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**Minutes of Meeting of SEEAWP held on 9 July 2014
at The Crown Estate Head Office, 16 New Burlington Place, London**

Present:

John Kilford	Chairman		
Andrew Morrow	West Berks	Graham Ritchie	Wokingham BC
Lester Hannington	Bucks CC	Tony Cook	E Sussex CC
Peter Chadwick	Hants CC	Brian Geake	Kent CC
Catherine Smith	Medway	Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC
Paul Sanderson	Surrey CC	Alethea Evans	W Sussex CC
Chris Mills	Isle of Wight	Laura Burton	Milton Keynes
Claire Potts	S Downs NPA	Bob Smith	MPA
Richard Ford	MPA	Stewart Mitchell	MPA
Simon Treacy	MPA	David Payne	MPA
Mark Russell	BMAPA	Nick Everington	The Crown Estate
Nat Percival	MMO	Phil McBryde	MMO
Eamon Mythen	DCLG	Sue Marsh	EoE AWP
Ewan Coke	LAWP	Chris Waite	Technical Secretary

1 Welcome & Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Sue Marsh and Ewan Coke to the meeting which would start with a presentation by Nat Percival to which London AWP representatives had been invited. He also thanked The Crown Estate for kindly providing the venue and hospitality. Apologies were received from Mark Chant (Milton Keynes), John Prosser (Kent CC), Ken Hobden (MPA), James Trimmer (PLA), Nick Tennant (DCLG) and Brianne Stolper (LB Hillingdon).

2 Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Presentation

- 2.1 Nat Percival spoke to a presentation on the implications of section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the MMO's current approach to implementation and monitoring, and steps to engage external decision makers. Most of the presentation was on the East Coast Plans. The South Coast Plans are at an early stage with workshops in July to focus on

the draft Vision and Objectives for those Plans. Comments on the document are invited by 31 July: <https://www.connect.marinemanagement.org.uk/consultations/south-vision-and-objectives>

2.2 In response to questions NP said:

- 'exceptional circumstances' in the aggregate policies reflected that government priorities, perhaps for oil & gas exploration, might override the aggregate activities.

- local authorities should consult the MMO if a proposed activity was to take place below mean high water springs, such as a wharf that imported aggregates was threatened with closure from redevelopment; this applied whether the wharf adjoined the sea area supplying the aggregate or not. The MMO would respond to the consultation and would advise if a marine licence was required.

- the East Coast Plan areas have extensive energy related interests; the South Coast sea areas include more diverse activities, including more social and leisure interests. However, the principles are the same and he recognised that industry is seeking a consistency of approach for aggregates throughout the sea areas.

- it is recognised that there are significant gaps in the evidence base in the South Coast Plan areas. The MMO is seeking to close these gaps, and has targeted priorities.

2.3 The Chairman thanked NP for the presentation and commended the MMO in successfully gaining the Secretary of State's approval of the East Coast Plans in such a short time. NP agreed to provide a copy of the presentation to be issued with the minutes of the meeting.

3 Minutes and Matters Arising from 13 November 2013 meeting

3.1 Matters raised, other than those to be dealt with under an agenda item, were as follows:

2.1 3.1 The Secretary would put Draft on the minutes until they were cleared, and MPA's would only put them on their web sites when they were cleared.

4.4 & 7.4 No National Coordinating Group (NCG) meeting had been held at which the issues of non energy minerals included in the Annual Monitoring (AM) surveys, and Terms of Reference for AWP Chairmen and Secretaries could be raised. EM said it was the intention to hold an AWP Secretaries meeting in September, to be followed by an NCG meeting in November.

6.1 The draft minute had been amended. The Chairman asked EM to pass on SEEAWP's best wishes for Mark Plummer in his new role with DCLG in housing.

3.6-3.23 The responses to 7 Local Aggregate Assessments (LAAs) were sent and circulated.

6.6 The Annual Monitoring Report for 2012 was finalised, issued and placed on the DCLG website.

4 Marine Aggregates

4.1 SEEAWP 14/02 reported on The Crown Estate's publication Marine Aggregates – Capability & Portfolio 2013. This sets out the tonnage of current primary aggregate reserves in each of the seven sea regions, the 10 year and 3 year average annual offtake, and compares this with the annual permitted offtake. The Secretary drew attention to figures of significance to the South East, including that at the average offtake in the last 3 years, reserves would last for some 13 years. He considered that the particular merit of the publication is that for the first time it provides a perspective on marine aggregates comparable to land based data. It is

intended to be produced annually and MPAs can draw on it in their section on marine aggregate supply in their LAAs.

- 4.2 NE said that he would welcome feedback on the document and confirmed that it would be produced annually. There had been a number of licences granted in 2013, so the figures for that year would show an increased level of reserves. A number of those at the meeting had not seen the document; NE would provide the link to access it on the website, and those that had not received a copy should advise NE so he could ensure a full distribution of future documents.

