



MEETING OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES WORKING GROUP

Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, Barton upon Humber.

19th January 2010 – 1:30pm

AGENDA

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| 1. | Introductions & Apologies
mins | 10 |
| 2. | Minutes and matters arising from the HERAG meeting of 30 th November 2009
mins | 10 |
| 3. | Business Plan discussion including finances
mins | 20 |
| 4. | Work plan priorities
mins | 30 |
| 5. | Development of Humber Management Scheme including timetable for re-writing
mins
the HMS document | 30 |
| 6. | Any other business
mins | 10 |
| 7. | Date and venue for next meeting | |

HUMBER



Management Scheme

HUMBER ESTUARY RELEVANT AUTHORITIES WORKING GROUP
Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2010.
1.30pm, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre.

Present

Andrew Taylor	North Lincolnshire Council (HERAG Acting Chair)
Phillip Winn	Environment Agency (HERAG Vice Chair)
Emma Hawthorne	Natural England
Will Maclennan	Natural England
Chris Manning	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
David Renwick	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Adrian Koster	HAG Chair
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA (Manager of Project Manager)
Tania Davey	HMS Project Manager

Apologies

Tom Jaynes	Associated British Ports
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1. Introductions and Apologies

Each attendee introduced themselves at the start of the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the HERAG meeting of 25th March 2009

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

- The group agreed that Andrew Taylor would be the Acting Chair of HERAG until the formal elections at the AGM in March 2010.
- DR brought up the issue of governance and asked the group if the current Terms of Reference were fit for purpose. Both DR and PW agreed that they would like to see the governance reviewed.
- EH asked for the finances to be reviewed so a clear audit trail is set up. EH suggested to look at how the Morecombe Bay Management Scheme finances are set up.

ACTION – TD to research other management schemes Terms of Reference and financial set up and table options by the AGM in March 2010.

Agenda Item 3, 4 and 5 were discussed collectively.

3. Business Plan discussion including finances

4. Work Plan Priorities

5. Development of Humber Management Scheme including timetable for re-writing the Humber Management Scheme

The group used the work plan outline for the basis of the discussion:

- Annual Report

- Decision was taken that the 2009 report should just be a summary document and a note should be included to state that the 2008 report was not complete

ACTION: TD to prepare 2009 summary report for the March AGM.

- Ebb and Flow

- DC mentioned the possibility of re-designing Ebb and Flow to reflect the design of the Codes of Conduct.

- PW suggested that Ebb and Flow should be reviewed so the group can be clear on why Ebb and Flow is produced and if it is achieving its objectives.

- AT enquired as to how Ebb and Flow is approved – circulated to the HERAG working group and proof read by AK.

- Group agreed that the next issue should be released as soon as possible and for Ebb and Flow to be reviewed following the Scorecard meeting.

- It was agreed that this edition should continue in the same format and redesign would be considered later in the year.

ACTION: TD to email HERAG and HAG members for suggestions for articles

ACTION: DR/AT to work jointly to provide an article on the Year of Biodiversity to TD by 5th February.

ACTION: DR to provide an article on the SMP to TD by 5th February.

ACTION: EH to provide article on coastal access to TD by 5th of February.

ACTION: Working group and contributors to proof read and approve Ebb and Flow by 26th February

ACTION: TD to confirm timescales of aim for completion of draft by 26th February.

- Website

ACTION: TD to update regularly.

- MPA Scorecard

- PW – the scorecard should be used as a gap analysis direction for the future of the Humber Management Scheme. The Business Plan 2011-2013 will flow from this.

- The group commented that the last scorecard exercise highlighted engagement with the community was the area of weakness.

ACTION: TD to send electronic copy of last scorecard report to the working group.

DATE FOR SCORECARD WORKSHOP: 10am, 27th April 2010, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre

- Timetable for re-write Humber Management Scheme Document

- The group discussed how the scheme may change in the future.

- AT commented that the scheme should help ensure the estuary is in favourable condition.

- DR suggested that the new document should outline priorities.
- PW suggested that the HMS document should highlight what the scheme will do itself as well as the partners. The scheme needs to highlight what action needs to take place rather than what action is taking place.
- TD suggested that the document should include a long term vision and clearer monitoring measures so that the scheme can report on progress.

