
**MINUTES OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL TECHNICAL GROUP (RTG) MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY, 3RD JUNE 2003 AT THE TALARDY HOTEL, ST ASAPH AT 10.30PM**

PRESENT FOR:

Anglesey County Council
John Williams, Steffan Owen

Conwy County Borough Council
Barry Bond (Chair), Ceri Thomas

Cylch
Katie Trent

Denbighshire County Council
Graham Boase, Gareth Jones, Brian Lyden, Avril Hughes

Environment Agency
Brian Booth, Karin Black

Flintshire County Council
Gary Nancarrow, Andy McBeth, Alan Roberts

Gwynedd County Council
Steffan Jones, Jeremy Gibbins

Powys County Council
Andy Bull, Jan Jonker

SLR Consulting Limited
Alban Forster

Snowdonia National Park Authority
D Gareth Lloyd

Wales Environment Trust
Paul Roberts

Waste Strategy Unit
Cathy O'Brien

Welsh Development Agency
Julie Masters

Wrexham County Council
Bob Sheffield, John Ellis, Geoff Clegg

Welsh Assembly, Planning Division
Andrew Adcock

Observer: Roger Bennion

1. REFRESHMENTS (10-10.30AM)

2 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Richard Carter (Wales Environment Trust) and Sue Martin (Welsh Assembly Government).

2.2 Barry Bond (BB – Chair) welcomed Paul Roberts and Karin Black to their first meeting of the Regional Technical Group. Roger Bennion was also welcomed to the meeting as an observer in his role as Secretary of the North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP).

3 MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 8TH APRIL 2003

Accuracy

3.1 Received as a true record

Matters Arising

3.2 Reference was made to point 7.4.1 of the RTG Minutes , 8th April 2003. GHB clarified that it was mainly the text for the questionnaire to be produced for the full consultation stage on the Draft Regional Waste Plan that would be circulated for RTG comments.

3.3 It was advised that an executive decision had been made by Denbighshire as the coordinating Authority, on the design and contents of the final version of the logo for the Region and the contents and design of the raising awareness leaflet and poster, given the general nature of the contents and the time constraints. It was also advised that the posters and leaflets had now been produced and that these would be referred in Item 7 of the Agenda.

4 CORRESPONDENCE/CONTACT (AGENDA ITEM 4)

4.1 Graham Boase (GB) referred to the report which had been previously circulated to Members of the Group and which detailed the issues raised in correspondence and contact which had been with Flintshire, Wrexham, North Powys and Gwynedd since the previous meeting. GB summarized the issues raised as follows:

WREXHAM

Weightings:

4.2 It was felt that the indicators were skewed towards waste management concerns.

General:

4.3 The Wrexham Members on the RMG do not have delegated powers and therefore needed to receive all documents needing ratification at least 3 weeks before any RMG meeting. It was also felt that the timetable for completion of the plan was over optimistic and that it was also unclear how it would be finalized, the protocol for its distribution (Draft and Final Plan) and what status it would have.

Stage 2b Report

4.4 This needs to be more user friendly which is a view shared by Members.

FLINTSHIRE

- 4.5 Correspondence from Flintshire also raised concerns regarding the weightings process and the performance indicators as well as the presentation of the information in the Stage 2b report which should be simplified and more user friendly.

Comments on issues raised

- 4.6 Alban Forster (AF) advised that the performance indicators were national performance indicators and were therefore used by all 3 Regions in Wales . He advised that whilst specific issues such protection of AONBs and SSSI were important these were best dealt with at the local level .
- 4.7 GB appreciated that Wrexham Members did not have delegated powers and that all efforts would be made to distribute reports etc well in advance of RMG meetings. He also clarified the fact that in respect of the Stage 2b Report, Members would only be requested to agree the version of the Draft Plan that goes out to consultation and not to agree a specific option or option(s). GB advised that the timetable for producing the plan was set by TAN 21 and acknowledged that it was a tight timescale but one that the Group had to try and work to. He also advised that a copy of the letter by Wrexham raising concerns about the timescales had been sent to WAG for comments.
- 4.8 With regards to the status of the plan Cathy O'Brien (C O'B) advised that WAG will be issuing a report at some stage to address this matter.
- 4.9 In terms of the protocol for distribution of the Draft Plan etc it was advised that 500 to 600 copies of the Draft Plan would be produced by DCC for the Region. Within the Plan reference would be made to all the previous technical reports. Anyone who required a copy to contact DCC who would arrange distribution and cost charges. However, all documents will be available on the Waste Website. I was advised the further information would be provided to confirm the process.
- 4.10 It was also stated that the Stage 2b Report and previous reports were Technical Reports and that efforts had been made by SLR to make these more user friendly and that the Draft Regional Waste Plan would be a user friendly document which would address the concerns raised.