<http://www.thecrownstate.co.uk/energy-and-infrastructure/aggregates/>

5 AM2013 Draft Report

- 5.1 The Secretary introduced the AM2013 draft report which had been circulated. He thanked industry and MPAs for making the necessary returns, and AE for her assistance with the figures. The report still needed tidying in terms of pagination, page headings etc. The Secretary said that he had identified some errors that needed amending, and had received some corrections from East Sussex to paragraphs 4.4, 9.1 and the tables and appendices. These identified the two areas in which the Secretary particularly asked SEEAWP to review. Would any of the data in the Tables reveal a confidential figure? Were the paragraphs on Local Plans and LAAs accurate?

- 5.2 A number of changes were proposed to the draft:

TC and CP would forward corrections to the appendices on sites in E Sussex or SDNPA.

SM asked for paragraph 3.4 to be amended as sales had been stable over the last 5 years

The Chairman asked for the footnote to Table 7 to be deleted as it was superfluous

DP said that LAAs do not propose figures – this was for Local Plans. PC agreed, paragraph 9.2 should be amended..

PC, AE and others said that Core Strategies should no longer be referred to. AE offered to draft a revision to paragraph 9.1

CP asked for paragraph 8.1 to state whether the figures related to active or both active and inactive quarries

TC asked for ‘except East Sussex’ to be deleted from the second sentence in paragraph 9.3

- 5.3 It was agreed that subject to these changes, and any further amendments sent to the Secretary by 25 July, the Chairman and Secretary be authorised to finalise AM2013, including figures to support the tables, issue it, and ask for DCLG and MPAs to place it on their websites.

6 DCLG Update

- 6.1 Eamon Mythen reported that DCLG minerals and waste team now had a full staff complement, with Nick Tennant now team leader, and would move to former Home Office accommodation in Marsham St in July & August. He hoped any service disruption would be minimal. There had been no recent Ministerial changes.

DCLG's website had been updated to include all AWP Secretary contacts and 2012 monitoring reports (except for the West Midlands which is producing the 2011 & 2012 reports together), and will include 2013 reports when they are all available

Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry: clearance had been obtained for ONS to undertake the 2014 survey. A request to proceed was now before Nick Boles

National 4 Yearly Aggregate Minerals Survey: a number of internal hurdles had been cleared and a bid was to be made to Nick Boles for permission to seek tenders. This would be for the 2013 calendar year in order to maintain continuity in the 4 yearly data series required by industry, planners and AWPs in analysing and interpreting data. To avoid confusion DCLG agreed to term this AM13 in line with past practice and not AM14.

Planning Guidance (NPPG) issued on line 6 March, would have a number of additions relevant to minerals planning - on peat; underground coal gasification; and underground storage of natural gas. New planning policy on waste management would also be issued, replacing PPS10. Timing: summer 2014.

Permitted Development Rights a consultation in the summer would include proposed retail use class changes, greater flexibility for changes to residential use, some exemptions for waste management site operational facilities and minor developments in support of businesses. Minerals would not be directly affected.

Onshore Oil & Gas: DCLG had delivered the planning component of the wider regulatory framework. DECC was now consulting on its proposals (announced on 23 May, consultation closing on 12 August) to simplify underground access for shale gas and deep geothermal operations. Local people would receive notification, but property owners or tenants would not have to be consulted on or give permission for operations below 300m under their land. Provision would be made for a voluntary payment of £20,000 per lateral well to the local community. Implementation would be through the Infrastructure Bill.

Public Health England had published a report on public health impacts of exposure to chemical and radioactive pollutants as a result of shale gas extraction. (NB: the naturally occurring radioactive aspects are common to all oil and gas drilling, not unique to shale gas).

Infrastructure Bill would transform the Highways Agency into a government owned company and simplify the procedures for nationally significant infrastructure.

BIS Select Committee, Extractive Industries Sector: the Minister had asked why government does not have a minerals strategy.

DfT was allocating £168 million for pothole prevention & repair across England.

Brownfield land: to bring forward development a £5million fund was to be launched to support LDOs with a target of putting 90% of sites suitable for housing into production by 2020. In addition, £400million was to be spent on promoting 20 new housing zones in London, and £200million on 10 zones outside London.

Revised EIA Directive: the text had been published in the Official Journal on 25 April, dropping proposals for extending its application. No decisions had been made yet on how the Directive would be transposed by the due date May 2017.

Hampshire CC Oil & Gas Information Day some 200 delegates attended this very informative event in Winchester. The purpose was to explain to those attending what exploration and extraction would actually entail before any proposals were submitted. Professor Sanderson from Southampton University had been particularly helpful in presenting facts about hydraulic fracturing, demystifying misconceptions. EM felt that the day had raised three key issues

- the need for more factual information to counter misinformation
- armed with bad examples of poor regulatory practice in the USA, public cynicism that the government's regulatory framework would be effective and protect communities

- clarification of the scale of activities and cumulative impacts eg could the 3 current sites in Hampshire become 10 or 100?

