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DRAFT

**Minutes of Meeting of SEEAWP held on 27 October 2014
at Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

Present:

John Kilford	Chairman		
Matt Meldrum	West Berks	Mark Worringham	Reading
Shereen Ansari	Bucks CC	Tony Cook	E Sussex CC
Lisa Kirby	Hants CC	John Prosser	Kent CC
Catherine Smith	Medway	Peter Day	Oxfordshire CC
Paul Sanderson	Surrey CC	Alethea Evans	W Sussex CC
Chris Mills	Isle of Wight	Mark Chant	Milton Keynes
Peter Wilsdon	S Downs NPA	Bob Smith	MPA
Stewart Mitchell	MPA	David Payne	MPA
Mark Russell	BMAPA	Steve Cole	BAA
Chris Waite	Technical Secretary		

1 Welcome & Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Lisa Kirby and Peter Wilsdon to the meeting. Apologies were received from Lester Hannington (Bucks CC), Peter Chadwick (Hants CC), Claire Potts (S Downs NPA), Alan Everard and Ken Hobden (MPA), Nick Tennant (DCLG) and Sue Marsh (EoE AWP).

2 Minutes and Matters Arising from 9 July meeting

- 2.1 2.2 An amendment was agreed as proposed by Phil McBryde of MMO:

- 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 aggregate was threatened from closure from development.; this applies whether the wharf adjoins the sea area supplying the aggregate or not. The MMO would respond to the consultation **and would advise if a marine licence was required.**

4.2 No further requests had been made by SEEAWP to NE for the Capability and Portfolio document.

5.3 AM2013 had been amended, issued and sent to DCLG

7.5 The POS/MPA Guide was subject of a further draft, and would be issued in due course.

3 LAAs

- 3.1 The Chairman asked the Secretary to introduce paper SEEAWP 14/05, and to comment on whether the LAA updates raised any issues at the regional level. The Secretary thanked the 11 MPAs which had submitted updated LAAs. He considered that the LAAs were of a high standard, and that in many cases the depth and breadth of the assessments provided just about everything one needed to know about aggregates in an MPA area. All the LAAs were comprehensive in covering alternative materials, imports and exports, and land-won workings, and had used AM2013 data. It was pleasing to see MMO and Crown Estate documents being referred to, and the importance of safeguarding wharves and rail depots. Local Plan figures and those proposed in the updated LAAs confirmed the AM2013 summary that, with figures well in excess of the 10 and 3 year averages, the region was proposing to make a full contribution to national and local needs.
- 3.2 The report SEEAWP 14/05 also drew attention to Kent saying it would not be able to maintain a 7 year landbank for sharp sands and gravel beyond 2017, and resources could be exhausted by 2024; and neighbouring Surrey saying there was little prospect of additional sites beyond those in their Minerals Plan. This raised the issue as to how a shortfall within the Plan period might be met - potentially by an increased supply of marine dredged material or by cross boundary movements of land-won sand and gravel, ideally from within the region.
- 3.3 The Chairman suggested that those LAAs over which members had issues should be dealt with after those which were not contentious. SEEAWP agreed, and on this basis **Bucks, Hants, Isle of Wight, Medway, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire LAAs** were dealt with first. SEEAWP approved these LAAs, and only detailed matters were raised seeking clarity or corrections to certain figures. A number of the points were agreed at the meeting, or were to be dealt with in correspondence rather than as a SEEAWP view. The other LAAs were then considered in turn, and again detailed matters were raised in addition to the views given below, and were agreed or to be dealt with in correspondence (a note on such points and a response from members of the East of England AWP is attached).

Berkshire (including West Berkshire)

- 3.4 SC was concerned that no separate provision was being proposed for soft sand. Industry recognised that there were constraints to workings, but it might be more sustainable to accept a quarry in an AONB rather than truck the sand over longer distances. MM said that no separate figure for soft sand had been shown in the LAA in order to maintain confidentiality, there being only one active site in West Berks. However, he was well aware of the need for soft sand. Discussions had been held with Oxfordshire and would also take place with Hants.
- 3.5 SC and DP also raised concerns on the wider issue of whether the region wide provision being proposed for soft sand would meet the needs of the region or lead to imports from further afield. The Secretary sought an assurance from those MPAs with only one or two soft sand sites, that they were working to a figure for which provision was needed even if they could not set this out in the LAA for reasons of confidentiality. He would look at soft sand sales over the last 10 years and compare this with the provision now being proposed.