POWYS

- 4.11 It was advised that Gareth Jones (GJ) of DCC had been to meet RTG and RMG representatives for Powys and that the meeting had been very useful. Issues raised included a discussion on the need to try and ameliorate the antipathy surrounding incineration.

Comments on issues raised

- 4.12 Formal correspondence raised specific questions on options 1, 5 & 6 and the definition of land recovery.
- 4.13 It was advised that AF had previously formally responded directly to the issues raised regarding the options. On the issue of land recovery it was advised that this was an Environment Agency term, and that in planning terms it was understood to refer to the use of recycled construction and demolition waste as secondary aggregates in all types of development schemes.

GWYNEDD

- 4.14 It was advised that GB and GJ of DCC had met with the representatives of Gwynedd on the RTG an RMG and that this meeting was very useful.

- 4.15 A general discussion followed in which AF advised that the Wizard software package was in the process of being upgraded and that work in relation to regional waste plans would be used as a case study. Anyone who knew of any interesting technologies regarding waste management facilities and which could possibly form part of the upgrade were invited to contact AF. Furthermore, anyone wishing to obtain a Wizard functionality list were advised to contact AF.
- 4.16 Karin Black (KB) raised concerns that there was no one at the meeting representing the private sector and that they needed to be involved at the beginning rather than at the end of the process.
- 4.17 GJ advised that the industry had a representative on the Regional Technical Group in Colin Priestley who was representing the Wales Environmental Services Association and who had been involved at the start of the process, but had not attended recent meetings since starting a new job. It was also advised that this issue would be referred to under Item 7 on consultation.

It was agreed that the WESA representative would be formally contacted to confirm that he was to continue his role on the RTG.

5. PRESENTATION BY SLR

i) Stage 2b Sustainability Assessment Report – June 2003

- 5.1 AF gave a presentation and updated the group on the amendments which had been incorporated to the report since the May 2003 version of the report. The RTG were invited to provide feedback and it was advised that agreement of the Stage 2b report was being sought so that it could be used and referred to in the Draft Regional Waste plan in order to assist in the assessment and consideration of possible options.
- 5.2 AF advised that it was hoped that most of the issues and matters which had been raised by the RTG and as referred to by GB had now been addressed. He also advised that the main change to the report in terms of the overall assessment related to the addition of dioxins as part of the sensitivity analysis in the sustainability assessment and that this did not significantly alter the overall outcome of the assessment.
- 5.3 There followed a general discussion about the issue of hazardous waste and that there was a need to address the fact that sites would be required in the Region in order to deal with this waste stream. GB stressed again that in addition to the other issues raised, hazardous waste would also be referred to in the Draft Regional Waste Plan and the document would be presented in a user friendly way.

The RTG agreed the Stage 2b Sustainability Assessment Report June 2003 subject to any further comments which needed to be submitted to SLR/DCC by Friday 6 June 2003.

6. DRAFT REGIONAL WASTE PLAN

- 6.1 GJ advised that DCC were in the process of producing the Draft Regional Waste Plan and that the purpose of this Item was to generate discussion and input from the RTG on what needed to be included in the Draft Plan. He advised that whilst there was guidance in TAN 21 on the contents of the Plan this was fairly broad and there was no requirement for the plan to be structured in a particular way. I was also advised that the main purpose of the plan was to provide a land use planning framework which would assist the Unitary Authorities in the Region to allocate sites for new waste management facilities in their Unitary Development Plans. A general discussion followed and the following issues were raised:

- (i) The need for general consistency between the 3 Welsh Regions in terms of the structure and general contents
- (ii) A need to clearly explain the options and try to relate this to land use planning implications
- (iii) Presentation of information in a non technical way
- (iv) Address the issue of cost in terms of the requirement to provide new waste management facilities (both financial and environmental cost)
- (v) Reference to Municipal Waste Strategies of Waste Authorities
- (vi) The issue of hazardous waste needs to be addressed

6.2 It was advised that the above would be incorporated in the Draft Plan and that Members of the Regional Members Group would also have an opportunity to provide input at their forthcoming meeting on the 24 June 2003.

