

Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Forum held on Wednesday 23rd September 2009 at 2.00 pm in Ulster Farmers' Union, 475 Antrim Road, Belfast.

In Attendance:

Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)
Judith Annett, (Vice Chairperson)
John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency
Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association
Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association
Phil Davidson, The National Trust
Melanie Gomes, Marine Task Force
Adrian Martin, Action Renewables
Campbell Tweed, Ulster Farmers' Union

Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer

In Attendance:

Bob Davidson, Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gerardine McEvoy, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE

Apologies:

Ken Bradley, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE
Kathryn Callaghan, Countryside Access and Activities Network
Martin Carey, Mourne Heritage Trust
Val Cummins, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork
Liam Flanigan, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners
Alan McCulla, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Dr. Tony McNally, The Loughs Agency

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present to the twelfth meeting, especially Bob Davidson, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, DOE, who would be giving presentation later.
- 1.2. He went on to thank Campbell Tweed, Ulster Farmers' Union for offering the use of the UFU Offices for the meeting and the kind hospitality the members received.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2009 were approved as presented.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3.8. Rathlin Island and Mourne Coastal Route ICZM Projects

- 3.1. The CMF Officer informed those present that as yet nothing was forthcoming from the Rathlin Development Community Association (RDCA) regarding its priorities for an ICZM project on the Island. Officers from Moyle District Council are due to meet representatives from RDCA on other Council business but will take the opportunity to find out the position regarding the ICZM project.
- 3.2. The CMF Officer went on to inform Members that Ken Bradley and himself met with Martin Carey in August to look at possible projects within the Mourne Signature project. A couple have been identified but further information is required before further consideration can be given.
- 3.3. The CMF Officer confirmed that Martin Carey would be giving members a presentation on the Mourne Signature Project at the November meeting.
- 3.4. Members to be kept updated of progress on both projects.

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

Item 3.12. Data Collection and Storage

- 3.5. The CMF Officer advised Members that Joe Breen, Northern Ireland Environment Agency would be giving an update on Marine Data at the November meeting.

Item 3.16. Geo-science Trail

- 3.6. The Chairman said he was still awaiting a response from the NITB.
- 3.7. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should consider either writing again to Alan Clarke Chief Executive, NITB copying to the NITB Chairman, Howard Hastings or writing direct to Howard Hastings. In the meantime the CMF Officer would make a few enquiries regarding the lack of a response from the NITB and advise to the best way forward.
- 3.8. The Chairman went on to say that with regard to the formation of a sub group to take forward the preparation of the Geo Science Trail Position Paper he was prepared to Chair the sub group and was now looking for volunteers to join the sub group and that those interested should let the CMF Officer know as soon as possible.
- 3.9. It was agreed that the CMF Officer should contact all Forum Members and also Officials from other Departments/Agencies who may have an interest in this area about getting involved in the Geo science Trail Position Paper sub group.

Action: CMF Officer to contact Forum Members and Officials from other Departments/Agencies about getting involved in the Geo Science Trail Position Paper sub group. [CMF Officer]

Item 3.17. Coastal Councils ICZM Awareness Raising Road Show

3.10. The Chairman advised those present that he had written to Heather Moorhead Chief Executive of NILGA and was still awaiting her response. He also agreed to contact Liam Flanigan and discuss potential mechanisms by which ICZM could be included in the remit of the new councils He will keep Members updated on developments.

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

Item 4. 1. Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone

3.11. The CMF Officer said that any comments received from Members had been duly forwarded to Orla for consideration. He went on to say that Orla said while there were some very useful suggestions in the comments about other options for measurements she was not sure where to source them. The work done to date has focused on data available. With regard to second homes there is no current measurement available. The 2001 census did ask a question on second homes but there was some difficulty in the analysis and this question will not be included in the 2011 census.

3.12. Members were concerned about that something on second homes would not appear in the 2011 and asked if it was too late to include something. The CMF Officer agreed to follow up on this point. He will keep Members updated on developments.

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

Item 3.22. Planning and Coastal Erosion

3.13. The Chairman circulated the response he had received from the Planning Service in relation to 'PPS 20' and 'Planning and Coastal Erosion'.

