

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL WASTE ASSESSMENT AND PLAN
MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WASTE PLAN FORUM
Notes of the meeting held on Friday 27th February 2004, at 10.30am
Penllergaer Civic Centre

Present

Councillor T D Morgans (C)	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Councillor T Theophilus	Carmarthenshire County Council
Councillor B Hall	Pembrokeshire County Council
Councillor K T Rowlands	Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor W H C Teesdale	Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor K Evans	Ceredigion County Council
Councillor A Lloyd-Jones	Ceredigion County Council

Officers

Geoff White	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Will Watson	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Ceri Morris	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Howell Beaton	Neath Port Talbot CBC
Carol Williams	Pembrokeshire CC / Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Dave Harries	Pembrokeshire County Council
Nick Oakes	Ceredigion County Council
Neil Bateman	Carmarthenshire County Council
Clifford Parish	City & County Of Swansea
Steve Bool	Bridgend County Borough Council
Huw Jenkins	Bridgend County Borough Council
Audrey Evans	Environment Agency (South West Area)

1. Apologies

Councillor P Palmer	Carmarthenshire County Council
Councillor R R Hayes	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Councillor D I E Jones	City & County Of Swansea
Councillor B Owen	City & County of Swansea
Councillor R M Granville	Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor D Vaughan	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Bleddyn Jones	Ceredigion County Council
Philip Williams	Carmarthenshire County Council

2. Minutes of meeting on 28th November 2003

Agreed to be a true record.

Item 9: As agreed, GW circulated a report for information, prepared for South East Wales on a '*Health Impact Assessment*' of their Regional Waste Plan.

3. Notes of the Technical Group meeting 11th December 2003 -Noted.

Item 3: Cllr. Lloyd-Jones expressed real concern with regard to the impending problems surrounding the issue of hazardous waste.

GW reported that a meeting with representatives from WESA had taken place and that in their view, there is a great amount of uncertainty when considering hazardous waste landfill.

Agreed: Officers produce a paper, to be endorsed by the Forum, to lobby the Welsh Assembly

Government and European Union in order to underline the need for clear guidance and direction regarding the issue of hazardous waste. **Action:** GW.

4. **Notes of the Technical Group meeting 23rd January 2004** - Noted.

5. **Acceptance of the Regional Waste Plan**

GW confirmed that each of the eight constituent authorities had now endorsed the RWP and that there is a final need for the Forum to 'accept' the document and formally submit the plan to the Welsh Assembly Government. **Agreed.**

It was also noted that over the next 6 months, the region needs to produce an addendum to the Plan dealing with the location / spread of sub-regional facilities. The Environment Agency is currently working on a criterion listing for identifying areas of land for landfill facilities across the region.

It was noted that progress on the addendum has been slow due to both minimal progress being made by the Environment Agency and the need for Municipal Officers to meet to discuss the way forward.

Members expressed serious concern at the lack of progress on the addendum. Discussion ensued and the following main points were noted.

- As it has been widely accepted that the RWP has not gone far enough, a concerted effort is required to achieve the addendum – it must be considered a priority;
- Dealing with waste facilities on a regional basis will provide major benefits;
- The Environment Agency needs to provide the required information as soon as possible. **Action:** GW to write to the Wales Director of the Environment Agency to raise the need for progress '*in the strongest terms*'. A copy of the letter to be forwarded to Members;
- The issue will be raised at the next Environment Agency National Forum – Monday 15th March; and
- Officers to prepare a draft addendum by the end of April, for Members consideration. **Action:** All.

6. **The Next 3 Years: How should the Region move forward?**

GW reported that the Welsh Assembly Government has circulated a draft contract for the new Regulation Waste Group grants for 2004-2007. The level of funding proposed for each region will be £50k (2004-05), £50k (2005-6) and £90k (2006-07).

The issue of how the region should move forward has been discussed at the Technical Officers Group. It was noted that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are prepared to continue to facilitate and lead the process, but it was considered important for the Forum to endorse this. **Agreed.**

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at the end of April. **Action:** GW to agree date with Cllr. Palmer and inform Members.

8. **Any other business**

None was raised.