

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AWARENESS AND ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2005, SEPA Offices, Perth.

Present: Dr. Tim Jolley (Head of Hydrology, SEPA) – **Chair.**

Scottish Executive (SE): Ramsay Dow (SE, Air, Climate and Engineering Division – minutes), Debi Garft (SE, Air, Climate and Engineering Division), Judith Tracey (SE, Air, Climate and Engineering Division).

Jill Boulton (Norwich Union), Tony Andryszewski (Environment Agency (EA)), Alistair Dyer (Scottish Water), Dinah Keal (National Flood Forum), Dr Andrew Black (University of Dundee), Stephen McLachlan (East Lothian Council), David Faichney (SEPA), David Page (Hyder Consultants), Alan Motion (Met Office).

Observer: Helen Buchanan (SEPA).

Apologies: Lynn Mills (SE, Civil Contingencies,) Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH), John Greaves (Highland Council).

Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair and introduction

1. The Chair, Tim Jolley (TJ), welcomed everyone to the second Awareness and Assistance Sub-Committee and Members introduced themselves including Mr Alan Motion (AM) who joined the group

Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from the first Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 June 2005.

2. TJ went through the action points from the previous meeting and are summarised as follows:

- Action point 1 – TJ to rework the workplan and it was circulated to Members for comments on 20 September.
- Action point 2 – A presentation on the Glasgow drainage plan is on the agenda at item 8 today.
- Action point 3 – The proposal for a joint SE/SEPA paper detailing who is at risk, and what questions they might ask is outstanding.
- Action point 4 – Secretariat will add direct links from FIAC website to map information on SEPA website when the second generation map is available.
- Action points 5 and 6 –David Faichney’s presentation and the Severe Weather conference report is now available on the FIAC website.

3. Members agreed the minutes from the first meeting.

Agenda Item 4 - Revised work plan – paper FIAC2005 (6) and the Priorities for FIAC FIAC2005 (11) for discussion - Tim Jolley

4. TJ introduced the priorities for FIAC detailed in paper FIAC2005 (11) and explained that the Sub-Committee's revised workplan matched the priorities identified in the priorities paper. Members agreed that the workplan would be very helpful in taking forward the Sub-Committee's work.

5. Members discussed the revised workplan. Dr Andrew Black (AB) suggested that when raising awareness it is important that people understand their 'vulnerability' to flooding and this can make people more proactive. Jill Boulton (JB) suggested that raised insurance premiums help raise awareness. She confirmed that the Norwich Union flood risk map for Scotland would be available next year and will show properties at risk of flooding which, in future, could be required to pay a premium. The group agreed that the insurance industry would have a major part to play in the future of flooding in Scotland.

6. The group also discussed flood mapping in general and in particular the difficulties presented by producing a flood map. Dinah Keal (DK) informed the group that the Environment agency would soon be publishing a guide on the production of flood maps and the inherent difficulties involved. The group agreed that this was a good idea and that the guide should be distributed to members as soon as it is published.

Action Point 1: Secretariat to distribute the Environment Agency guide to members of the committee upon release.

7. The group also discussed the involvement of communities and it was agreed that a community 'driver' should be included in the priorities for the group; as awareness raising is very effective on a community scale and as such should be included. It was agreed that FIAC2005 (11) should be amended to reflect this.

8. Another key issue discussed by the group was the use of interim solutions to reduce the impact of flood events. Alistair Dyer (AD) told the group about work being carried out by Scottish Water that provided interim solutions for customers who were subject to small scale sewage flooding events, this included supplying the home owners with equipment and warning them if a flooding event was likely to happen. AD informed the group that this scheme had been very successful and offered some protection to over 800 homes all across Scotland. Judith Tracey told the group about the work being conducted within the Executive looking at ways by which schemes similar to this could be funded and referred to the Welsh Pilot Study presentation delivered by Peter Jones.

9. TJ also led a discussion on the role and activities of SEPA and told the group that SEPA were trying to move from a reactionary position to a more active role. Work in this area would include increasing lead times for flooding events and a review of the cost/benefit ratios involved with flood warning systems.

10. The final point discussed by the group was a request from TJ for the committee members to inform the secretariat of ideas for discrete work parcels that could be worked upon by a small group of members and the need for a knowledge base document that would summarise the current information available in relation to flooding issues. Both of these actions would be very useful in increasing the output for the sub-committee as a whole.

Action Point 2: Members of the group to submit ideas for work parcels to Secretariat for discussion at the next committee meeting

Action Point 3: TJ to produce a document to collate information on current research and development activities, relevant to the sub-committee, to raise awareness of these programmes and to allow the sub-committee to identify any gaps

Agenda Item 5 - Progress report on second generation flood map – Tim Jolley

11. TJ introduced the current situation regarding the production of the second generation flood maps being produced by SEPA. Here follows a brief summary of the main points:

- SEPA are in discussion with the contractors regarding discontinuity with the fluvial outlines and SEPA are happy with 90% of the river datasets but the refinement of the remaining outlines is time consuming and costly.
- The maps are also being held up by legal and licensing issues and several members of the group, which had been involved in other mapping projects, commented that this also could be a very lengthy and costly process.
- SEPA are concerned that the original timeframe for the release of the maps to the public will be held up by the above factors but will still be on track to distribute the maps to practitioners by March 2006.
- TJ also told the group that he hopes to deliver a more detailed report to the main FIAC committee in February 2006.

Agenda Item 6 - Flood warning dissemination advisory board – Judith Tracey.

12. Judith Tracey (JT) told the group about the start up meeting for the Flood warning dissemination working group that is to be held on 9 December 2005. Then Helen Buchanan, (HB) who is also a member of the advisory board, went on to tell the group about the meeting, saying that the first meeting would be very much a scoping exercise for the board and the main aim was to identify any gaps in the membership of the group.

Agenda Item 7 - Flood Awareness Fortnight - a report on past campaigns – Tim Jolley/David Faichney.

13. David Faichney (DF) delivered a presentation to the group concerning the past campaigns of SEPA's Flood awareness fortnight and the future refinement of SEPA's strategy towards flood awareness.

Action Point 4: Secretariat to make DF's presentation available online

14. TJ highlighted the problems faced with any flood awareness raising exercise and the group discussed the issues surrounding it. Tony Andryszewski (TA) informed the group that the Environment agency with a budget of £2 million had very similar results; and told the group that using 'shock tactics' was of some benefit. The group also discussed the social cost

of flooding and agreed that people's perceptions of a flood event were greatly distorted i.e. that they would leave their homes for 2-3 weeks where in actual fact they would not return for about 9 months.

Agenda Item 8 - Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan – presentation from David Page from Hyder Consultants.

15. David Page (DP) delivered a presentation on the Glasgow strategic drainage plan and then TJ thanked DP for the presentation and asked the group for questions. DP highlighted two main areas of difficulty in the implementation of the plan; the involvement of such a large group of stakeholders and making sure the process was democratic and the funding implications of the plan itself. The group agreed that the drainage plan was very promising and the groups involved should be commended.

Agenda Item 9 and 10 – Any other business and next meeting

16. Members had no further business to discuss. The next meeting was scheduled for 23 March 2006.

**FIAC Secretariat
November 2005**