3.14. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write again to the Planning Service separately on the two issues. With regard to PPS 20 Members felt that a more detail was required on the status of PPS 20. If it is not going happen is it the intention to include aspects in other PPSs and if so which.

3.15. With regard to Planning and Coastal Erosion again Members felt a more substantive response was required and that the Chairman should seek a copy of the final decision on the Cloghy case.

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

**Action: Chairman to write to Planning Service regarding PPS 20 and Planning and Coastal Erosion and keep Members updated on developments.
[Chairman]**

**4. Presentation: The Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group (CMBG) –
Bob Davidson, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, DOE.**

- 4.1. Bob thanked the Chairman for his kind welcome and then gave an interesting and in-depth account of the work he is involved in with regard to the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group
- 4.2. Bob circulated a copy of the Terms of Reference of the Group and then proceeded to expand on their content.
- 4.3. He explained that the main focus of the Group will be on the delivery of coastal and marine habitat and species action plans. At present there are approximately 27 Priority Habitats and 100 Priority Species.
- 4.4. He went on to say that the main objectives of these action plans are:
 - to maintain the extent of existing habitats and populations species;
 - to enhance the ecological condition of existing habitats and species populations to achieve *favourable condition*;
 - to increase the area of each type of habitat through restoration where applicable.
- 4.5. Bob pointed out that the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group is a partnership which provides expert technical advice to Government and is engaged in the delivery of the coastal and marine biodiversity Work Programme a copy of which is available on (www.ni-environment.gov.uk look in Conserving biodiversity, then Biodiversity Delivery Groups).
- 4.6. The Chairman thanked Bob for his very interesting and informative presentation. He said the while he was aware some Members of the Forum are also Members of CMBG felt that it would be useful if the Forum could be included as a Corresponding Member. He also said that the Forum would be willing to discuss any issues the CMBG may wish specific views on.

5. NICMF First Report

- 5.1. The Chairman said that it had been his intention to give some thought to the report over the summer months and produce a draft for Members to consider. Unfortunately this did not happen.
- 5.2. It was suggested that the report should be highlight about 4 strong recommendations dealing with 4 different areas. It should also be positive and upbeat and focus on various issues which ICZM is designed to resolve.
- 5.3. The Chairman said he would liaise with the Vice Chair and hopefully would have a draft with Members sooner rather than later.

Action: Chairman to liaise with Vice Chair and forward Members draft report for comment. [Chairman]

6. NICMF Remit

- 6.1. The Chairman opened the discussion by stating that one important difference is that the Forum is not a delivery mechanism and as such he was not convinced of the need for a dedicated work programme as issues the Forum could be involved in were ever evolving.
- 6.2. He went on to say that item 3 of the current remit which relates to consideration of future government initiatives was perhaps the most important.
- 6.3. It was agreed that one important piece of work where the Forum should become involved is the Northern Ireland Marine Bill and in particular the delivery mechanism.
- 6.4. There then a short discussion where Members suggested numerous strategies and policies the Forum might wish to consider both local and UK wide. It was finally agreed that the CMF Officer should contact Forum Members for their comments/suggestions on forthcoming initiatives they are of and the Forum should consider.

Action: CMF Officer to contact Forum Members for their comments/suggestions on forthcoming initiatives they are of and the Forum should consider. [CMF Officer]

7. Any other business

Prof. Tim Jackson Lecture

- 7.1. Peter Archdale drew Members attention to the Professor Tim Jackson's lecture on 'Northern Ireland and the Transition to a Sustainable Economy' on Tuesday 29th September at 7.30pm.
- 7.2. Peter agreed to forward further details of the event to the CMF officer for onward transmission to Members.

Action: Peter Archdale to forward further details of the Professor Tim Jackson's lecture on 'Northern Ireland and the Transition to a Sustainable Economy' to the CMF Officer for onward transmission to Members. [Peter Archdale/CMF Officer]

8. Date/Venue of next meeting.

- 8.1. Date of next meeting Wednesday, 25th November 2009 – Venue/time to be confirmed.

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

Alan Hamilton

September 2009