- 3.6 Industry noted West Berkshire's steps in preparation for a Minerals Plan, but were concerned that there appeared to be no such proposals by the other 5 Berkshire Unitary Authorities. MW said that no agreement had been reached on a joint Local Plan. He would consult colleagues in the other 4 authorities and would report back to the Secretary.

East Sussex

- 3.7 SM said that the LAA did not include a 10 year average figure, and he asked for this to be included. TC said that sales had been volatile and for a number of years there had been no sales in East Sussex. Accordingly it was not felt appropriate to rely on this figure. However, he agreed to amend the LAA by including it.

Kent

- 3.8 DP said that industry were concerned that, as SEEAWP 14/05 reported, Kent had flagged up a shortfall for sharp sands and gravel within the Plan period. The AWP needed to address how this shortfall could be met. Moreover, although the region wide 10 year average may currently allow for a growth in aggregate demand, it will not do so in a few years time. From its national figures of increasing sales mpa predict a crossover early in the Plan period.

Surrey

- 3.9 DP said that a similar issue applied to Surrey, where a shortfall in supply was forecast to take place at or near the end of the Plan period. The South East as a whole, together with Buckinghamshire and Hampshire had significant sharp sand and gravel resources. Surrey 2014 LAA expected to continue to import land won sharp sand and gravel from other authorities within the region for the foreseeable future. Were those MPAs content with this and making appropriate provision? TC said that the issue was as much for the MPAs to resolve under the duty to cooperate as for the AWP. DP said that a similar issue applied to Surrey, where a shortfall in supply of sharp sand and gravel was forecast to take place at or near the end of the Plan period. 3.10 The Chairman agreed that how an aggregate shortfall might be met from within or without the region was an important issue which needed further attention. Picking up on the points recorded in paragraph 3.5 above, he recognised that the concerns of DP and SC were potentially of regional significance, but arose from measures designed to protect the commercially sensitive information of individual companies. He therefore asked whether it would be possible for SEEAWP to prepare a non-statutory addendum setting out the regional details for soft sand in particular, but also maybe for sharp sand and for aggregate as a whole. For soft sand, for example, the addendum might cover that part of the region for which LAAs had not specified a provision for soft sand. By combining data from more than one MPA area confidentiality criteria could be met. It was agreed that this would be welcome, and industry representatives noted that this would need the cooperation of their colleagues. DP and the Secretary would gather data and prepare a report for the next meeting. The Chairman also suggested that this was an appropriate item for the next AWP Secretaries meeting and NCG to identify whether there were similar issues elsewhere in the country.

West Sussex

- 3.11 AE said that the current LAA for W Sussex, including the S Downs National Park was published in February 2014. An updated LAA had not been produced as work had focussed on early engagement on the evidence base for the new Mineral Local Plan. This included a call for sites, publishing 5 Background Papers, holding two targeted engagement events and publishing a Mineral Sites Study. Work on a revised LAA was now underway. It was

anticipated that the draft LAA would be published for consultation with SEEAWP members and others in January 2015.

SEEAWP Response to LAAs

- 3.12 The Secretary drew attention to a potential source of confusion in that although most of the updated LAAs were titled LAA 2014, or just LAA but with the 2014 month on the cover, some were dated LAA 2013 or LAA 2004-2013. Whilst each MPA seeks to have a logically consistent sequence of dating its own documents, collations and comparisons between LAAs which were contemporary but dated differently could be misleading and lead to inaccuracies. He asked whether it would be possible for all the current updated LAAs to be dated 2014. Some MPA representatives anticipated problems in achieving this, nevertheless it was felt to be a worthwhile objective.
- 3.13 It was agreed that the Secretary would send one response to all 11 LAAs saying that SEEAWP approved the updated drafts.

The MPA officers' attention would be drawn to the minutes of this meeting at which the drafts were discussed, particularly the wider issues regarding provision for soft sand, and movement of aggregate across MPA boundaries to overcome shortfalls. Assistance would be sought to aid in reporting on these issues at the next SEEAWP meeting.

4 Marine Aggregates

- 4.1 The absence of an MMO representative was regretted. MR said he would ask MMO for a written progress report.
- 4.2 MR reported on one of the three MMO Workshops on the Vision and Objectives for the South Coast Plans. He understood that the next stage would be for consultation on Options in the first half of 2015, with the Draft Plans consultation later in 2015. The issues in the South Coast Plans area are different from those of the East Coast, with a greater intensity of relationships at the coast, including at the ports and with a much higher level of recreation both in the sea and on land at the coast.

