

Steering Group Meeting No 14

Venue: Defra, Foss House, York and via tele-conference
Date: 29th September 2010
Start: 12:00

Present:

Philip Stamp (Defra) chair - PS	Matt Frost (MBA) - MF
Clare Adams (Cefas) minutes	Dan Laffoley (Natural England) - DL
Simon Baldwin (WAG) - SB	Jon Lartice (Defra) - JL
John Baxter (SNH) - JB	Kate Lonsdale (UKCIP) - KL
Paul Buckley (Cefas) - PB	Jackie Maud (Environment Agency) - JM
Martyn Cox (Scottish Government) - MC	Greg Morel (Jersey) - GM
Gareth Cunningham (CCW) - GC	Glenn Nolan (Marine Institute, ROI) - GN
Jane Edquist (Defra) - JE	Jon Tinker (Met Office) - JT
Katherine Kennedy (Cefas) - KK	Emma Verling (JNCC) - EV

Apologies:

Sandy Downie (SEPA)	Stephen Dye (Cefas)
Martin Edwards (SAHFOS)	Kevin O'Carroll (DECC)
Adam Mellor (AFBI)	Stephen Roast (EDF)
Colin Moffat (Marine Scotland)	Craig Wallace (NOC)

Action Points from the last meeting

The Marine Projections in Practice (PiP) event was successful with some helpful discussion. However some attendees struggled with technical aspects of Marine Projections so we will look into ways of pitching this at different levels in the future.

The inclusion of NGOs in MCCIP Phase II was discussed and will be actively pursued. We will explore options that minimise cost / travel inconvenience to NGOs given the spending constraints at the moment. This could be through 'Correspondence' membership of the Steering Group which offers participation in meetings via telephone to cut down on cost for smaller organisations –group agreed this was a good idea.

The issue of industry participation was raised and will be re-visited.

The knowledge gaps paper will hopefully proceed soon, currently awaiting feedback from the MSCC as to what they would like to get out of it.

MCCIP, through a joint Cefas / Defra nomination, has been shortlisted for a Civil Service Award in the Science, Engineering and Technology category. The awards ceremony takes place on 11th November at Buckingham Palace.

Work Programme for Phase II

Wrapping up phase 1 (Agree on tasks need to be completed)

Originally it was planned to have an event to mark the end of phase I. However, priorities have now changed and scoping of phase II work has already begun so the distinction between the two phases has become blurred. It was agreed that work should just continue with no distinct break between phases.

Timetable for delivery and key milestones for Phase II

Communications officer. Due to the recruitment freeze it is unlikely that a communications officer could be recruited. After discussions it was agreed that there are 2 options:

- a) In kind (preferred option)
- b) Secondment

Due to current financial climate, MF suggested that contingency business plans for differing budget deficits should be included in the business plan.

TORs will be revisited as part of revision of business plan.

Budgets and resourcing

The pledged funds schedule was discussed. It was felt that the deficit and, therefore, impact on the business plan may not be great. It is possible that some items (e.g. recruitment of 'communications' officer) only need to be postponed rather than cancelled.

Progress with the budget will be reviewed at the next steering group meeting when partner budgets are clearer.

Evaluation framework for phase II

After discussion around the use of the report it was agreed that the evaluation be independent / impartial and that there would be different levels within the report to use with different customers (e.g., report back at Steering Group on use of ARC; annual qualitative report). Also need to ensure that the evaluation picks up the different sections of MCCIP work effectively – e.g. ARC; CSW; Ecosystem Linkages

ARC 2010 dissemination

Dissemination of the report card was discussed and a round table conducted as to where it had been promoted. There had been quite a lot of activity in this area, including the distribution of 5000 report cards.

PB to talk to Bob Earll to see if ARC could be distributed at wider meetings (not just Coastal Futures).

Agreed standing agenda item to discuss use of ARC.

Special topic discussion

The steer from ministers was for the focus of the next special topic report card to be around Fish / Fisheries. The proposed process for dealing with this was agreed but needed to be fleshed out more.

It was agreed that the editorial group should comprise mainly of MCCIP 'regulars' to retain impartiality, remembering that the report card produced is evidence, not policy focused, although some consultation of policy would need to take place.

Nominations were taken for the editorial group and agreed. The first meeting would take place in the next month or two and focus on finalising membership for the group, process and how best to draw in wider expertise.

Climate Smart Working next steps

Climate Smart Working meetings were held on 28th September and 29th September (a.m.). MCCIP Climate Smart Working has been introduced to help champion the delivery of marine adaptation in the UK and in particular to address the challenge of bridging the gap between thematic risk assessment and the capacity of sectors to respond.

The objectives are:

- Enabling existing and new networks to come together to share knowledge, experience, concerns and priorities to collectively understand how to best adapt to the challenges presented by marine climate change.
- Identifying practical examples.
- Raising awareness.
- Ensuring a robust process.

The anticipated outcome of Climate Smart Working is to get people talking to each other about the need for action, understand what action is necessary and to identify key barriers.

Concerns were raised about the timescales and workload of those involved. Will need to make sure that it doesn't clash with work on Special Report Card.

Stakeholder network mapping exercise will identify who's represented, who's missing

Next steps were to provide a more detailed project plan, stakeholder mapping, follow up with 'new' participants and formalise mandate of group by next SG meeting.

Meeting closed: 16:00