

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AVOIDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 08 September 2005, Conference Room 3, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

Present: Jim Conlin (Scottish Water) - Chair,

Scottish Executive: Donald Bailey (SEERAD, Farm Business Restructuring Division) Ramsay Dow (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division – minutes), Victoria Elliot (SEERAD, Water Division), Debi Garft (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division), Emily Postan (SEERAD, Sustainable Development Directorate).

Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH); Jonathan Chapman (Environment Agency); Mike Donaghy (Scottish Environmental LINK); Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs Babbie); David Howell (SNH); Adrian Johnson (MWH); Fiona MacTaggart (SNIFFER); Iain Mathieson (NFU Scotland); Dr Roy Richardson (SEPA); Alastair Smith (Aberdeenshire Council); John Smith (Royal Town Planning Institute, Scotland); Stephen Tingle (Renfrewshire Council); Trevor Wade (Cascade Consultants); Prof. Alan Werrity (University of Dundee).

Observer: George Gray (Angus Council).

Apologies: June Graham (SEPA), Judith Tracey (SEERAD, Air, Climate and Engineering Division), Andrew Smith (Homes for Scotland)

Changes: Roy Richardson stood in for June Graham.

Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair, Jim Conlin (Scottish Water) and introductions.

1. The Chair, Jim Conlin (JC) welcomed everyone to the first Avoidance Sub-Committee meeting and Members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 3: Membership and work-plan – paper FIAC2005(7) for discussion

2. JC introduced the workplan and asked for any comments on the workplan items and membership. Members decided that a representative from the insurance industry should be asked to sit on the Sub-Committee.

Action Point 1: Secretariat to approach Dr Sebastian Catovsky (ABI) for advice on who might represent the insurance industry on the Avoidance Sub-Committee.

3. Members agreed that although the Alleviation Sub-Committee is tasked with reviewing current legislation the Avoidance Sub-Committee should feed into this process as well.

4. Members discussed the workplan as set out in FIAC paper FIAC2005 (7) and considered each item separately. Members agreed the following:

Planning

- SPP7 will, like all SPPs, need review at some point in the future. At this stage it would be helpful to the sub-committee to have a presentation by a planning authority on the practicalities of taking SPP7 into account in development control and development planning.
- It is essential that planners are involved in the sustainable flood management consultation process.

Action point 2: Secretariat to liaise with Nick Evans for a later meeting

Building Standards

- The Alleviation Sub-Committee has an interest in building standards but this Sub-Committee should keep a watching brief.
- PAN 69 leads the way in the UK and is making a difference.
- Building standards, planning and other similar issues should be considered together at a later Sub-Committee meeting.

Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003

5. The Sub-Committee agreed that this issue should be divided as it was too large a subject area to tackle under one heading.

River Basin Management

6. Members discussed the Executive's paper on the designation of responsible authorities. Victoria Elliot (VE) gave background to the proposed legislation on responsible authorities and said that she welcomed comments on flooding related issues from FIAC. She explained that the closing date for responses is 24 October. Secretariat agreed to forward a web link for the discussion paper.

Action Point 3: Secretariat to provide Members with a website link for the responsible authority's discussion paper.

7. Members agreed that it was important to present a FIAC response to the discussion paper. John Smith (JS) and Stephen Tingle (ST) agreed to collate responses from Members and present (if possible) a consensus view from FIAC on the Executive's proposals. JC asked that members take time to consider whether the correct responsible authorities are being designated. This item will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Action point 4: FIAC's response to the designation of responsible authorities discussion paper to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. VE explained that once the Executive has considered all the responses it will modify the paper and produce a policy statement.

Action Point 5: Sub Committee members to submit short flooding-related comments on the discussion paper to ST and JS (copied to Secretariat) by the 30 September. These comments should be passed to the Executive's WFD Team by 11 November 2005.

Sustainable Flood Management Pilot Study

9. The sustainable flood management pilot study was discussed later at agenda item 5.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

10. JC introduced this topic and said that it was important to understand what SuDS can and cannot do and to realise that SuDS will not solve every flooding problem. It was also agreed that public awareness of SuDS needs to be improved.

11. JC explained about the National Working Party on SuDS and it was agreed that it was important to ensure that FIAC did not duplicate the work of this group. It was agreed that we should invite a Member from the SuDS working party to give a presentation on its work at a later Sub-Committee meeting.