MMO have subsequently confirmed the following timeline for the production of the South Coast Plans: Options - Winter/ Spring 2015, Policy development – Spring/ Summer 2015, Public Consultation Draft – Winter 2015-2016

- 4.2 The 2014 edition of the Crown Estate Capability and Portfolio document is in its final stage before publication. This would include 15 year licence renewals that had significantly increased the marine reserves. The 16th Annual Report 'The Area Involved' and the 'Marine Aggregates Dredging 1998-2012' A 15 Year Review by the Crown Estate and BMAPA have also been published at http://www.bmapa.org/documents/BMAPA_16th_Annual_Report.pdf
http://www.bmapa.org/documents/bmapa_2014.pdf .

5 DCLG Update

- 5.1 Nick Tennant had sent apologies and was unable to attend. The Secretary would attach a DCLG update note from Eamon Mythen with the minutes – see attached.

- 5.2 The Secretary reported that at an AWP Secretaries meeting on 3 October NT said that DCLG would start the tendering process for the National Aggregate Survey as soon as possible with a view to the contractor starting in January 2015. The notice had been published with responses sought by 31 October. The contractor would arrange training sessions for MPA staff. DCLG intended to consult UK Minerals Forum and POS about undertaking the survey for the calendar year 2014.
- 5.3 In response to PD, the Secretary said that the AWP Secretaries had unanimously supported the 4 year survey to cover the 2014 calendar year. Data from a 2013 national survey would not be available until late 2015 at the earliest. AWP's had already undertaken an annual survey for 2013 to provide up to date data for LAAs and Local Plans. If the National Survey did cover the 2013 year, industry would be faced with two surveys starting in January 2015, that survey and the normal 2014 survey by the AWP Secretaries ie two concurrent surveys, but confusingly covering two different years..
- 5.4 DCLG recognized that new contracts for AWP Secretaries needed to be put in place from 1 April 2015, and is considering the potential for the contracts to be on a 3 year rolling basis.
- 5.5 Much of the WP Secretaries meeting was focused on a draft paper for NCG drawing out the conclusions from the various AWP AM reports. What issues are being faced, such as incomplete data, lack of cooperation by MPAs with the AWP, or delay in provision of LAAs or Local Plans? Were the regions making a full contribution to both national and local aggregate needs? An NCG meeting is to be scheduled for Spring 2015.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 PW asked if SEEAWP knew of suitable training aimed at ensuring the health a safety of planning officers visiting quarries? He was advised to contact the Institute of Quarrying, one or more of the planning schools or perhaps to simply ask a local operator for a tour of a quarry to let new staff experience a quarry excavation site.
- 6.2 AE thanked those authorities which had provided data to assist W Sussex in its additional aggregate forecasting work. This sought to address the 'other relevant information' aspect of the NPPF, looking beyond '10 years average sales' to consider some additional variables such as economic growth and possible changes in future supply options. An early draft of a report has been used to underpin engagement with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council. This engagement had revealed the need to include an additional scenario to explore the possible future aggregate supply and demand influences in East Sussex, particularly in respect of possible changing land won supplies. The report would be finalised in December/January. It is anticipated that this will be subject to informal engagement prior to the publication of the draft Plan scheduled for autumn 2015. Due to the technical nature of the report, it was likely that engagement in early 2015 would be targeted towards the minerals industry.
- 6.3 The Chairman reminded SEEAWP that some two years ago, both he and the Secretary said they would retire from their current roles in two years time. That date was fast approaching, as both intended to step down after the next meeting. SEEAWP were asked, between now

and the next meeting to consider who might chair SEEAWP from that date. The Secretary replacement would stem from whoever succeeds in a bid for the DCLG contract.

- 6.4 The Chairman thanked PS for both making the arrangements and agreeing that Surrey CC would pay for the meeting room and refreshments for this meeting. It was unfortunate that DCLG could no longer offer accommodation. He asked others to commit their authority to a meeting, the cost of which was some £400 +VAT, plus the refreshments. AE offered to make arrangements and for West Sussex CC to cover the cost. This was gladly accepted. The industry representatives said that mpa and BAA might contribute to costs, but could not offer a venue as this would give the wrong image to the public. It was also suggested that The Crown Estate might host a meeting.

7 Date of Next Meeting

- 7.1 It was agreed that subject to a venue being available, the next meeting would be at 2pm on Wednesday 25 February 2015. *However, subsequently AE has found that this date is not available. The next SEEAWP meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday 24 February at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.*