

North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th March 2004 at Dolgellau, Gwynedd.

Present;

| | |
|--------------|--|
| I Evans | Gwynedd Council (Chair) |
| G Lloyd | Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri |
| D G Jones | Cyngor Gwynedd |
| D T Pollock | QPA |
| S Hill | Tarmac/QPA |
| M Haynes | Hanson/QPA |
| M Adair | Hanson/QPA Wales |
| J Davies | RMC/QPA |
| D Williams | Independent Quarry Operators |
| C Morgan | Welsh Assembly Government, Planning |
| B Hollington | Welsh Assembly Government, Agriculture |
| A Dale | Countryside Council for Wales |
| G Nancarrow | Flintshire County Council |
| S Owen | Anglesey CBC |
| H Rhys | Anglesey CBC |
| A Farrow | North West England RAWP |
| G Jones | Denbighshire CC |
| R Sheffield | Wrexham CBC |
| R P Bennion | Gwynedd Council/Sec.NWaRAWP |

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from C Thomas, Conwy CBC; R Carter, Environment Agency; J Williams, Anglesey; E Jordan, T Brown, Hanson; J Gibbins, Gwynedd; S Roberts; Welsh Slate; P Huxtable BAA and S Martin Welsh Assembly Government.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2003.

1.1 The meetings were accepted as a true record and could now be made available to the public.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 Re para 3.3 RPB said that the Assembly had confirmed that the annual report would not be translated. DGJ said this would not be acceptable to Gwynedd. IW said that Gwynedd would be prepared to translate the reports and reclaim the cost from WAG; CM said that WAG would not entertain such a request.
- 3.2 Re. para. 4.5 The report of the S&G subgroup is dealt with elsewhere in the agenda
- 3.3 Re para 5.1, actioned as required and the 2002 report finalised. RPB thanked SH and GJ (DCC) for their assistance.

4. Secretary's Report.

4.1 AM 2002 report completed and circulated. Copies had been sent out electronically with partial success, some recipients still requiring hard copies. It

- was agreed that a text only version should be available. There is no charge for electronic copies. **(Action: RPB to create text only version of AM2002)**
- 4.2 The survey forms for the AM 2003 survey had been sent out by the MPOs in January with a request that returns are made directly to the secretary. The survey includes secondary aggregates, although the response to previous surveys had been poor, but not quarry waste arisings. The road planings survey now includes the trunk roads agency. Reminders will be issued on 1/04/04 where appropriate. ODPM with the RAWPs coordinating sec are investigating a standard report format. It had yet to be decided if Wales would adopt any new format although it was agreed that the Welsh regions should be compatible.
 - 4.3 The 1996-2000 combined report had been completed and was available in hard copy only, on demand.
 - 4.4 The final report on EMAADS had been issued by Arup and had been well received. Similar methodologies have been developed by BGS and Arups in England. WAG was now proceeding with implementing the methodology, it was anticipated that a contractor would be selected on 01/04/04 with a view to an immediate start; the work would take 9-12 months to complete. Fundamental to the project was a comprehensive analysis of the geology of Wales to identify potential aggregate resource.
 - 4.5 The Welsh RAWPS with Smiths Gore had made a bid to the Sus. Fund for grant aid to carry out a survey of CDW and quarry waste arisings in Wales in 2003. Unofficially the bid had failed which could mean that the 2003 survey would not be carried out in Wales. CM said that the reasons for refusal would be made clear to allow the submission of a modified proposal. RPB said that the correct contact for the National Federation of Demolition Contractors been identified contact would be established with an invite to join the NWaRAWP. **(Action RPB)**
 - 4.6 The sec. had responded to WAG on the consultation on the European Mine Waste Directive, the issue was highly technical concerning matters of health and safety and beyond the expertise and remit of the RAWP.
 - 4.7 The sec. had met with the MPAs to explain the implications of the MTAN (Wales) Aggregates. He was awaiting a response to the offer to meet with appropriate Councillors from each Authority. IE said he would attend the meetings to emphasise the importance the work of the RAWPs. IE said that it was important MPAs reported the requirements of the MTAN to their elected members. **(Action: All MPAs)**
 - 4.8 The CPOs in the region had requested that the sec. address their next meeting (23/04/04) on matters of minerals and waste planning. The presentation will focus on the implications of the MTAN for MPAs with reference to such matters as the role of MPOs. IE said that the issue of Prohibition Orders should be raised.
 - 4.9 An approach had been made, by a group seeking NWaRAWP support, for a bid to the Sus. Fund for grant aid to purchase a disused quarry, it was agreed that it was inappropriate for the RAWPs to voice any opinion on applications to the Sus. Fund panel.
 - 4.10 The sec had been asked to represent the NWaRAWP on a steering panel for a project to develop the RIGS group in North Wales.

5. Annual Report 2002

- 5.1 The report had been completed and circulated. AF reminded the sec that copies need to be sent to the British Library, The Stationery Office and the Copyright library **(Action RPB)** The issue of placing the report on a web site was discussed,

the report would be placed on the ODPM site and as an interim it was agreed that it would be placed on the North Wales Reg. Waste Plan site.

