

## **FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **AVOIDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 01 December 2005, Conference Room 12, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.**

**Present:** Jim Conlin (Scottish Water) – **Chair.**

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

Mike Donaghy (Scottish Environmental LINK), Jo Ellis (Forestry Commission), David Howell (SNH), Iain Mathieson (NFU Scotland), Andrew Smith (Homes for Scotland), Stephen Tingle (Renfrewshire Council), Prof. Alan Werritty (University of Dundee).

**Observer:** Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs Babbie).

**Apologies:** Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH); Dr. Jonathan Chapman (Environment Agency) John Hood (SE, Farm Business Restructuring Division) Arthur Philp (Norwich Union), Emily Postan (SE), Dr. Roy Richardson (SEPA), John Smith (Royal Town Planning Institute, Scotland).

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

1. Jim Conlin (JC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Members introduced themselves, including Ronnie Falconer (RF) who was attending the meeting as an observer in his capacity as lead technical author for the local authorities guidance project.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from last meeting held on 8 September 2005**

2. Members agreed the minutes from the last meeting. The action points are summarised below:

- Action Point 1 - Secretariat has approach Dr. Sebastian Catovsky (ABI) and Mr. Arthur Philp (Norwich Union) will join the Sub-Committee.
- Action Point 2 - Secretariat has liaised with Nick Evans.
- Action Point 3 - Secretariat has provided a website link for the responsible authority's discussion paper.
- Action point 4 - A response to the designation of responsible authority's discussion paper will be discussed at agenda item 5.
- Action Points 5 - The discussion paper on land use issues will be discussed today at agenda item 6.
- Action Point 6 and 7 will be discussed today at agenda items 4 and 8 respectively.

**Agenda Item 4: Avoidance Sub-Committee workplan (including feedback from the FIAC priorities meeting on 1 November) - Jim Conlin.**

3. JC introduced the workplan and the Priorities for FIAC paper (FIAC2005 (11)) and highlighted 3 main priorities for the Sub-Committee. These are to:

- promote sustainable flood management, covering all types of flooding.
- identify, gather and share sustainable flood management best practice examples.
- link catchment flood management plans (CFMP) to river basin management planning (RBMP).

4. As the first two priorities are covered later on the agenda the discussion focussed on the use of CFMPs and the implications of these on RBMP.

5. Katrine Feldinger gave an update on progress with the development of RBMPs and the likely timetable for the roll out of the plans. She explained that national and area advisory groups will be set up in 2006 and draft RBMP are due at the end of 2008.

6. Members agreed that it would be helpful to know more about the EA's catchment flood management planning (CFMP) programme and how it links with the RBMP process. However Members agreed that, although the drivers for the processes in England are different, it would be useful to have a summary document on the EA's approach to CFMPs.

**Action point 1: Secretariat to approach EA for a summary document on CFMPs for the next meeting.**

7. The role of responsible bodies was discussed, in particular SEPA's. There was concern that, as SEPA's main goal in implementing the water framework directive is to ensure good water quality, it would not be linked with water quantity. David Howell (DH) thought that, as flooding affects the ecological quality of watercourses, water quantity and quality would have to be considered together.

8. Local authorities felt that they could play an important role in CFMPs and Steven Tingle (ST) said that it was important that local authorities are included in the process.

9. Members agreed that the introduction of RBMPs is a great opportunity for stakeholders, to discuss CFMPs. Losing this opportunity would make it more costly and time consuming in the future. It is also important that FIAC is involved in the process to ensure that outcomes do not conflict with sustainable flood management. It should start by hearing SEPA's concerns (about linking the RBMP and CFMP process) and offer advice on how these might be addressed.