7. CONSULTATION (REPORT PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

7.1 GJ advised that the purpose of the report (previously circulated) was to clarify the publicity and consultation process to be undertaken in producing the NWRP and to specify what the other Authorities and organizations on the RTG are required to undertake as a minimum requirement. The publicity and consultation process and requirements were specified as:

i) PUBLICITY – RAISING GENERAL AWARENESS POSTER AND LEAFLET

7.2 It was advised that an executive decision had been made by DCC on the final design and presentation of the raising awareness leaflets and posters. Copies of the final leaflets and posters were circulated and DCC were congratulated on producing very informative leaflets and posters.

7.3 It was advised that the 15000 leaflets and 1500 hundred posters had been produced and would be distributed asap in accordance with the numbers figures specified

ii) 2 MONTH FULL CONSULTATION

7.4 It was advised that this would be specifically targeted towards the Draft Plan and in addition to 15000 leaflets/questionnaire and 1500 posters there would also be a flyer targeted towards the waste industry and pressure groups.

7.5 It was advised that the minimum requirement in terms of the individual authorities in respect of the publicity and consultation material included displaying and /or distribution of leaflets and posters in all buildings occupied/used by the council which were accessible to the public, and to all town and community councils in their areas. Other organizations were required to display /distribute the material at offices or buildings related to their business and which were accessible to the general public.

7.6 It was stressed again that that if any Authority or organization on the RTG wanted to do more than the minimum required then this would be encouraged and more leaflets and posters could be produced subject to cost.

7.7 It was advised that DCC will collate and summarise all the responses to publicity and that representors should be advised to respond formally through the leaflet/questionnaire (to be produced) and the feedback form on the website. In the event that individuals wanted to

give a verbal response a form had been produced by DCC and was distributed at the meeting to each Authority so that records could be kept of individual verbal comments. It would hopefully be possible to present the collated representations on an individual authority basis.

- 7.8 Following a general discussion and a request by Gareth Lloyd (GL) stating that the Snowdonia National Park would need less posters and leaflets than those specified the following was agreed:

The details of the report were agreed by the RTG

It was also agreed that each authority would keep a record of the publicity and the consultation they have undertaken and forward a summary of the details to DCC which they will need to incorporate in the Statement of Publicity document to be submitted to WAG with the Regional Waste Plan.

8. RTG & RMG MEETINGS ON 24TH JUNE 2003

- 8.1 It was advised that the next RTG and RMG meetings will take place on the 24th June 2003 with the RMG in the morning and RTG in the afternoon and that Officers needed to brief Members before the meeting. Furthermore, consideration would be given to the possibility of a joint RTG/RMG which would be an additional meeting and that this would be raised again at the forthcoming RMG meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 CO'B advised that there was a Seminar on the 5th June 2003 titled – 'Not in my back yard' which may be of assistance in the process of consultation as well as generally for proposals or allocations relating to waste management facilities.
- 9.2 It was also advised that WAG had agreed to a 6 months extension for the Municipal Waste Strategies and that the deadline was now May 2004. This would make sure that they would accord with the general framework and requirements of the Regional Waste Plan.

10 ACTIONS

ISSUE	ACTION DCC	ACTION OTHERS
Wizard update	Contact AF (SLR) with details of any new technologies etc which could be included	Contact AF (SLR) with details of any new technologies etc which could be included
Final comments on Stage 2B Report		All RTG members to submit by Friday, 6 th June
DCC to co-ordinate distribution of leaflets	Publicity – raising awareness material to be distributed to RTG asap	

ISSUE	ACTION DCC	ACTION OTHERS
Each authority to keep a record of publicity and consultation undertaken.		All RTG to provide summary of details to DCC
Requirement of additional leaflets and posters.		All RTG to contact DCC asap
Record details of telephone responses		All RTG to use form which has been distributed
WESA representative on RTG	DCC to contact Colin Priestley to confirm or other his continued involvement.	

11. LUNCH (Lunch was provided following the meeting)

The meeting concluded at 1.36pm