- 5.2 A minor error in Table 5 is noted, the NE Wales total sand and gravel figure should read 20 not 23, reports provided after this meeting will have been corrected.
- 5.3 There was a consensus that the level of analysis contained in the report was acceptable but users of the report should be aware of the disclaimer contained in the preamble about the reliability of the base data. RPB said that the wording of the disclaimer had not been reviewed by a lawyer and this may be necessary in the future. DP there was a problem with inter regional movements particularly the under reporting of exports.
- 5.4 RPB asked if, with the emergence of a Reg. Technical Statement, there would be a need to produce an annual report or would a simple list of statistics be sufficient. AF suggested the answer lay in the RAWP contract. It was agreed that there were a number of implications for the RAWP contract arising from the MTAN. It was agreed that the RAWP chairs and secs. should meet with WAG to discuss the way forward. **(Action: IW, RPB, CM)**

6. Mineral Technical Advice Note-Wales-Aggregates

- 6.1 IE said that the launch of the MTAN presented the RAWP with a considerable challenge. It was agreed that preparatory work for the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) should commence as soon as possible and not wait for the outcome of the Environmental capacity survey referred to in the MTAN.
- 6.2 To facilitate progress it was agreed that a subgroup should be formed to consider the implications of the MTAN in details including the contents of the RTS and to report back to the next meeting of the RAWP. The following were selected to form the sub group; IE (Chair) , RPB (Sec), MA and SH(QPA Wales), DW(Ind/BAA), GJ GN RS (MPAs), AD(CCW), it was also agreed that an invite should be sent to the EA and that a representative of WAG should attend as observer. The meeting of the subgroup was fixed for 30th April 2004, RPB to finalise arrangements and prepare papers. All members to inform RPB of any issues for consideration of the subgroup. **(Action; All/RPB)**
- 6.3 SH asked for clarification of the position regarding mineral planning guidance until the RTS was available. CM said that the guidance contained in the MTAN was adequate to cover any eventualities in the interim period including for such matters as the review of landbanks and the serving of Prohibition Notices. He said that the MTAN had been drafted to allow for regional priorities and allowed the RAWPs to prepare imaginative regionally focused guidance.
- 6.4 It was agreed that RPB should liaise the SWRAWP sec on the matter. **(Action: RPB to contact SWRAWP)**

7. Sand & Gravel Resources in North West Wales – Sub Committee Report.

- 7.1 MA said that QPA Wales had not considered the report in detail, however it did not contain any matters considered to be controversial. Subject to the statement by MA the recommendations of the report were accepted and endorsed by the RAWP.

8. Minerals Research.

- 8.1 No report available from ODPM. DP reported that most research projects had been completed and it was understood that there had been a significant reduction in the research budget.
- 8.2 CM said that the environmental capacity assessment contact would be issued in April with a final report date not later than February 2005. It was likely that this work would take the bulk of the research budget for 2004/5.
- 8.3 The BGS was continuing with the geological mapping of central Wales and the work was nearing completion. Other areas had been programmed in but if MPOs felt that there were areas that needed urgent attention to allow more informed planning decisions they should advise WAG, as a matter of urgency, as it would be possible to revise the programme if necessary. **(Action: All MPOs)**

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 DP reminded members of the RTPI/QPA annual conference to be held in Wolverhampton on 27th May 2005.
- 9.2 GN raised the issue of the impact of the Aggregates Tax Levy; the tax could potentially cause problems for MPAs if quarries were forced to close or required additional land for tipping. CM asked for some direction from the RAWP on the matter. It was agreed that the sub group should give some attention to the issue. It was agreed that the current exemption rules were fundamental to the problem. MA /DP said that although the problem was recognised by the industry there was not currently a consensus on the best way forward. In Scotland Sus. Fund money had been used to allow quarries to replant to reduce waste. It was agreed that the tax was throwing up anomalies and they should be brought to the attention of The Treasury **(Action: All member to provide factual evidence to RPB/IE to write to Treasury)**
- 9.3 SH raised the matter of the emerging Water Framework Directive and the likely adverse impact this might have on landbanks and the ability of the industry to continue supplying aggregates. CAMs were drawing up catchment Plans and there was a worrying under representation on these bodies by both MPAs and the industry. DP said that the QPA had suggested a way forward via regional forums that could give aggregate planning, in the widest sense, an opportunity to make representations. It was agreed that the secretary should write to EA expressing concern and insisting that a representative be present at the next meeting to explain the EA position. **(Action: RPB to write to EA)**
- 9.4 CM said that the Sus. Fund panel was concerned about the low level of applications from local communities directly affected by quarrying. MA said that liaison committees could play a useful role in bringing the fund to the attention of the community. CM said that the MTAN had identified the possibility of money from the Sus. Fund being used to assist with the serving of Prohibition Notices and he was disappointed that no MPA in Wales had expressed any interest in this possibility. AD asked if the offer could be extended to cover review sites, for instance those affected by the Habitats Directive. CM said that this option could be considered by the panel, a review of the criteria is to be undertaken in the near future. **(Action: MPOs to raised local profile of Sus. Fund)**

10. Date of the Next Meeting

- 10.1 The next meeting will be held on 20th October 2004 in County Hall, Mold Flintshire. **(Action: RPB to arrange next meeting)**