach to choosing flood warning schemes in the future. Members agreed that it was important not to assume that the same warning scheme will fit all areas. SM explained that the EA was carrying out various pieces of work on flood warning. In particular it is reviewing its methodology for selection of flood warning schemes and undertaking a Rapid Response Catchment Study for areas where the EA cannot offer a flood warning scheme. Fiona Mactaggart (FMac) explained that SNIFFER would now be considering funding for stage 2 of the project.

Agenda item 8 – Developments in Coastal Flood Warning – David Faichney

8. DF explained that SEPA has received several requests for coastal warning schemes. It is therefore developing a coastal flood warning strategy so that it is able to take a longer term look at coastal risk. The strategy will be launched this autumn in time for the high tides at the beginning of the year.

9. DF explained that the Executive has funded stage one of the strategy but SEPA is now trying to identify the risk of flooding in key areas and gather more data to help identify gaps

and the extent of the work required and how this might impact on SEPA's resources and day to day business.

10. DF outlined how FIAC might help SEPA continue to develop its coastal flood warning strategy. He suggested that it would be helpful to undertake a scoping study to help identify the gaps in the strategy.

Agenda item 9: Collating current work on raising awareness.

11. FIAC identified the importance of coordinating work and activities on raising flood awareness in a bid to stop duplication and sending out mixed messages. Members discussed ideas for a more joined-up approach and how an organisation similar to the NFF would help this process in Scotland. In the meantime FMac offered to place links to relevant sites on the SNIFFER website.

Agenda Item 10 and 11 – Any other business and next meeting

12. DF thanked MB, SJ, BWB and MT for their presentations.

Action point 2: Secretariat to make presentations available on the FIAC website.

13. DK invited Members to the National Flood Forum annual National Conference on 23 September in Bradford.

14. It was agreed that collating awareness raising work, Community Risk Registers and how to involve the NFF more in Scotland should all be tabled for the next Sub-Committee meeting.

15. The next and final meeting was arranged for 18 January 2007 at Victoria Quay.

**FIAC Secretariat
October 2006**