10. KF confirmed that this would be a good time for FIAC to feed into the RBMP process.

**Action Point 2: Secretariat to draft short paper listing RBMP issues to discuss with SEPA at next meeting and forward to Dr. Roy Richardson to take forward at SEPA.**

**Action Point 3: Secretariat to arrange for a representative from SEPA to come to the next meeting to discuss RBMP.**

**Action Point 4: Secretariat to forward EU Flooding Directive paper to Members.**

**Agenda Item 5: Land use issues for FIAC - discussion paper – Mike Donaghy and David Howell.**

11. David Howell (DH) introduced the discussion paper. He also highlighted the fact that the paper should be used to stimulate debate and be treated as an initial step in a very wide subject area.

12. JC thanked DH and Mike Donaghy (MD) for the paper. MD cautioned that traditionally we tackle the end results of flooding, whereas we ought to be looking at land management processes, among other things, to tackle flood management. He added that we know very little about how land use practices might affect a major flood. AW explained that the underlying science is on going here and will take time to deliver results. However these land use measures can help deliver other environmental benefits in the meantime. Members agreed that the paper was very useful in identifying the issues surrounding land use and flooding. Members suggested that the paper should highlight the following:

- The need to include emerging scientific papers such as new work on soil compaction.
- Issues around farming water.
- The key role that land owners have to play in the implementation of sustainable flood management practices.

13. It was agreed that members should review and endorse the paper so that it could be presented at the next FIAC meeting on 23 February 2006.

**Action Point 5: Members to send comments and whether they endorse the paper to DH and MH (copied to Secretariat) by 13 January 2006.**

**Agenda Item 6: Feedback on responses to the Executive's discussion paper on the designation of responsible bodies - Stephen Tingle and John Smith.**

14. JC thanked ST for the paper and suggested that Members look at ways to link the designation of responsible bodies to CFMPs and sustainable flood management.

15. Katrine Feldinger (KF) explained that the gaps identified so far relate mainly to resource issues such as training. Members discussed how secondment arrangements can help increase the knowledge base. JC explained that the aim is to get stakeholders to work together without waiting for a major flood to happen. He added that responsible authorities will need guidance and that this guidance must make links to guidance on sustainable flood management.

16. Members discussed a possible role for area advisory groups, or an overall advisory body, to be set up to consider flood risk at a higher catchment level. Judith Tracey (JT) said that we must be careful not to remove the responsibility for flood alleviation from local authorities.

17. JC suggested that a short document outlining the thoughts and comments of the Sub-Committee on the designation of responsible authorities should be produced.

**Action Point 6: JC to produce a one page document on designating responsible authorities as an official response from the Sub-Committee.**

**Agenda Item 7: Feedback from the SNH Sharing Good Practice Seminar on sustainable flood management – David Howell**

18. DH updated Members on the SNH ‘Sharing Good Practice’ seminar held in September. In general there were concerns from some practitioners about how sustainable flood management might work in practice. They also seemed wary of the indicators and there was a general misunderstanding regarding sustainable development in general. It was suggested that reducing the number of principles might help practitioners come to grips with the work. JT explained that the sustainable flood management consultation paper would be detailed and would highlight best practice examples.

19. Members discussed how sustainable flood management might be promoted before the Executive puts out its consultation paper. It was suggested that FIAC should consider how it can promote its work on sustainable flood management among professional bodies and how SNIFFER and other agencies might be able to help.

20. Members discussed the possibility of a further SNH seminar in 2006 and being more specific about which stakeholders to invite.

**Agenda Item 8: Review of final report on the Sustainable Flood Management Pilot Study – discussion and next steps – Judith Tracey**

21. JT explained that the Executive has received the final report of the sustainable flood management pilot study. The next step is to update the original paper with the recommendations from the report and start drafting the consultation paper. She asked Members for examples of best practice to help develop the narrative framework for the consultation paper.

**Action Point 7: Members to submit examples of best practice to Secretariat.**

**Agenda Item 9: AOB and Next meeting**

22. Members had no other business to discuss and the next meeting was arranged for 2 March 2006 at Victoria Quay.

**FIAC Secretariat  
December 2005**