
**MINUTES OF NORTH WALES REGIONAL WASTE PLAN –
REGIONAL MEMBERS GROUP
HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH APRIL 2003
AT THE TALARDY PARK HOTEL, ST. ASAPH**

PRESENT for:

Conwy County Borough Council:

Barry Bond, Councillor Brian Cossey, Councillor Linda Thorpe
Councillor Max Eames-Hughes

Denbighshire County Council:

Aneurin O. Phillips, Gareth Jones, Graham Boase, Councillor F D Jones, Councillor
Michael German, Avril Hughes

Flintshire County Council:

Councillor Kevin Jones

Gwynedd County Council:

Councillor Dafydd Iwan

Ynys Môn County Council

Councillor R G Parry, Councillor Richard Jones

Powys County Council

Councillor Gus Fergusson

Wrexham County Borough Council:

Councillor A C Bailey, Councillor Howard Moysen

S.L.R. Consulting Ltd.

Alban Forster

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Councillor Leslie Jones

Bryn Jones (Translator)

Roger Bennion (Observer – Secretary RAWP)

1. REFRESHMENTS (10.30 – 10.30am)

2. APOLOGIES

Councillor K Thomas - (Anglesey County Council)

Councillor Meirion Matthews - (Flintshire County Council)

Councillor Linda A W Jones - (Gwynedd County Council)

Councillor Barry Thomas, Councillor T Islwyn Morris - (Powys County Council)

Cathy O'Brien - (Waste Strategy Unit)

Councillor Dafydd Iwan stated that he would be leaving the meeting at approx 11.30 due to another commitment.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

- 3.1 Councillor Michael German (MG) welcomed all to the meeting and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
- 3.2 Mr Roger Bennion attended the meeting as an observer in his role as Secretary of the North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP). He stated that WAG may be in the process of introducing changes at the regional level for mineral planning similar to the waste framework and he attended to see how elected members dealt with the strategic issues of waste management at a regional level.

4. MINUTES OF THE RMG METING 3RD OCTOBER 2002

- 4.1 **Accuracy** – Received as a true record.
- 4.2 **Matters Arising** -

GJ thanked the Authorities within the Region who have made a commitment to provide £1000 towards the consultation process.

(re 4.2 of minutes 3/10/03 'Power to Make decisions' -

Concern was raised that only 4 out of 8 Authorities from the Region have delegated powers and how this would be overcome. Gareth Jones (GJ) stated that a timetable would be prepared for the remainder of the plan preparation process enabling RMG to discuss any reports in sufficient time to report to their executive boards.

Action: GJ Prepare timetable for remainder of the plan enabling RMG sufficient time to discuss any reports with their executive boards.

5. PRESENTATION BY DCC/SLR

5.1 General overview

Graham Boase (GB) advised of current position.

SLR Consulting Ltd have produced three reports which have been discussed by the RTG. These reports are:

- (i) **Stage 1 : Strategic Assessment Report**
This report includes data and information on the existing and forecasted quantities and types of waste as produced in the Region along with the existing numbers and types of waste management facilities in the Region. This report has been agreed by the RTG and submitted to and approved by WAG.
- (ii) **Stage 2a : Draft Options Development Report**
This report considers what options will be assessed to deal with the forecasted future waste to be produced in the Region. This report has been agreed by the RTG.

(iii) **Stage 2b : Sustainability Assessment Report**

Following consultation of the RTG on the latest 2B Report, there have been issues and concerns raised about the wording and definitions used in these reports and SLR are addressing this problem and an amended report will be produced. However, due to the timescale set by WAG for finalisation of the Regional Waste Plan (end of November 2003), important decisions were required soon and all present were urged to communicate with their Officers and take advantage of the meeting and ask any questions and exchange information.

- 5.2 GB advised that the Regional Waste Plan, when completed, will be the first Plan of its kind for the Region, and that this was the start of the process and the Plan will be developed and formally reviewed every 3 years. The Plan is merely a guide which sets the strategy for waste planning for the region and to provide a framework for waste management facilities to be allocated in the UDPs, it will not in itself be allocating any sites.
- 5.3 GB stated that following a response from Wrexham, DCC had attended a meeting to discuss various issues and that this had proved beneficial. GB extended an invitation to any other Authority who believed that such a meeting would prove helpful.

GB stated that the 3 reports produced by SLR would form the basis for the Draft Regional Waste Plan. It was advised that the 24 June 2003 RMG meeting would hopefully result in agreement of the Stage 2b report by Members as well as an agreement on the form of the Draft Regional Waste Plan to go out to full consultation with the public, industry, etc.

5.4 Review of progress and current position

Alban Forster (AF) thanked GB for his introduction and apologised for the IT problems with his presentation. The presentation was mainly on the details of the Stage 2B Report.

It was suggested that the graphs within the presentation would perhaps be more meaningful in pie chart format and AF advised that amendments would be undertaken.

It was agreed at the last RTG meeting that consideration be given to making the report more meaningful to Local Members and the public.

AF stated that the RTG had agreed to progress with 6 options at Stage 2A and that Option 6 scored the highest. He emphasised that this option would not necessarily be the option taken forward but a decision would be made following discussions with the RMG, RTG and public consultation and that the public would be consulted on all 6 options.

5.5 Feedback and discussion

A general discussion followed and the following issues were raised.

- 5.6 ♦ Authorities would not be starting this process at the same level given that some authorities were already more advanced than others with their recycling initiatives.

