

## **FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2006, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.**

**Present:** Philip Wright (Scottish Executive, (SE), Climate Change and Air Division – chair).

**Scottish Executive:** Helen Kemp (SE, Climate Change and Air Division – minutes), Debi Garft (SE, Climate Change and Air Division), Carolyn Girvan (SE, Climate Change and Air Division), John Henderson (SE, Rural Affairs).

Prof. Alan Werritty (University of Dundee), Alvin Barber (City of Edinburgh Council), Dr Tim Jolley (Carl Bros), Steven Tingle (Renfrewshire Council), Dr Roy Richardson (SEPA), Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH), Jim Conlin (Scottish Water), Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs), Helen McKay (Forestry Commission), David Rooke (Environment Agency (EA)), John Smith (Royal Town Planning Institute), Andrew Smith (Homes for Scotland), Dr John Riddell (Independent Consultant), Mike Donaghy (Scottish Environment LINK), Hugh Clayden (Forestry Commission), Phil Boon (Scottish Natural Heritage), David Faichney (SEPA).

**Apologies:** Matt Crossman (Association of British Insurers), John Hood (SE), Nick Evans (SE, Planning Division), Jim Hutchison (DEFRA), Jonathan Dennis (SE Analytical Services), Iain Mathieson (NFU Scotland).

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

1. Philip Wright (PW) welcomed everyone to the fifth Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC) meeting and introduced Carolyn Girvan (CG) and Helen Kemp (HK) new members of the Flooding, Erosion and Reservoirs Team. He informed members of the resignation of Di Keal of the National Flood Forum (NFF) from the Committee and that the NFF will identify a replacement for her. PW welcomed Phil Boon (PB) to the Committee and acknowledged Tim Jolley's (TJ) new role at Carl Bros. He also welcomed David Faichney (DF) who has taken over from TJ as Chair of the Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from the fourth FIAC meeting on 15 June 2006.**

2. Members agreed the minutes from the previous meeting subject to a minor amendment of PPG25 instead of PPS and the correction of Tim Jolley's initials. Secretariat confirmed that all the action points had been completed. Ronnie Falconer (RF) asked if the SCOTS Flooding Group is now happy with the outcomes from JBA asset database study on existing flood prevention schemes. The position was unclear: the Secretariat undertook to make enquiries.

**Action point 1: Secretariat to contact David Seaman (SE) to check that concerns had been raised with JBA and Steven Tingle (ST) or Alvin Barber (AB) to ensure that SCOTS is satisfied.**

#### **Agenda Item 4: Sub-Committee progress reports**

*Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee*

3. DF presented paper FIAC2006(12) and reported progress from the Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee as follows:

- Marc Becker (SEPA) gave a technical presentation and update on the second generation flood map and its importance to SPP7.
- Sarah Junik (SEPA) updated Members on the SEPA Flood Awareness Campaign. This will now extend over a 6-month period for 3 years.
- Coastal Flooding Issues were considered with a presentation from Martyn Tulloch.
- Bridget Woods-Ballard gave an overview of the SNIFFER scoping study to consider the tangible and intangible benefits of flood warning schemes.
- Engaging with communities was identified as an important issue for the future and this would be followed up with the National Flood Forum.

4. The following points were raised in discussion:

- Alan Werritty (AW) asked for more details of the SEPA Coastal Flood Warning Schemes. DF explained that SEPA had received a number of requests for schemes following the storm event of January 2005. SEPA has identified that daily storm surge residuals could be extended to an alert service to give key areas coastal flood warnings. Nine coastal areas have been identified for an early alert service. DF explained that SEPA is developing a strategy for coastal flood warning and the Sub-Committee has been considering how it can help the process.
- Members discussed storm tide forecasting and tsunami risks. David Rooke (DR) explained that research shows that there is only a very low risk of a tsunami affecting the UK and the EA has no plans to do any work on them. Coastal Flood Warning has now been delegated to the EA who have agreed to work with Northern Ireland and Scotland to develop a strategy for using the storm tide forecasting service.
- There were 43,000 hits on the SEPA flood map on its first day. John Smith (JS) raised concerns about local authorities interpreting the flood map differently. DF stated that initial training and ongoing contact would help ensure consistency.

#### *Avoidance Sub-Committee*

5. Jim Conlin (JC) introduced paper FIAC2006(13) and reported progress from the Avoidance Sub-Committee. Items from this Sub-Committee were discussed in detail later on the agenda at items 6 and 7.

