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**MINUTES OF NORTH WALES REGIONAL WASTE PLAN –  
REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2003  
AT THE TALARDY PARK HOTEL, ST. ASAPH**

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PRESENT for:

**Conwy County Borough Council:**

**Denbighshire County Council:**

Gareth Jones, Graham Boase, Councillor F D Jones, Avril Hughes

**Flintshire County Council:**

Councillor J F Jones

**Gwynedd County Council:**

Councillor Dafydd Iwan, Councillor Linda A W Jones

**Ynys Môn County Council**

Councillor R G Parry, Councillor Richard LL Jones

**Powys County Council**

Councillor Gus Fergusson

**Waste Strategy Unit**

Cathy O'Brien

**Wrexham County Borough Council:**

Councillor A C Bailey

**S.L.R. Consulting Ltd.**

Alban Forster

**Snowdonia National Park Authority**

Councillor Leslie Jones, Councillor T Islwyn Morris

Wyn Hobson (Translator)

In the absence of Councillor Michael German it was agreed that Councillor F D Jones would chair the meeting.

**1. REFRESHMENTS (10.30 – 11.00am)**

**2. APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 Councillor Michael German (Denbighshire County Council)  
Councillor R Kevin Jones (Flintshire County Council)  
Councillor Derek Butler (Flintshire County Council)  
Councillor Meirion Matthews (Flintshire County Council)  
Mr Barry Bond (Conwy County Council)  
Mr Aneurin Phillips (Denbighshire County Council)

### **3 MINUTES OF THE RMG MEETING 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2003**

#### **Accuracy**

- 3.1 Received as a true record.

#### **Matters Arising**

- 3.2 Referring to para 4.2 of the minutes GJ apologised that the distribution of the timetable of events had not been done and that there would be further reference made to this under item 8.

### **4. BRIEF UPDATE OF CURRENT POSITION BY DCC**

- 4.1 Graham Boase (GB) provided an update of the current position advising that alterations had been made to the Stage 2b report since the previous meeting of the RMG which took into account the comments of the RMG as well as feedback from the Regional Technical Group. He confirmed that the Executive Summaries of the Stage 2b Report (June 2003) which had been sent to all Members was the revised and most up to date version. It was advised that SLR had been working on the presentation of the report to so that it would be more user friendly .
- 4.2 GB advised that the report had assessed 6 possible options for dealing with the forecasted amount of waste to be generated in the Region in 2013 and that the final results of the sustainability assessment (Stage 2b report) indicated that Option 6 was the highest scoring option against all assessment methods. He advised that whilst option 6 was the highest scoring option, the Draft Regional Waste Plan would consult on all 6 possible options to ensure that the public have an opportunity to have an input into the process of selecting a suitable option for the Region.
- 4.3 It was advised that the RTG had agreed the Stage 2b report at their recent meeting and to carry forward the 6 options for consultation purposes in the Draft Regional Waste Plan and that the Draft Plan would also refer to the possibility of a combination of the 6 options. It was advised therefore that the purpose of the meeting was to agree the assessment of the 6 options which could then be referred to in the Draft Plan which would be subject to the full public consultation. Once the consultation has taken place then a decision will have to be made on which option or combination of options to be used as a framework for the Region.
- 4.4 Cllr Dafydd Iwan, Gwynedd County Council stated that a discussion about the 6 options had already taken place at the RMG meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 and felt strongly that Members should agree a particular option at the meeting to avoid any unnecessary delay and just consult on the agreed option in the Draft Plan. With regards to the timetable for producing the plan Members asked if there had been any slippage.
- 4.5 DCC Officers acknowledged that there had been a slippage, mainly due to workload, but stated that every possible effort had been made to keep within the timetable for the final submission of a Regional Waste Plan to the Welsh Assembly Government by the end of 2003. It was also advised that there had been significant progress over the past 12 months towards producing the plan.
- 4.6 Cllr D Iwan acknowledged the work achieved by DCC and the region and advised that his main concern was that no real decisions were being made at RMG meetings.

- 4.7 However, some Members advised that they did not have delegated powers but were also concerned that perhaps a decision taken at haste would be regretted later as the option that scored the highest would be the only option being promoted and the public will not have had an opportunity to comment the other options
- 4.8 GB also advised that, from the public point of view, there may be problems with consulting the public after decisions had been made and allowing the public to comment on all 6 options or combination of these would be more open.
- 4.9 Cllr Gus Ferguson stated that Option 6 (the highest scoring option) would be the incorrect option to choose particularly given that incineration which should be seriously considered as part of any option was not incorporated in this option.
- 4.10 It was advised that the issue of agreement of the Stage 2b Report and on which options to consult on would be raised again under Item 5.
- 4.11 Members felt that the options should be looked at with a technical officer present and that any other meeting should be a joint RTG and RMG meeting to enable joint decisions to be made.