The Chairman asked if there would be a note of the day's proceedings. PC said that Hants CC were preparing a report He would send the web link for the Secretary to circulate.

A summary report has now been published on the County Council website:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/oil-gas-development.htm>

Cuadrilla had submitted the first planning applications for an exploration site and a series of associated monitoring stations in south Lancashire. If permission was granted it proposed to drill, hydraulically fracture and test flow of gas from up to four exploratory wells and monitor before and after operations

7 Local Aggregate Assessments (LAAs)

- 7.1 SEEAWP 14/03 proposed that the Autumn SEEAWP meeting should focus on LAAs updated with the AM2013 figures once the report was finalised and issued. This was agreed, with updated LAAs to be submitted to SEEAWP no later than 2 weeks before the meeting in order that they could be circulated in advance. The Chairman asked that wherever possible LAAs should be submitted earlier than this. SEEAWP agreed this would avoid members suddenly receiving up to 11 LAAs all at once.
- 7.2 LH questioned whether this was practical as his authority had taken six months to agree the draft LAA. PD said that the timetable for internal signing off by an authority was a separate matter - the submissions to SEEAWP should be made as agreed.
- 7.3 PS said that it was difficult to get to the essence of an LAA without reading it all. He asked that LAAs should contain an executive summary of no more than an A4 page. This was strongly supported by SEEAWP. BS suggested that if the LAA update was essentially the same format as the previous LAA, but just updating the figures, track changes in the updated version would be most helpful.
- 7.4 In response to the Chairman SM said that the East of England AWP invited each authority to introduce the LAA at its meetings. The Chairman felt that with 11 LAAs that would be likely to lead to too long a SEEAWP meeting. SEEAWP agreed that it would be content with an LAA summary of A4 length or less.
- 7.5 The checklist for LAAs, which SEEAWP had not adopted, but agreed would provide something of an 'aide memoire' was reported to this meeting at the request of Lester Harrington. LH said he maintained concerns that it could lead to SEEAWP criticising a draft Bucks LAA by asking for more than was required. SEEAWP did not share this view and considered that the checklist was useful. TC reported that the POS/mpa guide is in its final draft form. He intends to carry out consultations on this and provide a copy for next SEEAWP meeting.

8 Any Other Business

Silica Sand

- 8.1 At the last meeting the Chairman asked MPAs with silica sand resources to draw up a definition. SEEAWP 14/04 set out two definitions, one long, one short. PS and SM pointed out that the long definition in SEEAWP 14/04 was almost word for word the definition in the BGS Fact Sheet – but not quite. Although the short definition was useful, the meeting preferred to stick to the BGS definition in its Mineral Planning Fact Sheet. For clarity, this is:

“Silica (industrial) sands contain a high proportion of silica (normally more than 95% SiO₂) and are used for applications other than as construction aggregates. They are produced from both loosely consolidated sand deposits and by crushing weakly cemented sandstones. Unlike construction sands, which are used for their physical properties alone, silica sands are valued for a combination of chemical and physical properties. These include a high silica content in the form of quartz and, more importantly, very low levels of deleterious impurities, particularly clay, iron oxides and refractory minerals, such as chromite. They typically have a narrow grain size distribution (generally in the range 0.5 to 0.1mm).

For most applications, silica sands have to conform to very closely defined specifications, and consistency in quality is of critical importance. Particular uses often require different combinations of properties. Consequently different grades of silica sand are usually not interchangeable in use. Silica sands command higher prices than construction sands. This allows them to serve a wider geographical market, including exports”.

- 8.2 AE said that silica sand, despite its properties was not always used for glass making, and it was not clear why a ten year landbank was required if the sand was being put to a lower value recreational use. PC said that Hants CC had experience of reviewing landbanks for different types of sand and would send this to AE.

West Sussex Joint Minerals Plan

- 8.3 Alethea Evans said that the LAA and Wharves and Railhead Study for the Joint West Sussex Minerals Plan had been completed in February 2014. The work is now attempting to quantify the possible demand for minerals from key aggregate reliant investment. The assistance of SEEAWP, focusing on MPAs initially, would be appreciated.

AE has supplied a note setting this out in more detail as attached to the minutes.

Aggregate Survey Returns and Confidentiality

- 8.4 Paul Sanderson said that the South East Minerals Planning officers had discussed the mpa advice note dated 6 March 2014 to AWP and RAWP Secretaries on Aggregate Survey Returns and confidentiality. The advice was generally welcomed, but it appears to need some amendments. PD and other MPA officers supported this, particularly regarding point 5. A minerals authority would seek the views of the individual supplier, but not seek permission, as the decision whether to release survey information to the public or in un-collated form, perhaps in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, lay with the authority. PS agreed to write to mpa on the suggested amendments.

9 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next SEEAWP meeting is to take place at **2pm on Wednesday 22 October 2014** at *Venue to be confirmed*

Will MPAs please note that this means updated LAAs should be submitted to the Secretary at the latest by 8 October, and preferably before the end of September.