

**SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL WASTE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN**  
**MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP**  
**Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004, at 10.30am**  
**Council Chamber, Penllergaer Civic Centre**

**Present**

Geoff White (Chair)	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Ceri Morris	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Mike Jones	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Carol Williams	Pembrokeshire CC / PCNPA
Dave Harries	Pembrokeshire CC / PCNPA
Nick Oakes	Ceredigion County Council
Clifford Parish	City & County Of Swansea
Ruth Brown	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Audrey Evans	Environment Agency (SW Wales)
Miranda Lewis	Environment Agency
Neil Bateman	Carmarthenshire County Council
Phil Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council
Sue Martin	Welsh Assembly Government
Russell Owens	Welsh Assembly Government
Tony Yates	SLR Consulting Ltd.

1. **Apologies**

Philip Marks	CYLCH
Steve Bool	Bridgend County Borough Council
Hugh Towns	Carmarthenshire County Council
Ruth Henderson	City & County Of Swansea
Alison Thomas	City & County Of Swansea
Graham Dorrington	Ceredigion County Council
Karin Black	Environment Agency

2. **Minutes of the Technical Group meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004**

Agreed to be a true record and there were no matters arising.

3. **A Regional Approach to Waste Management**

• **The issue of ‘pooling’ targets**

Tony Yates gave a brief presentation concerning the main issues facing the region, which is set out in the Position Statement Report “*A Regional Approach to the Management of Municipal Waste*”.

- It was emphasised that there could be significant benefits in adopting a Regional approach to meeting the requirements of the Landfill Allowance system in South West Wales; but
- The current legislation does not allow the ‘pooling’ of targets.

At this point GW invited Russell Owens to brief the Group on the WAG stance on the issue of ‘pooling’:

- It was confirmed that the Landfill Allowance Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2004 apply to individual local authorities and that there is no mechanism under these regulations for ‘pooling’

allowances. The legal duties fall on individual local authorities and these cannot be aggregated to a regional level;

- In November 2002 a consultation on how best to achieve the targets was carried out. 'Pooling' the targets was rejected;
- All Waste Disposal and Collection authorities are required to meet the targets, monitor and deal with any penalties incurred;
- The Landfill Allowance Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2004 will not be amended. The legislation however, will be reviewed in 2007; and
- The WAG will however, support the pooling of resources and contracts.

Discussion ensued and the following was noted:

- Such an inflexible stance would lead to over-capacity within the Region (i.e. the potential of 5 or 6 sub-regional facilities being built). Is this desirable?;
- The WAG stance destroys the likelihood of any future progress on the Position Statement report on regional working;
- There is a need for the WAG to indicate whether or not the Position Statement report may be considered in the future; and
- In order for individual authorities to hit their targets, there is a need to start planning for infrastructure now.

The following was **agreed**:

- There is a need to inform Members of the implications of the WAG's inflexible stance;
- A progress report be produced for Members outlining the current 'state of play', the options available to the Region and a recommendation to instigate political lobbying. **Action:** GW;
- A draft report to be circulated for comment by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>. **Action:** GW. Any comments to be received by midday Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. **Action:** All.

#### 4. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at 10.30am on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

#### 5. **Any Other Business**

CP reported that SLR has done a considerable amount of work for the Region and the additional bill will be circulated to those concerned shortly.

SM reported on the progress being made on the GIS Mapping Research. The WAG GIS team based in Aberystwyth has expressed an interest in implementing the research, although the final decision has yet to be confirmed. **Action:** SM to inform the Group of any decision.