**It was agreed that the next meeting will be a joint RTG and RMG meeting and that this would take place during the first 2 weeks of August.**

## **5. PRESENTATION BY SLR**

### **(i) Stage 2b Report – General issues/amendments to reflect comments received.**

- 5.1 AF advised of current situation and a handout was circulated. He advised that he was encouraged by the earlier discussion and reiterated that the DCC Officers have been working frantically to keep within the timescales.
- 5.2 Following the comments received from the RTG the Report had been reviewed and revised to improve the presentation of the report in terms of graphs and description of options.
- 5.3 AF also felt that perhaps more than one option should be considered and be subject to consultation as part of the Draft Plan. A general discussion followed relating to the following issues:
- i) The Regional Waste Plan will provide a landuse planning framework which will enable the individual authorities to allocate site for new waste management facilities in their unitary development plans.
  - ii) There will be an increase in markets and jobs within North Wales due to the provision of new waste management facilities and the related requirement of reprocessing facilities for secondary materials coming from waste. Employment benefits would need to be referred to in the Draft Plan
  - iii) It was confirmed that grant funding could possibly be available from the WDA.
  - iv) Joint working between authorities, industries and the voluntary sector needed to be encouraged.

v) The possibility of WAG running a national campaign in relation to raising public awareness. It was felt that a hard hitting TV video produced by WAG would be a very useful tool. Cathy O'Brien (CO'B – WAG) advised that she would contact Brian Mayne of Waste Awareness Wales with regards to this suggestion and to publicity in general.

vi) Cllr Linda W Jones asked whether there were any plans by WAG to release any money to start an Eco Park such as those in France to enhance local jobs. Machynlleth and Corris were good examples in Wales. It was confirmed that WAG could support such ventures as Eco Parks through Objective One money.

- 5.4 The issue of the Stage 2b Report and what options to take forward to the Draft Regional Waste Plan was raised again with Officers advising that it would be more reasonable for the purposes of public consultation to refer to all 6 options in the Draft Plan.

**The RMG agreed the Stage 2b Report and that the 6 options would be carried forward to the Draft Regional Waste Plan for the purposes of the full consultation.**

## **6 DRAFT REGIONAL WASTE PLAN**

### **Current Position and Contents**

- 6.1 GJ advised that the text for the regional waste plan was almost complete but that DCC were not in a position to distribute to RMG and RTG. The structure (contents page) proposed for the plan was handed out and it was advised that the plan would be the first of its kind in North Wales and that there was no specific template or agreed layout specified by WAG. However, it was advised that Technical TAN 21 does specify the contents and items to be covered in the plan. Officers welcomed any comments on the framework, stressing again that this would be a landuse planning document which will provide the framework for UDP to allocate new waste management facilities within their areas.
- 6.2 GJ also advised that there was already North Wales Regional Planning Guidance which covers the whole of the region except for North Powys and which has been agreed as supplementary planning guidance by the constituent authorities. It was advised that the Guidance had broad policy statements on waste which had therefore already been agreed for most of the region and the Regional Waste Plan would develop these broad policies.
- 6.3 A general discussion followed and it was agreed that there should be reference to the following in the Draft Plan:
- i) The cost implications for the general public in the provision of new waste management facilities.
  - ii) Need for new facilities to deal with hazardous waste
  - iii) Need to refer to employment opportunities
  - iv) Joint working and partnership required
- 6.4 It was confirmed that the above would be referred to in the Draft Plan and that this would be a user friendly document which would be forwarded to the RMG in due course.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### **Raising Awareness**

- 7.1 DCC were complimented on the publicity leaflets and posters produced.

- 7.2 It was advised that each authority (unless otherwise agreed) had been sent 1800 leaflets and 180 posters for distribution by their officers on the RTG. All Authorities to carry out the absolute minimum of publicity, the minimum including the display of the material within all buildings which are accessible to the public and distribution to all town and community councils as agreed by the RTG. There would be no restriction on any Authority who wanted to undertake more publicity and if any wanted more leaflets then they were advised to contact DCC.

### **2 months full consultation**

- 7.3 It was advised that the 2 months formal consultation process and the consultation material will be geared towards encouraging responses to the Draft Plan and that this material had not yet been produced.
- 7.4 It was also advised that DCC would collate the response for the region and produce a report summarising the representations.
- 7.5 Members were also advised of the North Wales Regional Waste Plan website which has feedback which should be a useful tool in the consultation process

## **8 TIMETABLE OF EVENTS**

- 8.1 It was advised that DCC would arrange a joint RMG and RTG meeting but that the earliest possible date would be during August 2003 if this would be considered acceptable to Members.

**It was agreed that a joint meeting of the RTG and RNG would be arranged for the second week in August 2003.**

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 None. The meeting concluded at 12.50pm

## **10. LUNCH**