



Solent Water Quality Group Meeting
10th March 2010
Fareham Borough Council
Rob Crighton – Chair

Present

Rob Crighton – SCC (chair)
Sian Hughes – SF Student
Debbie Kennedy – PCC
Vic Evershed – GBC
Fiona Freeman – NFDC
Mike McKeown – Southern Water
Richard Gustar – FBC

Rhian Edwards – SFO
Alastair Pratt – EA
Duncan Keir – CDC
Claire Terry – GBC
David Bone – Southern Water
Claire Scannell – Welsh Water

Apologies

Rupert Taylor – Portsmouth Commercial Ports
Alison Steele – HCC Lepe Country Park

1. Introduction and Welcome

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. In particular RC welcomed the guest speaker for the meeting, Claire Scannell from Welsh Water. RC thanked FBC for hosting the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

RE went through the minutes and actions from the previous meeting. All the actions have been carried out with majority being dealt with in this meeting. No one had any further comments.

3. UV treatment of Storm water discharge

Claire Scannell provided the group with a presentation on a new UV treatment process that Welsh Water have been using in the Barry area of South Wales. Claire is an Environment Planning Manager for Welsh Water and has been working on the Barry Bathing Beaches project for a number of years.

Presentation will be circulated with the minutes. Claire can be contacted via email at Claire.Scannell@dwrcymru.com

Action 1 – SFO to circulate CS contact details and presentation to WQ group.

4. Water Quality Information Sheets

RE explained that at the last SFWQ meeting it was agreed that a series of information sheets would be produced to help promote the work of the group, inform others about WQ and also to be used in the delegate packs of the WQ conference.

There are 7 information sheets in total



- Water Framework Directive
- Bathing Water Directive
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Combined Sewer Overflows
- Water Quality and Fisheries
- Eutrophication
- Solent Water Quality Awards

All the members of the group were impressed with the mock ups done so far. Once completed they will be available to download individually off the SF website. The WQ group thought that this would be a really useful resource especially to help inform Council members.

RE explained that majority of the text had been put together by Sian Hughes, a student working for the Solent Forum on placement. Kate Ansell who also works for the Solent Forum had created the mock ups and put the finishing touches to the text. RE felt the group should have ownership of the information sheets and would like the group to assist her in looking over the final sheets before print. They are to be printed in house at the Solent Forum using good quality paper. The group agreed to assist the SFO in quality checking the information sheets before they are printed.

Action 2 – SFO to circulate final mock-ups of all the sheets when ready to the group for comment.

5. Solent Water Quality Conference 28th April, 2010

Plans for the conference at the Gosport Explosion Museum are coming along well and RE asked the group to help promote the event. At present 34 people have booked onto the conference but only 20 of these are paying. The group need to attract at least 40 paying delegates to the conference in order to cover the costs.

Emu Ltd and Southern Water will be sponsoring the event which is great news. It is possible as well that entry will be provided to the museum on the day to the delegates to view during the breaks. It was highlighted that not all members of the WQ group have booked a place and they were encouraged to do so. It is of benefit of the group to help promote the event and it is hoped the conference will help bring in a profit for the group in order that it may run for an additional 2 years.

RE explained that one of the presenter has had to pull out of the conference and since the WQ meeting another one has also had to withdraw. Therefore there are currently two empty speaker slots which need to be filled asap. If anyone has any further suggestions then please do contact Solent Forum officer.

Action 3 – SWQ group and SFO to promote event further.

Action 4 – SFO to find new presenters.

6.AOB



a) Solent Water Quality Awards.

RE explained that all those who submitted a application form have been granted the relevant award. It is likely that the WQ awards will be presented at the conference. As of next year the award standard will have changed.

b) Staff changes

RE will be leaving the forum on the 19th March and Karen McHugh the Solent Forum Manager will take back the group and continue with organising the conference.

c) Defra draft guidance on signage at Bathing Waters

RE was forwarded a document from John Green at Arun which might of use to the group. This is draft guidance for signage on beaches linked with the revision of the Bathing Water Directive. This document will be circulated with the minutes.

d) Floods and Water Management Bill

RE highlighted that the draft Bill was currently going through the House of Commons and it was worth the group keeping up to date with the progress of this through following the Defra website

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/policy/fwmb/>

The Flood and Water Management Bill sets out how flood and coastal risk management in England and Wales will be managed in the future, and provides the basis for a new legislative framework supporting a more integrated approach to water management.

7. Date of next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be the 18th November. Please let the SFO know if you are able to host the meeting.