

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 November 2020 on Zoom



In attendance:

DR	Cllr	David	Ritchie	ESC (Chair)		SB		Sharon	Bleese	CPE
AS		Alysha	Stockman	CPE (minutes)		RW		Rob	Wise	NFU
KT		Karen	Thomas	CPE		AA		Alison	Andrews	AOCP
TB		Tim	Beach	AOCP		MF		Madeline	Fallon	CPE
MA	Cllr	Melissa	Allen	ESC		KM		Keith	Martin	SCAR
TC	Cllr	Tony	Cooper	ESC		SJ		Steff	Jones	SCC
CB		Christine	Block	DEP		DD	Cllr	Derek	Davis	BDC
AR		Andy	Rouse	BCP				Philip	Ridley	ESC
RS		Richard	Steward	BEP				Adam	Rowlands	RSPB
MJ		Mark	Johnson	EA				Sharon	Richardson	CPE
GW		Gary	Watson	EA				Will	Burchnall	BMSDC
SA		Simon	Amstutz	SCH AONB			Cllr	Keith	Patience	ESC
GN	Cllr	Graham	Newman	SCC				Andy	Smith	RFCC Rep
JG		Julian	Gregory	EIFCA						

Apologies: Georgie Sutton (MMO), Cllr David Beavan (SCAR/ESC), Cllr James Mallinder (ESC), Jane Marson (IDB), Greg Hall (AW), Cllr Carole Jones (IBC), Andy Millar (NE), Francesca Shapland (NE)

1.	Welcome and Introductions	The Chair shared a round of introductions.
2.	Coastal Engagement	<p>SB shared that now the conference will be in partnership with Norfolk Coast Forum and the RFCC, new branding has been approved by the chairs of the coast forums and TB.</p> <p>SB informed the forum that research has been done around conferences next year and many are looking at virtual options. Coastal Partnership East (CPE) will look into two options: a fully virtual conference, and a partially virtual conference with limited attendance. SB suggested when conferences can be held in person, a virtual option will help to reach more people including students.</p> <p>SB added the conference would still be fully funded by sponsorship. SB asked for any suggestions of conference speakers and topics. The Chair asked if a comma could be added to the logo so that it reads easier. ACTION: SB to amend this</p> <p>TB added involving young people and some sort of school competition to find a conference speaker was raised at the RFCC Engagement Group.</p> <p>The Chair suggested adaptation and resilience.</p> <p>Andy Smith suggested the floods minister, Rebecca Pow MP. SB added this would work better with a partially virtual event because if necessary, this could be pre-recorded.</p> <p>AR suggested a speaker from Holland to understand how they have dealt with sea defence issues. SB added this could be done through contacts at Royal HaskoningDHV.</p>

		<p>AA suggested something on the different coastal flows along the East Anglian coast or climate change. AA added East Anglia has been impacted by the land changing since the ice age and suggested something on the history of that.</p> <p>The Chair suggested someone from the Committee on Climate Change and Adaptation.</p> <p>Andy Smith suggested Julia Bradbury. GN suggested Neil Oliver from Coast.</p> <p>ACTION: Forum members to send SB any conference speaker suggestions they have</p>
3.	Eastern IFCA	<p>JG shared that the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Eastern IFCA) is a statutory organisation, established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.</p> <p>Eastern IFCA manages the exploitation of sea fishery resources and balances this with the need to protect the marine environment or promote its recovery from such exploitation. This district is from just south of the Humber to Felixstowe and goes six nautical miles out to sea.</p> <p>There are 10 IFCAs in England and Eastern IFCA is one of the largest geographically and in terms of people. Eastern IFCA is overseen by seven councillors from the three funding authorities – Suffolk, Lincolnshire, and Norfolk County Councils. There are also 12 MMO appointees, who have applied to volunteer as members of the authority and are appointed for their knowledge and skills that fall within the IFCA’s remit including one MMO officer. There are also two officers from Natural England and the Environment Agency (EA).</p> <p>The Cromer shoal chalk bed was designated as a Marine Conservation Zone in 2016. This is a significant challenge for Eastern IFCA as when this was designated the work concluded that potting activity may not be compatible with the designation. Eastern IFCA are adopting a collaborative project to look at adaptive risk management for potting activity.</p> <p>The Wash brown shrimp fishery account for 94% of the UK landings of brown shrimp and the average value from 2010-2016 was £1.64m. The Wash cockle fishery was £1.7m last year.</p> <p>Eastern IFCA have a marine protection team who deal with regulation through by-laws and work closely with the community. The marine protection team work to educate people about the importance of regulations so that they comply with them and therefore there is a low level of prosecution. The marine science team do stock assessments to convince Natural England the fishery can take place without having an adverse effect on the conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>JG added habitat mapping is done to manage the impact of fishing activity on the environments. Shrimping trawls in the Wash impact on sediments, which are habitats for very small creatures.</p> <p>Eastern IFCA see responding to consultations as an important part of their role to make sure that developers and planners are fully informed of all the issues facing the fishing industry and the conservation perspective.</p> <p>CB asked what will change post Brexit. JG added in the short-term the new fisheries bill and environmental legislation that is going through will replicate the current EU regulations. It will also create the ability to change regulation and rules over time.</p> <p>CB asked if fish stocks will rise or if quotas will increase and stocks be put under threat. JG added the level of stocks is important and quota has been a method to manage those stocks, but the mechanism of quotas means there are big winners and big losers. JG would like to see a more balanced approach, with more regional level management.</p>

