

File Note; Meeting of the NWaRAWP Sub group.

Date; 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Present; I Evans        Gwynedd (Chair)  
          R Bennion      Gwynedd (Sec)  
          S Hill            Tarmac/QPA  
          M Adair         Hanson/QPA  
          A Dale          CCW  
          D Williams    D P Williams/Independent Producers  
          G Nancarrow    FCC  
          R Sheffield    WCBC  
          G Jones         DCC

Apologies; S Martin WAG

Purpose of the Meeting;

1. To discuss the implications of the MTAN Aggregates for the NWaRAWP, including the proposed Regional Technical Statement.
2. Contents of letter to Treasury from NWaRAWP on the impact of the Aggregate Tax on quarry operations in the North Wales region.

#### 1. Implications of MTAN

It was agreed that fundamental to the preparation of a RTS was a comprehensive database which gave, as accurately as possible, a picture of the entire aggregate market served by the N Wales region. This should include;

- The information currently collected through the AM surveys,
- Details of all quarry arisings, including waste material suitable for restoration and stone which could be used for construction,
- The amount of CDW available for primary aggregate substitution, it was agreed that total arisings were not of relevance to the role of the RAWPs
- The amount of secondary material being sold into the construction aggregate market for the N Wales region, this would include, for example, slate waste and low quality shale and mudstone from former clay pits.

**RB** said that the RAWPs with Smiths Gore, were bidding to the Sus Fund for money to carry out a survey of CDW and quarry waste arising throughout Wales. **MA** said with the aid of a properly drafted form the RAWPs were better placed to carry out the survey. It was agreed that 2003 would form the baseline. **RB** cautioned about survey fatigue and the previous unwillingness of some companies to cooperate with surveys. **MA** said that the industry had used data collected by BDS which had proved sufficiently reliable to permit commercial planning. To achieve this data collection **MA** agreed to prepare a draft form for the consideration of the subgroup. **DW** would seek, through his business contacts, the views of those companies currently supplying “fill material” to assess their willingness to contribute to the survey. **RB/IW** should discuss with WAG the matter of financial support for the purchase of data from such companies as BDS when they meet to discuss the current funding/contact for the NWaRAWP.

**RB** said that the RTS would need to address the issue of suitability of use and the potential for the substitution of one rock type for another, including for instance the ability of igneous rock to replace limestone.

The RTS must be balanced and focussed on the specific requirements of the region. It should be a pragmatic document and be able to accommodate the commercial realities of aggregate supply and demand but not be afraid to make strong recommendations where there was a conflict between matters of overriding environmental importance and the provision of aggregates.

**GJ** said that the system for dealing with mineral planning had been tested in waste planning and it had worked well, there had been full support at a political level and Councillors had shown themselves to be well informed, he saw no reason why this should not apply to minerals. The regional waste plan had not been site specific but was reliant on translation through UDPs, it was agreed that the RTS would probably follow a similar line although there was less flexibility given that minerals could only be worked where they lay.

**IW** said that as Chair of the N Wales CPOs he would be pushing the matter to ensure full involvement of the UAs. It was agreed that the Members group (political tier) should be up and running by January 2005 to ensure that they were fully briefed on the outcome of the environmental capacity study for Wales commissioned by WAG to apply the technique developed by Arups. (The contract has been awarded to Enviros/Liverpool Uni. – 05/05/04) And the final report will be available in Feb/March 2005.

**AD** suggested that consideration should be given to the MTAN requirement to resolve the issue of clearing away those planning permissions that were never likely to be worked by the serving of prohibition notices. It was agreed that this was an issue that the RTS would have to address, in the mean time **IW** would raise the matter again with the CPOs, he had already raised the matter at the last CPO meeting and offered the experience of his own dept which had successfully served four notices. It was agreed that if the UAs acted in accordance with the MTAN this could be an issue that was largely resolved before the issue of the RTS. **SH** said that there should be an understanding that dormant permissions were assets to the holders.

In conclusion to the matter it was agreed that the group should meet again to assess progress prior to the next NWaRAWP meeting and that **RB** should prepare and circulate a note on the issues to be accommodated in the RTS.

## 2. Aggregate Tax

It was agreed that **MA** would provide a draft letter to the NWaRAWP sec to form the basis of letter to the Treasury.

Date of next meeting;

**11.00 am 9th September 2004 at the Hanson office , Gwersyllt, Wrexham.**