Land Use

12. Members agreed that this item on the workplan needs to be developed especially in light of changes to land management contracts from 2007.

13. Members discussed suggestions how this item might be tackled by the Sub-Committee. Mike Donaghy (MD) and David Howell (DH) agreed to produce a short discussion paper for the next meeting.

Action Point 6: MD and DH to produce a discussion paper on land use issues for the next meeting of the Sub Committee.

Cross Cutting Issues

14. Members agreed that it was important for the Sub-Committee to keep up to-date with current research into flooding in general and that a research agenda could be developed to give a more systematic approach to sharing information with other groups. Fiona MacTaggart (FM) explained that SNIFFER was currently identifying a research agenda with Scottish stakeholders and she thought it would be possible for it to filter information for FIAC. FM agreed to discuss this issue separately with the Executive. Members agreed that it would be useful to have SNIFFER's help here. Alan Werritty (AW) said that it was important for FIAC to also consider UK and EU research studies from a Scottish perspective. FM explained that SNIFFER currently had the expertise to manage the process but it is working to develop expertise so that it can consider and assess research papers for Scottish relevance in the future.

Action Point 7: Members agreed that JC should review the Sub-Committee workplan prior to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Sustainable flood management – background and update – Debi Garft (DG)

15. DG updated Members on progress on defining sustainable flood management, in particular the Pilot Study, which would conclude in October.

Agenda Item 5: Sustainable flood management pilot study – interim report and presentation by MWH/Jacobs Babbie.

16. Adrian Johnston (AJ) and Ronnie Falconer (RF) presented the interim report on the MWH/Jacobs Babbie sustainable flood management Pilot Study.

17. AW expressed interest in the initial peer review carried out by Barbara Carroll in particular the suggestion that we move away from ‘numeric’ indicators and suggested that this work could be built upon. AW also expressed concern that the methodology involved with the pilot study was a ‘one size fits all’ one. AJ suggested that the pilot study could be used as a ‘tool box’.

18. JC said it was important to be measuring how well we are doing rather than what gets done first. Members agreed that comments should be taken from the Sub-Committee before the final report is prepared and that all FIAC Members should be given an opportunity to address the points raised by the pilot study. Members agreed that a strategic approach should be taken to sustainable flood management. They also raised concerns about the suggestions in the interim report to simplify things by deleting some principles.

19. JC thanked AJ and RF for their presentation.

Action Point 8: Members to forward their comments on the interim report to AJ by 20 September.

Agenda Item 6: Flood Management and Multifunctional Land Use in River Catchments - presentation from Alasdair Smith, Aberdeenshire Council – paper FIAC2005(10).

20. Alasdair Smith (AS) gave a presentation on flood management and multifunctional land use on the Tarland Burn and the Dee catchment.

21. AS explained that the approach taken in Aberdeenshire was to introduce measures to slow down the flow in burns and this in turn would help reduce the impacts of flooding from rivers. Iain Mathieson expressed concern about how these measures could be used with high flow rates on major rivers, such as the Tay. AS explained that this approach had worked on the Dee. However Members recognised that it might still be necessary to use storage and flood prevention schemes as well. Members also recognised that farmers were pivotal to this approach to flood management.

22. JC thanked AS for his presentation.

23. JC expressed concern that Members did not have enough time to discuss each agenda item and in future agendas should be shorter with longer discussion periods after presentations.

Action point 9: Secretariat to allow more time for discussion when preparing agenda.

Agenda Item 7: Broad Scale Ecosystem Impact Modelling Toolbox for Scotland – presentation by Cascade Consulting Ltd.

24. Trevor Wade (TW) presented a new tool box method for ecosystem modelling. The project was commissioned by SNIFFER and is funded by the Executive. The toolbox demonstrates how practitioners can incorporate an ecology element into flood risk management. TW used the Dee catchment as a case study and considered the potential applications of the toolbox in Scotland.

25. JC thanked TW for his presentation.

Agenda Item 8 and 9: AOB and Next meeting

26. David Howell gave details and circulated a copy of the agenda for the SNH sustainable flood management good practice seminar on 14 September 2005.

27. DG asked if Members require all papers and presentations from other FIAC Sub-Committee meetings and it was agreed that they would only require the minutes from other meetings.

Next meeting

28. The Sub-Committee agreed that the next meeting would take place on 1 December 2005 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

FIAC Secretariat

October 2005