

# **SELRC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

## **EH office, Bristol, 31.3.04**

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Walker, Vanessa Straker, Martin Bell, Richard Osgood, John Allen, Stuart Leather, Bob Jones, Steve Rippon, Paul Davies, Julie Jones, Rick Turner, Richard Brunning

**Apologies of absence:** Rob Iles, David Haigh, (emailed notifications to Nigel Nayling got lost because of computer problems at Lampeter)

### **1. Matters arising from minutes**

RT asked if there was a link to the SELRC website on SEP website.

**Action: RO** to check

### **2. Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) Cultural Heritage Strand (CHS)**

RO introduced this project and distributed copies of project specification.

£37K project financed by InterregIIB, Office Dep PM, SEP and CADW.

Details are available in the project specification (RB will, on request, send copy to any steering committee member who didn't get one).

Brief summary;

Objective to 'improve spatial planning and sustainable development decisions in the coastal zone, focusing on the Cultural heritage Dimension'

Two year project (till end December 2005) focusing on prehistoric and Roman period.

Project objectives for this period;

- Plan for conservation of sites in coastal zones and methodologies for their recording
- Explore role of Heritage resources in sustainability of the coastal region
- To establish clear understanding of links between Atlantic Countries (N. Spain and Ireland are other Euro partners)

A second project (on later periods) may run from 2006.

RO asked if SELRC would be main heritage stakeholder. This met with general approval and project was welcomed. SELRC to provide comments as project progresses.

RB asked what area will be covered? RO replied area shown on SELRC leaflet

JA suggested that sub Roman period should be included with Roman in 1<sup>st</sup> stage

MB emphasised the importance of the boat finds from the area esp Barlands Farm and Bronze Age sewn boats from Caldicot and Goldcliff

MB suggested promotion of distinctive and innovative ecomusee concept widely adopted on the continent esp as this would link nature conservation and heritage which is one of the strong points of the area.

BJ highlighted need to change perceptions of spatial planners regarding the importance of the area

RB asked if specific events aimed at planners will be organised. RO said yes.

SR emphasised importance of historic landscape esp as makes link between heritage and nature conservation.

### 3. 2004 AGM

Venue of Chepstow had been suggested by Rick Turner. The Drill Hall venue can hold c.130 people and would cost c.£80 incl use of kitchen area (unstaffed). RT said he had lectured there and should be OK and that active local societies should ensure good turn out. Venue accepted by all.

**Action:** **BJ** to check date of CBA event (now confirmed as 6<sup>th</sup> Nov)

**Action:** **RB** to book venue for 30<sup>th</sup> October (doesn't clash with other local societies)  
Suggestions for speakers incl. Kate Howells (Welsh ports and harbours), George Peterken (woodland history of Wye valley), JA (Building stone survey, Kate Hunter (Newport boat update), Martin Tuck (GGAT LBA/EIA site), Richard Osgood (SEP CHS), Andrew Young (Avon Arch S. Gloucs pipeline eval), Alex Brown (Reading wetland/dryland edge sites).

Guest speakers suggested as Crumlin Pedersen (Ex. Roskilde), someone from Norfolk/Suffolk rapid coastal zone survey or someone from Holland or north Germany (actual names went a bit vague here).

**Actions:** **RB** to invite speakers and book venue

**NN** to ask CP

**MB** to supply Peterken and Alex Brown email addresses

### 4. Development and research proposals

JA reported a proposal from the Env Agency to provide hard rock defences along Rumney Gt Wharf – imp. Paleo env sequences will be covered up and possible damage to peat shelf by machinery.

**Action:** **JA** to write letter on behalf of SELRC outlining concerns and copy to RB for file

MB mentioned fieldwork on one Neolithic site

VS mentioned Env Agency CHAMP (Catchment Heritage Action Management Plan?) being developed for Severn estuary, partly to measure extent and loss of intertidal habitat to justify managed retreat

VS mentioned Culver Sands Aggregate extraction proposal (no knock-on effects claimed)

SL mentioned Wessex Arch project on Aggregate extraction just finished and not just better identification of artefacts during extraction but also better evaluation required and that methodologies have been developed and proven to work.

