

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2005, Meeting Room 1H-56, Victoria Quay,
Edinburgh.**

Present: Tim Jolley (Head of Hydrology, SEPA)- Chair,

Scottish Executive: Chris Birt (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division – minutes), Debi Garft (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division), Judith Tracey (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division), Hazel Gallagher (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division), David Steane (Housing Policy Officer, Development Department),

Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH), Alistair Dyer (Scottish Water), Dinah Keal (National Flood Forum), Dr Andrew Black (University of Dundee), John Greaves (Highland Council), Stephen McLachlan (East Lothian Council), David Faichney (SEPA)

Apologies: Jill Boulton (Norwich Union), Tony Andryszewski (Environment Agency), Lynn Mills (Civil Contingencies, JD, SE)

Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair and introduction

1. The Chair, Tim Jolley (TJ), welcomed everyone to the first Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee and Members introduced themselves.
2. TJ explained the background to the Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC) and the Sub-Committee for those attending who were not members of FIAC.
3. Members discussed how important it was for there to be representation from insurance industry on the Sub-Committee and if need be Secretariat would ask for a substitute if Jill Boulton was unable to attend.

Agenda Item 3: Membership and workplan – paper FIAC2005(6) for discussion.

4. TJ introduced the workplan, which he explained had been drawn up by SEPA and the Executive and was open for discussion.
5. Members discussed the second generation flood map as a tool for raising awareness. It was agreed that:
 - flood mapping should not be confined to the SEPA map as it only cover fluvial and coastal flooding;
 - it is essential that we know who the customers are;
 - we identify gaps in knowledge;
 - we need to define ‘awareness’.
6. Charles Ainger (CA) gave members an up-date on the latest work on sustainable flood management and how the proposed objectives and principles might link with awareness and assistance elements of the National Flooding Framework.

7. The Sub-Committee discussed awareness raising, and the annual SEPA flood awareness campaign.. Members discussed the following issues:

- The difficulties associated with mapping sewer flooding and how to handle ‘awareness’ of this data. Also the importance of understanding where the flooding comes from. The Sub-Committee agreed that the work being undertaken in Glasgow to model the interaction of watercourses and the sewer system was leading the way in this area and the Sub-Committee should take a more detailed look at this integrated approach and learn from it
- The importance of using community based knowledge to build up data i.e. photographs of local flooding events.
- The issues that ‘openness’ raises and Members recognised that openness and consultation can help improve relationships between authorities and communities.
- It was noted that generally the public are not pro-active about flooding; they were often only interested once they had been flooded. Broad brush campaigns do not work instead we need to target people with specific information.
- Members noted that this was a great opportunity for bodies to work together to produce an integrated flood risk data base. But how do you bring together, manage and make available the different sources of information?
- It was agreed that we need to standardise flood events reporting. A recent JBA report on the ‘Cost of Flooding’ proposes a draft reporting form, which could provide a starting place for these considerations. The Executive is also looking to standardise local authority biennial flooding reports.
- It would be useful to have a matrix to detail what questions each stakeholder group might ask.

Action point 1 – TJ to rework the workplan and circulate to Members for comments.

Action point 2 – Secretariat to contact Alistair Dyer to arrange a future presentation on the Glasgow drainage plan.

Action point 3 – Paper to be prepared by SE/SEPA detailing who is at risk, and what questions they might ask.

Agenda Item 4 - Flood maps as a tool for raising awareness: progress and issues – Tim Jolley

8. TJ updated Members on Second Generation Flood Risk Map progress and confirmed that a copy of his presentation to FIAC on 21 April was available on the FIAC website at: (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/16919/FIAC>). The Map is still on course to be completed in autumn 2005 and available on-line by March 2006.

9. He explained that most likely fluvial and coastal flooding would now be shown separately. Members accepted that it was important that the public recognised and understood the uncertainties in the Map.

Action point 4 –Secretariat to add direct links from FIAC website to map information on SEPA website.

Agenda Item 5 - Flood warning dissemination working group – Judith Tracey

10. Judith Tracey explained that after a meeting with key stakeholders on flood warning dissemination it was decided that while there would be shared responsibility in an emergency but SEPA would lead on flood warning dissemination. Thereafter the police would take over when the situation requires evacuations etc.

11. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed in more detail at a later meeting. Members highlighted that:

- effective flood warning had to be backed up with well considered contingency/emergency planning.
- it would be helpful to have a map showing how lead roles and responsibilities should link up.
- the transition between the lead body and partners will be difficult and it was agreed that emergency planners will play a very important role here.
- the National Flood Forum has had success in raising public awareness at a local parish level but involving people on a larger scale can be an uphill battle.

Agenda Item 6: A Flood Warning Strategy: Background and Issues – David Faichney

12. David Faichney (DF), SEPA, gave a presentation outlining SEPA's role in flood warning; a copy of his presentation will be available online.

Action point 5 – Secretariat to make David Faichney's presentation available online.

13. DF explained that SEPA can give a time and zone information for flood warnings but the level of information given tended to rely on what the local authority had experience of and need for. Local authorities tended not to require detailed information, they merely want to know where flooding is likely to occur and when, for instance if they need to close flood gates.

14. Members discussed how flood warning schemes are requested by local authorities and are therefore not considered in a strategic level. It was agreed however that Floodline had brought a lot of consistency to flood warning dissemination. It was also pointed out that in applying a sustainable flood management approach, a flood warning scheme could be a flood protection option. However local authorities might need to develop expertise on how to do this type of flood risk assessment.

15. It was explained that SEPA and emergency planners do communicate effectively in many cases to make sure that warnings reach the appropriate places.

Agenda Item 7 - Update on local authority Home Insurance Scheme: review – David Steane, Scottish Executive, Housing Division.

16. David Steane (DS) gave a presentation on the home insurance review, which will be made available on the FIAC website.

17. DS explained that it is for local authorities and SFHA (Scottish Federation of Housing Associations) to take forward awareness raising aspects of the campaign. It was commented that it would be possible to include this in the SEPA flood awareness fortnight. It

was agreed that people need to understand why they need insurance, whether for flooding or some other incident.

18. DS confirmed that the insurance offered is considered to be sound and value for money.

Agenda Item 8 - Report back from extreme weather conference for emergency planners - Judith Tracey.

19. Judith Tracey explained that the conference had been a success and that the following issues were highlighted:

- that no matter how rigorous your emergency plan was it needed testing in an emergency scenario to consider its effectiveness. It is essential that plans are suitable for a range of emergencies.
- that all bodies need to reconsider how they deal with flood warnings and severe weather warnings.
- that there needs to be effective communication between all stakeholders and emergency services; there should also be a standby element to the plan.
- calls for additional funding to provide appropriate response.

Action point 6 – Secretariat to put conference report on the FIAC website, when available.

20. Members discussed responsibility for raising flood awareness. It was explained that there was no statutory duty on SEPA to do so but that it tended to.

Agenda Item 9 – Any other business

21. It was agreed that the next meeting should be just after the next FIAC meeting.

22. Outputs from a recent meeting of the Tayside Flooding Forum were discussed; in particular the call for more awareness raising of the property owners' responsibility to protect their own property.

**FIAC Secretariat
July 2005**