

Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Forum held on Wednesday 17th February 2010 at 2.00 pm in Rowallane House, Saintfield.

In Attendance:

Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)
Judith Annett, (Vice Chairperson)
Ken Bradley, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE
Melanie Gomes, Marine Task Force
David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners
Diane Ruddock, The National Trust
Campbell Tweed, Ulster Farmers' Union
Jo Whatmough, Mourne Heritage Trust
Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer

In Attendance:

Martin Carey, Mourne Heritage Trust
Frances Curran, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Apologies:

John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency
Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association
Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association
Kathryn Callaghan, Countryside Access and Activities Network
Phil Davidson, The National Trust
Liam Flanigan, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Adrian Martin, Action Renewables
Alan McCulla, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Dr. Tony McNally, The Loughs Agency
Helen Noble, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Caroline Nolan, Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present to the fourteenth meeting, especially Jo Whatmough, Mourne Heritage Trust who was attending her first meeting and Martin Carey, Chief Executive, Mourne Heritage Trust who would be giving presentations later.
- 1.2. He went on to thank Diane Ruddock, The National Trust, for offering the use of Rowallane House for the meeting and the kind hospitality the Members received.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting of 25th November 2009 were approved as presented.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3.4. Rathlin Island and Mourne Coastal Route ICZM Projects

- 3.1. The CMF Officer informed those present that Moyle District Council submitted the application to the North East Region Rural Development Partnership regarding the Rathlin project at the end of October 2009.
- 3.2. Since then Rural Development staff have been assessing the application along with several others of a similar nature for projects on the Island. He went on to say that a meeting is to take place involving all parties who have submitted applications for projects on the Island with a view to developing a more integrated approach.
- 3.3. The RDCA has been tasked with organising the meeting but as yet no date has been set.
- 3.4. A presentation on the Mourne Coastal Route Project will follow at Item 4.
- 3.5. Members to be kept updated of progress on both projects.

Action: CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress. [CMF Officer]

Item 3.10. Geo-science Trail

- 3.6. The Chairman informed those present that the first meeting of the Geo-science Trail sub group took place on 14th December 2009.
- 3.7. The Chairman went on to say that the meeting was very informative and productive and the next meeting of the Group will take place on 22nd march 2010 and will be hosted by GSNI.
- 3.8. Members will be kept updated on progress.

Action: Chairman to keep Members updated on progress. [Chairman]

Item 3.11. Coastal Councils ICZM Awareness Raising Road Show

- 3.9. The Chairman said that he had nothing further to report since the last meeting but he will keep the Members updated on any developments.

Action: Chairman to keep Members updated on developments. [Chairman]

Item 3.13. Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone

- 3.10. Frances Curran, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency circulated a paper outlining a set of 24 Indicators and 30 measurements and then spoke to the paper. During discussion Members suggested a few minor changes to the measurements and alternative data that might be considered/used. It was

agreed that Members should forward any comments/information on where Frances might obtain additional data sites to the CMF Officer.

3.11. The Chairman thanked Frances for her update and commended her for the time and effort she had spent in reaching this stage.

Action: Members to forward comments/information on where Frances might obtain additional to the CMF Officer [Members]

Item 3.16. Planning and Coastal Erosion

3.12. The chairman said that it appeared that the Cloughy planning decision had not taken account of existing policies regarding coastal erosion risk. He would circulate a letter to members for comment before sending it on to Cynthia Smith

3.13. The Chairman said that he will keep Members updated on developments.

Action: Chairman to keep Members updated on developments. [Chairman]

4. Presentation: Mourne Coastal Route: Martin Carey, Chief Executive, Mourne Heritage Trust

4.1. Martin Carey highlighted that the detailed design on sites making up the Mourne Coastal Route was due to commence in March 2010 and works would proceed in relation to those sites for which funding can be found to match NITB's 50%. While it had not been possible to spend the £25,000 made available by NICMF in 2009/10 he was confident that the same provision for 2010/11 would enable some enhancement works to access and interpretation and that if additional budget became available to the Forum this could be usefully employed. Work at Mill Bay and Narrow Water sites was imminent matched by the Loughs Agency.

4.2. He also explained that a study on the signage on the route was almost complete and that the first sign for the Mourne Coastal Route was in place at Cloughogue Roundabout on the Belfast – Dublin Road at Newry. The possibility of extending the signage north from the Mourne AONB to Belfast and south to Drogheda was being pursued as an Interreg project. He also mentioned that an application had been made to Interreg for a Mourne Colley Gullion Geotourism project which if successful would have a strong coastal aspect.

4.3. The Chairman thanked Martin for his very interesting and informative presentation.

5. NICMF First Report

5.1. The Chairman and Vice- Chairman circulated copies of their second draft of the report along with a list of all the objectives and measures contained in the strategy with progress highlighted in red/orange and green.

5.2. Due to the time it was not possible to have a full discussion on this item however it was the opinion of those present that the report had to be concise and focused. The Chairman said that he would give the paper his full attention following his work related trip to Australia and would circulate Members with what he hoped would be the final draft for their consideration prior to printing.

Action: Chairman to circulate Members with final draft of Report for consideration prior to publication. [Chairman]

6. NICMF Remit – Priorities Update

6.1. The following current/future consultations were brought to the members' attention

- Marine Policy Statement
- Offshore Renewables
- Marine Licensing

7. Any Other Business

7.1. No other business was put forward.

8. Date/Venue of next meeting.

8.1. Date of next meeting confirmed as Wednesday, 16th June 2010 – Venue/time to be confirmed.

**Action: To confirm venue/time of next meeting of the Forum.
[CMF Officer]**

Alan Hamilton

February 2010