		<p>AR asked if wind farm cables can be fished or trawled over without detriment. JG added it depends how they are installed. If the cables are properly buried then there is no issue with trawling, but if rock armour is used or the cable is on the surface there is a risk of loss of gear if it becomes snagged.</p> <p>AR asked why there has been a collapse in the shrimp fishing in the Wash between 2018 and 2019. JG added shrimp stocks fluctuate significantly as they are highly reproductive and not managed by any quota. Shrimp have good years and bad years.</p> <p>AA asked if the IFCAs work all the way up the estuaries to the tidal limit and if they do surveys of what is in the estuaries. JG added the IFCAs do go inland up to the high-water mark. Eastern IFCA have done small fish surveys in the Ore and Alde.</p> <p>The Chair asked if archaeology or remains of human activity is found when doing the surveys. JG added there is a really clear image of an old research vessel sitting in the Wash. There are a number of chartered wrecks around the coast, which are targeted by divers and chartered boat skippers due to good fish stocks around wrecks.</p> <p>DD asked if Eastern IFCA get involved in the protection of the seashores, for example, the cockle collectors at Shotley. JG added Eastern IFCA was involved with a number of other authorities.</p> <p>The Chair suggested this would be interesting to a wider audience such as the annual conference. The Forum agreed.</p>
4.	SMP Refresh & EA Strategy	<p>GW shared that the SMP Refresh is a national initiative that started about 12 months ago. The final draft reports and supplementary guidance have just been published. The team are looking into how to publish these on the gov.uk website.</p> <p>The next phase of the Refresh is to look at ascribing policy clarifiers for the policy units to give more detail than the four policies. For example, in north Norfolk there are three different policies for Managed Realignment so this will give greater clarity.</p> <p>Planning interfaces are also being looked at as well as a new national SMP website.</p> <p>GW added he will be meeting with East Suffolk Council to discuss the draft reports and action plan.</p> <p>CB asked if the notes of meetings with East Suffolk Council will be in the public domain. KT agreed to share notes after the meetings.</p>
5.	Innovative Resilience Fund	<p>KT shared that the Innovative Resilience Fund (IRF) has come out of the EA and Defra on the back of the EA Strategy and the new Defra Coastal Policy that were released in the summer. KT added there is now a clear mandate for transition and adaptation around the coast. The IRF is trying to support moving everything forward.</p> <p>KT added it is a £200m fund launched by the EA last week for 25 different places around the country to have up to £6m each. It is a capital project designed to support households, communities, and businesses in each of these areas to adapt to a changing climate.</p> <p>This fund can only be applied for by lead local flood authorities or coastal protection authorities and as a result CPE are looking at a proposal across the North Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and East Suffolk Council frontage working with Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils. The closing date for expressions of interest</p>