RT mentioned windfarm proposals along sea wall

BJ mentioned windfarm proposal at confluence of Avon and Severn

RB mentioned windfarm proposals north of Brent Knoll and beside Hinkley Point and large landfill development at Walpole (west end of the Poldens) which may go down to –16m OD

### 5. SELRC website

RT suggested new leaflet could go on the web (except copyright images)

VS said new publication and her new contact details needed to be added

MB mentioned that NN was investigating possibilities at Lampeter

(NN has since updated position – University is still considering its position and may not do it for free)

(RB comment post meeting – possibility of getting lottery grant for new website design and enhancement and after that updating could be responsibility of Secretary?

RB can't update at the moment only BT)

## 6. Editor's update

PD said happy to carry on for another year but will try and find a successor to ensure smooth change over. Half of current volume at proof stage estimated at 110-120 pages, space for one or two short notes. 2 papers grant aided to c.£600-700. Discussion of print run suggested reduction from 400 to 300 to reduce costs. This was agreed.

**Action: PD** to reduce print run to max 300 and will get quotes from printers for 250 and 200 to see how much we can save as this would still leave many spares over and above membership. Next print run may therefore be reduced to less than 300.

**Action: SELRC officers** to agree print run once PD has quotes back.

RB asked about stock levels as storage of back issues appears to be the main problem.

**Action: RB, PD, SR, JJ and VS** to collate info. And here it is;

Volume	Julie J.	Steve R.	Paul D.	Vanessa S.	Total
4	1	-	-	8	9
5	8	-	-	24	32
6	8	-	-	186	194
7	8	33	-	119	160
8	8	97	-	11	116
9	8	47	-	73	138
10	6	15	-	243	264
11	13	5	-	284	302
12	8	-	150	40	198
13	12	-	65	16	93

Discussion of what to do with excess stock included pulping it, giving away sets to local groups, libraries etc.

RB suggested giving sets to local groups around next conference (Chepstow) eg.

Dean Arch Gp., Chepstow Arch Soc, Monmouth Arch Soc, together with membership form.

## 7. Finance offers report

JJ reported latest figures and handed out summary sheet of position till 31/12/03 when balance of £2980. Grants towards leaflet almost covered cost. Financial 'cushion' going down each year, eg. Last year cost of publication and printing was £3,443.

Income from subs and journal sales was £2,364. This makes grants for papers very important and making a small profit from the AGM v.imp. too.

JA suggested major conferences every 5 years at which point many committee members looked very tired and haggard.

RT suggested major conference every 10 years would be better as it involved a large amount of work. Members seemed to be invigorated by this suggestion that met with widespread approval.

## 8. New committee officers

RB mentioned that Julie Jones (treasurer) and Vanessa Straker (publications officer) will be stepping down at next AGM. New editor will be needed soon. All suggestions welcome. Keen interest in papers, shoes and events outside was expressed by non-officers present at this point.

### **9. Field visits 2004**

RT suggested Blackrock lave netters and Sudbrook Camp and Severn Tunnel and Portskewett saxon camp. Needs to weekday in July/Aug. Chorus of approval.

**Action:** RT to suggest dates

JA suggested Newport boat update at Llanwern

**Action:** NN has agreed to see if possible with Kate Hunter

### **10. SW England research frameworks**

RB said that these are shortly to begin and that those people who want to be involved should contact Somerset County Council. RB can forward expressions of interest. Frameworks will be organised into chronological groups as in other English regions.

### **11. AOB**

RT would welcome new research proposals for small CADW grant aid

VS mentioned Wetland Archaeology Seminar in London at the London wetland Centre on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May and distributed fliers

RT Delivered half of the remaining stock of SELRC leaflets to the English half of the estuary (ie.