#### *Alleviation Sub-Committee*

6. CG presented paper FIAC2006(14) and reported progress from the Alleviation Sub-Committee. Real progress has been made on writing the technical guidance for flood prevention schemes with drafts of Chapter 4: Design Standards and Chapter 7: Environmental Appraisals, ready for comments. She introduced the flooding categorisation table prepared by Jacobs proposed to be included in the technical guidance. Members agreed that it would be difficult to get a definitive answer on each type of flooding. What was important is that it is cross-referenced with the work on sustainable flood management and is based on sound science. DR suggested the definitions should tie in with OFWAT's. Members agreed that the table was very helpful.

**Action point 2: Members to forward further comments and footnote proposals for the classification table, as tracked changes, to the Secretariat by 17 November 2006.**

**Action point 3: Comments on Chapters 4 and 7 to be returned to the Secretariat by 17 November 2006.**

7. Members discussed the SCOTS Flooding Group guidance and agreed that members should forward a note of any inaccuracies in the guidance. It was also clarified that the guidance could not be incorporated into the Executive's formal guidance.

**Action point 4: SCOTS Guidance to be made available to FIAC Committee members and that they be invited to provide comments.**

8. PW thanked the Sub-Committee Chairs for their reports.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Review of FIAC Workplan**

9. PW apologised to members but due to other pressures on the Flooding Team a 'traffic light' report on the current position on the items in the FIAC Workplan was unable to be tabled. It was agreed to defer this discussion until the next meeting.

**Action point 5: Traffic light update on progress to be prepared by CG and issued before the next meeting with a request for comments.**

#### **Agenda Item 6: Catchment flood management planning and River Basin Management Plans**

10. CA and AW presented this paper and reported back progress from the Working Group on Catchment Strategy Planning, set up by the Avoidance Sub-Committee. CA suggested that it was now up to FIAC to decide what it can achieve from the paper. He suggested that spring 2007 was a critical time in the decision making process, with the Executive starting to consider new legislation and how flooding issues will impact on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) process during phase one. The Working Group identified other critical deadline dates that need to be considered in this process. One of the main challenges will be how to integrate all the different plans:- rural; energy; environmental; planning; etc. Ideally there should be one consistent database for all the plans but decisions would need to be made about who should have overall responsibility for the database and its maintenance. The paper presents the options for a structure and a framework for delivering catchment strategy planning.

11. PW recognised that at this stage FIAC cannot come to a final view but can set out the options and what the implications would be for each. He said that the paper would provide a useful basis for further consultation with Executive colleagues with the objective of arriving at a corporate view.

12. Roy Richardson (RR) clarified that as the WFD is primarily concerned with water quality: SEPA is fulfilling its duty. He added that if catchment flood management planning becomes an integral part of river basin management planning then there should be a lead authority. If that were to be SEPA then it would be a fundamental change in its

responsibilities. RR agreed to come back to FIAC with a SEPA corporate view on how sustainable flood management can be promoted through River Basin Management Plans. Members agreed that the lead organisation does not have to be responsible for implementation as well. DR suggested that Scotland must address the fundamental question of whether responsibility for flood risk management should lie with an elected body i.e. local authorities or an organisation that is not accountable at a local level.

13. JC updated Members on the Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan and the structure being put in place to implement the plan.

**Action point 6: Written comments on the Catchment Strategy Planning paper should be sent to AW and CA and the Secretariat by 17 November 2006.**

**Action point 7: RR to confirm SEPA's corporate view on how sustainable flood management can be promoted through River Basin Management Plans.**

#### **Agenda Item 7: Sustainable flood management consultation exercise**

14. Debi Garft provided an update on the sustainable flood management consultation, which is almost complete. A regulatory impact assessment will have to be prepared before the consultation paper can go out. New resources are currently being sought to take this forward. PW suggested that the consultation paper might usefully include 2 or 3 questions about the links between sustainable flood management and River Basin Management Plans.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map – Scotland**

15. DF provided a live demonstration of the SEPA Flood Map, launched on 1 November 2006.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Any Other Business**

16. The FIAC Information Sheet included a note from SNIFFER on proposals for a national conference next February.

17. AW reported that the final report from the Social Impacts study carried out by Dundee University for the Executive would be completed soon.

18. John Henderson explained that, following restructuring of responsibilities in SEERAD, Roy McLachlan will take over his role on FIAC.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Next meeting:**

19. The next meeting was arranged for 1 March 2007 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

**FIAC Secretariat  
February 2007**