		<p>is 15th January 2021. This fund is not for Flood Defence Grant in Aid fundable projects.</p> <p>CPE have done some work to think about community types. There are communities that are erosion risk, some of whom are undefended and at high risk and some who are currently defended but the SMP is suggesting something different in the future or it will become more challenging to afford those defences. There are also areas of urban tidal inundation such as Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth and rural tidal inundation such as the Suffolk estuaries.</p> <p>CPE have also been thinking about what to apply to these locations. This includes planning solutions; technical solutions; financial and funding options; engagement, communication, and behavioural change; and policy, process, and legislation.</p> <p>KT asked for ideas and feedback from the Forum. CB suggested looking at the rural areas of coast as much as the urban when considering adaptation and behavioural change.</p>
6.	CLIFF	<p>KT shared the Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Finance (CLIFF) is a project looking at the funding and finance aspects of resilience on the coast. There are no established financing or funding mechanisms to incentivise residents to relocate from high-risk erosion or permanent inundation areas.</p> <p>The first phase of this work was completed over the last year. CPE have been working with Marsh, who deliver the Flood Re insurance product. CPE have completed a report that explores potential viable solutions short-term and long-term finance and funding for people living on the coast who are or are likely to be affected by property loss.</p> <p>The project is now in phase 1b, which will be to develop the options further. The final phase (phase 2) will be to pilot options. Options considered are a rollback model, coastal accumulator fund, levy model, and coastal rehousing pool.</p> <p>Andy Smith asked to what extent the EA and RFCC are involved. KT confirmed that Kellie Fisher recently presented this to the RFCC and there has been engagement throughout the project with the EA and RFCC locally.</p> <p>AR asked how properties gain access to the bond and if this would be available to those at Shingle Street. KT added they would sit under permanent inundation and CPE are working with Marsh to understand what archetype each community fits under and what financial tools best apply to them.</p> <p>TB confirmed the RFCC are happy to be involved.</p> <p>CB added communities should be consulted about which category they are put under. KT added the categories are based on SMP policies.</p>
7.	Updates from partners	<p>AR added Bawdsey Coastal Partnership have been putting in photo posts along the coast, inviting the public to help track changes in the coastline.</p> <p>CB shared that the Deben Estuary Partnership have concerns around the publishing of the England Coast Path.</p> <p>CB asked why there is no mention of work to the saltmarsh in the Water Management Alliance (WMA) update. KT added her understanding is there were some outstanding questions from the MMO on the consents for the saltmarsh work and the WMA are working through those.</p>
8.	Key dates and forward look	<p>KT shared 15th January is the closing date for the IRF bid. There is a month-long consultation on Sizewell C for additional information from EDF starting in the</p>

		<p>next couple of weeks. CPE are hoping to do a ground-breaking for the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project tidal walls early in new year.</p> <p>TC confirmed the EDF consultation is starting tomorrow.</p> <p>KT added CPE are planning to hold another virtual event on 1st December similar to the coastal focused engagement event in August.</p>
9.	Suggested agenda items for future meetings	<p>The Chair noted CB's mention of the England Coast Path earlier in the meeting. CB added it is a contentious and difficult issue. CB would like a definite timetable.</p> <p>The Chair noted the difficulty in the Deben estuary and asked if there are any other sensitive parts of the coast path that need resolving.</p> <p>AA added the results for the Alde and Ore are not yet known.</p> <p>AR agreed it would be useful to have somebody from Natural England to explain the reasoning, especially at East Lane where cliff is being lost.</p> <p>CB suggested for the Forum to have some assessment of the loss of agricultural land down the coast and how that impacts not only on agricultural / land values and cropping but the rural economy.</p> <p>AA suggested the Forum needs to keep an eye on all the energy projects going on and the BEIS report.</p>
10.	Date of next meeting	<p>DR suggested the date of the next meeting for February and asked for four meetings per year plus a conference.</p> <p>The Forum agreed.</p> <p>ACTION: AS to share a doodle poll for the next meeting date</p>
11.	Previous minutes	The Forum approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
12.	Any Other Business	KT shared that Emma Dixon from the WMA has confirmed the MMO licence is now in place and work will be starting later this week.
		Close at 12.15