ACTION: TD to produce timetable of re-write by HERAG AGM

- Monitoring questionnaire

- The current online questionnaire is not being used.
- PW suggested that the gaps in the HMS need to be identified to show the need for the questionnaire, and to be reviewed as part of the scorecard process.
- AK to recommend to HAG that people are still to use the questionnaire and the questionnaire will be reviewed in the future.

- Recreational disturbance study

- EH highlighted that the study is a key project for Natural England and it is an area not be addressed by any of the partners.
- PW emphasised that the study should deliver information of real worth.
- EH highlighted that planning applications require information on disturbance and this is currently not available. The information will also assist with the Marine and Coastal Access Act and will help to determine recreational wildfowling licences.
- AT highlighted that recreation is not regulated and we do not know what the impact is on the EMS.
- DR would find it useful to have some information about the benefit to the local authority.
- EH concurred that recreation is not regulated and no-one is responsible for the management and therefore it fits with the HMS.
- AT highlighted that LDF promotes more recreation which has the potential to cause more disturbance. This in turn can impact on Local Authority duties in terms of more management of the EMS. The situation was compared the Thames Basin Heath where additional housing and recreation pressures was found to be an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA. Local authorities could also create more disturbance when creating or diverting public rights of way.
- DC highlighted the need to clarify the meaning of disturbance, and questioned the possibility of expanding the study to other SAC habitats and species e.g. seals. The project needs detailed scoping.
- AK queried how this study would fit with other disturbance studies around the estuary including on areas such as wind turbines. AK also highlighted the opportunity to bring like minded together to discuss disturbance as part of this study.
- PW suggested input from Nick Cutts at Hull University with regards to how, why and the approach to the study
- EH highlighted that Natural England's Senior Ornithologist may be able to help with the methodology as he had been involved in a similar study on the Solent.
- DC informed the group that there is a meeting with BASC to discuss the project on the 28th of January, who are looking into Crown Estate funding.

- EH highlighted the need to make some decisions quickly otherwise we will miss the study season.

- CM highlighted the disturbance of Donna Nook seals. The group queried whether seals should be included in this study. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have good links with Anglian Water, and therefore potential for further partnership work.

- CM also highlighted that it is best to do the recreational disturbance study as a partnership rather than individual organisations, and the HMS is best placed to do the study.

ACTION: TD to put together a paper which highlights why the study needs to be undertaken, what will be achieved from the study, methodology, links to other issues, evidence from other disturbance studies and costs.

- Signage

- AK informed the group that with TD, they would visit the current signs to see if any maintenance work needed to take place. AK also informed the group that no maintenance was in place for the signs. PW suggested that this could be reviewed following the site visit.

- CM reported that the sign at Saltfleet was working well and he sees the public regularly reading the sign. Suggested community engagement would create self policing of the signs.

- Group agreed that any further signage would be put on hold for now.

ACTION: TD to action the replacement of the sign at Skeffling

ACTION: AK and TD to carry out a site visit to look at sign maintenance and report back at the next meeting.

The group agreed that other listed projects to be put on hold for now until scheme is reviewed.

6. AOB

- CM highlighted that the HMS does not include the Trent. EH confirmed that the Regulation 33 advice would not be updated.

- DR enquired as to whether the review of Humber Partnership working would be part of TD's work plan. PW suggested that the group needs to work to understand the focus of the HMS before this takes place.

- DR informed the group that DR would attend the working group meetings, Jeremy Pickles would attend HERAG meeting and Vaughan Grantham would attend the HAG meetings on behalf of East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

- TD asked if the group could consider supporting SeaSearch dives at Easington in September 2010. As the area is outside the European Marine Site, the group is unable to financially support the activity.

- TD asked the group if the BTCV insurance for HAG could be renewed. The group agreed that TD could take this forward.

- TD informed the group that she was attending the Foresight Project Land Use Futures Report launch on 25th February and will report back to the group.

7. Date and venue for next meeting

HERAG AGM 2pm 23rd March, Education Room, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre

Scorecard workshop 10am, Tuesday 27th April, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre

HERAG Working Group meeting 10am, Tuesday 11th May, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre

TD 25.01.10