DCC advised that this scenario was inevitable but that each Authority through the RTG and RMG were responsible for producing a Regional Waste Plan by November 2003.

- 5.7 ♦ The ability of individual authorities to manage all the waste produced within their area.

It was advised that partnership and cross boundary arrangements were key to the whole process. Each Authority would be allocated a forecasted tonnage of waste so that each UDP could identify how this waste was to be managed. This would be undertaken by the allocation of waste management facilities within UDP areas – or possibly shared facilities with other authorities.

- 5.8 ♦ What was the involvement of the waste industry in the whole process of producing the plan?

It was advised that the industry was represented on the RTG by a member of the Wales Environmental Services Association – a trade union for waste operators. Extensive consultation on the Draft Plan would also be carried out, which would in part target various players in the industry.

- 5.9 ♦ The provision of new waste management facilities to change the way we deal with waste will inevitably have financial costs for the public. Does the Plan intend to address the issue of cost?

It was advised that a breakdown of the potential cost to provide the different options to deal with waste was included in the report (Stage 2b) and that this would be forwarded to Members. Furthermore, it was also advised that the environmental benefits would far outweigh any financial costs and that this was the message that would need to be given to the public. It was agreed that raising public awareness was essential, and that the Draft Plan would need to specifically refer to costings for the options.

- 5.10 ♦ Treatment of waste through thermal methods should be highlighted as a more realistic option and that the public should be made more aware of the possible energy production benefits of this method.

It was advised that thermal treatment had been addressed within the possible options for dealing with waste.

- 5.11 ♦ The UDP's and Municipal Waste Plans of the authorities are at different stages.

It was advised that the key objectives of the Regional Waste Plan would have to be incorporated into the UDP's of each authority, and that Municipal Waste Plans would have to have regard to the Regional Waste Plan.

- 5.12 ♦ There should be a joint RTG and RMG meeting particularly when agreements will be requested at key stages.

It was advised that the meetings which had currently been scheduled would remain as separate RTG and RMG meetings. However, consideration would be given to the possibility of a joint meeting of both groups should any additional meetings be scheduled.

It was agreed to leave the meetings as scheduled and the meeting stopped at 12.20 p.m. for a short break – after which Councillor Dafydd Iwan departed.

Agreed to leave the meetings as scheduled

6. ROLE OF MEMBERS

- 6.1 Barry Bond (BB) reiterated the importance that Members continue to communicate with their Officers and thanked GB and GJ for all work to date. He reiterated the Importance that everyone understands the issues, terminology and terms. SLR has undertaken to seek to make it more user friendly. He also advised that ownership of the plan is important as well as cross boundary partnerships in order to deliver the required improvements in the way waste is currently dealt with.

7. CONSULTATION AND PUBLICITY

7.1 Stages of consultation

GB advised that the consultation process would be as follows. General awareness campaign during May/June 2003 and then full consultation exercise of 2 months in July/August 2003. This exercise to be targeted towards all interested parties, Industry and pressure groups and also towards the general public.

7.2 Publicity Material

GB advised that following invitations to tender, DCC have appointed Design and Print to provide the publicity material. This company has been used successfully by Wrexham County Council providing clarity and simplicity of design as well as being competitive on price. Samples of leaflets were circulated as examples of the work that Design & Print can produce. It was advised that DCC would soon be meeting Design and Print to discuss the contents of the publicity material. It was agreed that draft consultation material and logo would be circulated to RTG for comments.

- 7.3 Concerns were raised that the number of printed copies of leaflets and posters might not be enough. AOP stated that should the need arise all Authorities contact DCC who would endeavour to supply that need even if this meant funding more leaflets. AOP advised that DCC are keen to get the message over and engage the public.

Agreed that any Authority who felt that the quantity of documents were not enough to contact DCC.

7.4 Website demonstration

GJ advised that the North Wales region is the first of the three regional waste areas in Wales to launch its Website. The South West region will link directly on to this site using the same general design framework and there will also be a link onto the South East Region who are producing their own website. A press release has been sent out to various local journals within the region informing readers that the website provides easy access to all interested parties to information such as minutes, map of the area, contact names etc. an electronic feedback form included for public response, links to other Authorities and organisations on the RTG. The bilingual web site address is as follows:-
www.walesregionalwastepplans.gov.uk/
www.cynlluniauogwastraffrhanbartholcymru.gov.uk.

- 7.5 GJ gave a short demonstration on the content of the website and all members were advised to familiarise themselves with the site asap. Any feedback in respect of the website would be welcome. The site will be updated in due course and on a regular basis. GJ stressed again the importance of the electronic feedback form and the role that RTG Members can play in publicising the website.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 BB stated that it was AOP's last attendance at the RMG meeting and thanked him on behalf of all present and wished him well in his new position as Chief Executive of Snowdonia National Park.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 Next RMG meeting will be on the 24th June when it is anticipated that Stage 2B report would be agreed before going out to consultation, and that there could be some discussion on the Draft Regional Waste Plan.

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm

Lunch was served from 1.15pm – 2.15pm.

ACTIONS	BY WHO	BY WHEN
Distribute a timetable for the remainder of the Plan preparation process enabling RMG to discuss any reports in sufficient time to report to their Executive Boards	DCC	June 2003
Provide details of the costs of providing the different options	DCC / SLR	June 2003
Produce completed Stage 2b and Executive Summary report with Glossary of trends	SLR	June 2003
Distribute Executive Summary of Stage 2b report and Glossary of Terms to RMG	DCC	June 2003