

FLOODING ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AVOIDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2006, Conference Room 1, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

Present: Judith Tracey (SE, Climate Change and Air Division) – Chair (deputising for Jim Conlin, (Scottish Water)).

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

Prof. Charles Ainger (MWH); Jonathan Chapman (Environment Agency); Mike Donaghy (Scottish Environmental LINK); Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs Babbie); David Howell (SNH); Sarah Hutcheon (SNH); Iain Mathieson (NFU Scotland); Dr. Roy Richardson (SEPA); Alastair Smith (Aberdeenshire Council); John Smith (Royal Town Planning Institute, Scotland); Stephen Tingle (Renfrewshire Council); Prof. Alan Werritty (University of Dundee); Morag Garden (Scottish Water); Catherine Preston (SEPA); Jo Ellis (Forestry Commission); Arthur Philp (Norwich Union).

Observer: Ronnie Falconer (Jacobs Babbie).

Apologies: Jim Conlin (Scottish Water).

Agenda Item 2: Welcome from Chair, Judith Tracey (SE) and introductions.

1. Judith Tracey (JT) welcomed everyone to the third Avoidance Sub-Committee meeting and explained that she was standing in for Jim Conlin (JC). Members introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes and action points from last meeting held on 1 December 2005.

2. Members agreed the minutes from the previous meeting on 2 December 2005. The action points from that meeting are summarised below:

Action point 1: Jonathan Chapman (JCh) has prepared a paper on the Environment Agency's (EA) approach to catchment flood management plans (CFMP) and this will be discussed as agenda item 4.

Action point 2: Secretariat confirmed the details of the river basin management plan (RBMP) issues to be discussed with SEPA via e-mail and telephone.

Action point 3: Cath Preston will give SEPA's perspective on river basin management planning at agenda item 6.

Action point 4: Secretariat has forwarded a link to the draft EU floods directive to Members.

Action point 5: Members have submitted comments on FIAC2006(5) and paper was discussed at the last FIAC meeting..

Action point 6: JC has forwarded a response from the Sub-Committee on designating responsible authorities.

Action point 7: Sustainable flood management best practice will be discussed at agenda item 8.

Agenda Item 4: Catchment Flood Management Plans; an EA summary – Jonathan Chapman

3. JCh introduced his paper, which gives an overview of the EA's policy on CFMP and RBMPs.

4. JCh explained that CFMP take a long-term high-level risk approach to flood risk management. The EA has kept the CFMP and RBMP processes separate because the flooding issues are so great but in future they may become more integrated. RBMP and CFMP have the same timetable and therefore CFMP can take account of RBMP. Members discussed the potential for conflict between the two plans when they have different purposes. JCh explained that useful information was also now coming out of the second generation Shoreline Management Plans.

5. The role of catchment flood management plans on local plans and developments was also discussed. Members also discussed the difficulties of using a number of different data sets and JCh explained that the National Flood Coast Data Base has been developed to help improve the consistency and quality of data available.

6. JT thanked JCh for his paper.

Action point 1: Members to submit any comments on JCh's paper to Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5: River Basin Management Plans; a SEPA perspective – Catherine Preston

7. Catherine Preston (CP) described the RBMP process in Scotland and explained the role of National and Area Advisory Groups (AAG) in developing area management plans. Members discussed the links between RBMP and flooding, in particular the links between the Controlled Activities Regulations and flooding. CP explained that the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 makes the link between RBMP and sustainable flood management and SEPA will continue to work with FIAC to develop the work on sustainable flood management. She also highlighted the importance of working with Flood Liaison Advisory Groups on RBMP.

8. JT thanked CP for her presentation.

Agenda Item 6: Update on the Executive's involvement in River Basin Management Plans – Katrine Feldinger.

9. Katrine Feldinger (KF) confirmed that the responsible authority designation will come into effect on 1 April 2006.

10. Members were concerned about funding and delivery of the new measures when there are already so many demands on staff.

11. Charles Ainger (CA) suggested that it would be helpful if practitioners knew in advance what the likely effects of various engineering works might be on water quality and that 2015 was too late to make the links. Roy Richardson (RR) explained that SEPA is conducting a project to assess the effects of modifications on water quality.

12. Members discussed the important links between FLAGs and AAGs and whether this will be complicated by there being more than one FLAG in some AAGs. Alan Werritty (AW) suggested that FLAGs now need a more formal basis than they have at the moment. Everyone agreed that early dialogue between FLAG and AAGs is very important. CP explained that AAG memberships will be flexible and will be based on the responsible authorities but will draft in people to help as needed. AAGs will also establish fora that will be open to any interested people and will disseminate information to the general public.

13. Members discussed local authorities' responsibility for assessing flood risk. JT said that the Executive was currently looking at the possibility of funding to help local authorities take a more strategic approach to flood risk. ST suggested that a good starting point for considering new legislation was the fact that local authorities have no legal duty to model watercourses and receive no funding to do so.

14. John Smith (JS), CA, AW, KF, and Mike Donaghy (MD) volunteered to draft a discussion paper on how we can make the important links that need to be made in RBMP process to be taken to FIAC later this year.

Action point 2: JS, CA, AW, KF, and MD to draft a paper on RBMP linkages for discussion at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

15. KF said that all the responses from the responsible authority designation consultation were now available and a policy statement on responsible authorities will be available soon.

Action point 3: KF to provide Secretariat with links to the consultation responses and the policy statement to forward on to Members.

16. JT thanked KF for her presentation.

Agenda Item 7: Sustainable Flood Management and Land Use - paper FIAC2006(5) – feedback from FIAC meeting on 23 February.

17. David Howell (DH) called for a clear way forward for this work to ensure that it does not duplicate the work on RBMP and CFMP. He suggested that Members start with the short to medium term measures identified in the paper and consider what the priorities should be; what the challenges and costs might be and consider what research might be needed. JS added that we should also consider what the long-term savings might be. Members discussed the Rural Development Plan (RDP) 2007-2013 and thought that this was an ideal opportunity to tie this work into the next RDP and that FIAC should respond in some way. JT said that she would speak to Agriculture colleagues and find out how FIAC could forward its views on the rural development consultation.

18. Members agreed to send their comments on the paper to DH and MD.

Action point 4: Members to submit further comments on paper FIAC2006(5).

Action point 5: JT to discuss with Executive colleagues how FIAC might feed into the Rural Development consultation response.

Agenda Item 8: Progress report on sustainable flood management consultation – Judith Tracey

19. JT informed Members that the pilot study contract had been extended and Contractors had been asked to revise Paper FIAC2005(4) *What is sustainable flood management?* to take account of the recommendations in the pilot study final report. This paper will then form the basis for the upcoming consultation paper. Members agreed that it would be very useful if the Executive held workshops during the consultation period.

Agenda Item 9: Best practice examples of sustainable flood management – Debi Garft

20. Debi Garft (DG) asked Members for examples of sustainable flood management best practice. It was agreed that the use of a best practice narrative as part of the consultation would be very helpful to practitioners and several ideas were forwarded including the Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan, Aberdeenshire flood prevention scheme, the River Devon project, Perth flood prevention scheme, the INTERREG project in Glasgow and Nigg Bay.

Action point 6: Members to submit examples of sustainable flood management best practice to Secretariat by 31 March 2006.

Agenda Item 10: Any other business

21. Members had no further business to discuss.

Agenda Item 11: Next meeting

22. Secretariat will liaise with JC to arrange a date for the next meeting.

**FIAC Secretariat
March 2006**