

**WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY/NORFOLK CC/BC KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
PARTNERSHIP FUNDING MEETING
30 JANUARY 2014**

Present:

Julie Foley, Environment Agency (EA)
Tom McCabe, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Ray Harding, BCKL&WN
Philip Bennett-Lloyd, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Peter Jermany, BCKL&WN
Nigel Woonton, Environment Agency

Purpose of the meeting

The meeting was held to agree how the three lead authorities with responsibilities for the Wash East coast could work in partnership, along with other local interested parties, to continue to manage the sea defences between Hunstanton and Snettisham.

Background

The Wash Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), published in 2010, set out a Hold the Line policy for The Wash coast between Hunstanton South and Snettisham for the first epoch i.e. from now until 2025. Implementation of this policy is dependent on the availability of funds to achieve it.

From 2025 onwards the policy is conditional; dependent on climate change, funding, social and environmental factors. The resultant policy would therefore be either; hold the line, managed realignment or no active intervention.

The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS) was set up in 2010 to take forward the policies set out in the SMP. Working with the support of a local stakeholder group the project team has developed a range of options for consideration, all of which depend on a level of partnership funding. The stakeholder group has been chaired by Cllr Brian Long and administered by the Environment Agency. The WECMS will be published for public consultation in June 2014.

Partnership Funding

The WECMS extensively reviewed a number of partnership funding mechanisms and concluded that the preferred and most practical option is to have voluntary, contractually confirmed contributions (for example through the formation of a **Charitable Trust** or **Community Interest Company**).

A future funding contribution from the Environment Agency is dependent on a partnership funding approach being developed, which is in accordance with Government policy.

Agreed Actions from the meeting:

- The WECMS will progress to programme (see attached timeline) and present a range of options for the ongoing management of the coast between Hunstanton and Snettisham. The final choice of option will be

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dependent on the wishes of local stakeholders and the level of partnership funding contributions which can be raised.

- The three lead authorities (EA, BCKL&WN and NCC) with responsibilities for the Wash East coast will jointly write a foreword for the WECMS consultation when it is published in the summer. The foreword will underline the authorities' joint commitment to working in partnership to develop a way forward with the local community and subject to partnership funding.
- The EA will require a letter of support for the WECMS from both NCC and BCKL&WN before it can be formally approved by the EA and enable the EA to contribute to partnership funding. This will be required after public consultation in July 2014.
- Each party (EA, NCC, BCKL&WN) agreed to seek funding on a tripartite basis to enable a further recycling operation in financial year 2015/16 to allow time for formal partnership funding mechanisms to be set up. Funding needs and timing are shown on the attached timeline. In principle this would mean two thirds of the funding for the annual beach recharge would come from the councils. The EA would seek agreement from the Central Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) to using Local Levy to fund the remaining amount. The EA would commit to providing the operational resources to undertake the annual beach recharge work.
- All parties agreed to participate in discussions with local stakeholders (mainly caravan site owners and land owners) to set up a Charitable Trust or Community Interest Company.
- The Borough Council agreed to lead on discussions with stakeholders to set up a Charitable Trust or Community Interest Company with support from the EA and NCC. BCKL&WN agreed to identify a lead officer to facilitate these discussions.
- EA agreed to report on the outcomes of the meeting to the next Central RFCC meeting in April 2014.

WECMS TIMELINE

Key: Beach recycling items, WECMS items, **Funding issues/requirements**

2014

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Tidal Surge repair work	Beach Recycling – RFCC funded £140k.	Beach Recycling			WECMS Public consultation

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Borough & County Councils letters of support needed.	22 nd LPRG submission deadline.		8/9 th LPRG meeting dates.	WECMS - LPRG recommendation for approval	

2015

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
WECMS – Sign-off/Approval by EA Director	Beach Recycling – RFCC funded £140k	Beach Recycling. Recycling contractor's contract expires.	No further funding approved. Q1 need = £15k		

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Q2 need = £15k Env. Monitoring consultants contract expires.		MMO Licence application deadline. £1700	Q3 need = £30k		

2016

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Q4 need = £80k	Beach Recycling? No funding MMO Licence expires	Beach Recycling?			

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Natural England 5 year consent expires November 2017.