

**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
Environment Group Meeting
13 November 2007
at Emda, Nottingham**

Summary of key points and actions arising

Attendees:

Matt Doran	(Chair), EMEL
Anthony Streeten	Regional Heritage Forum Chair
David Slinger	Environment Advisory Group Chair
Sharon Palmer	Environment Agency
Charlotte Gault	Regional Biodiversity Forum Chair
Stephen Lismore	Emda
Gwent Paylor	Business/ education
Richard Woods	EMEO
Mike Peverill	EMRA Secretariat
Alison Hepworth	EMRA secretariat

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Introductions, welcome and apologies Apologies were received from: Terry Miller, Frank Lucas, Austin Brady, Hugh Fenton, James Luger	
2.	Action points from the meeting held on 12 July 2007 and matters arising: Revision of Group Memorandum of Understanding (10 May) with NDPBs– Alison Hepworth to discuss with Nigel Rudd as a matter of urgency in view of the SNR. Item 5 (10 May)– re: the need for an item on the WFD as future agenda item to both the RCP and HPT Boards via the Advisory Group and this Group. Outstanding - Alison to discuss how best the message can be put to both boards with Yvette and Andrew P. Item 4 – IRS Refresh – Secretariat are being asked to update wording on the various themes. AH to email words round to group for comments re updating. Item 4 – IRS Refresh – Proposal for work around regional Ecofootprint – AH still to action (AH to develop proposal with EAG help). EG need to see paper outlining the various mechanisms available and proposals for which would be of most use. Item 5.5 LAAs – AH to check whether or not Alex Bowness has “reminded LAAs of their “duty to cooperate” with statutory Agencies.” Item 6.2 – Biodiversity Duty – CG reported that the Wildlife Trusts are developing a publication for Las. To be used to influence Assembly members through the Policy Board. AH to speak to YD about an agenda item on the 11 March Policy Board meeting. Agenda item for EAG 29 January/ EG 19 February. Item 6.4 – Green Lungs Big Lottery Fund Proposal – AH to check on progress and report back to the next meeting.	<p>AH</p> <p>AH AH/ ABo</p> <p>AH CG</p> <p>AH</p>
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:		
3.	Regional Climate Change Programme for Action: Mike Peverill was introduced as the newly appointed Climate Change Coordinator, who has taken on the challenge of developing the Climate Change Programme for	

	<p>Action.</p> <p>This group had a presentation at the last meeting in July from Ecofys, the consultants working on behalf of the three regional bodies to develop the Programme of Action. Following some initial work to determine emerging priorities, a consultation document <i>Towards a Climate Change Programme of Action for the East Midlands</i> was drafted and then launched at EXPO on 16th October by John Freeman from the Regional Assembly. The consultation process runs until 21st December and views are actively being sought from stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sector.</p> <p>MP reported to the group that despite there being a feeling that much time has elapsed since the development of the initial climate change study in 2000, actually the region has been responding on several front on tackling Climate Change. The current consultation document is trying therefore to fill the gaps, and encapsulates all that is being done already at the regional level. The EG was asked how relevant the priorities seem to them and was there anything that runs against their expectations. The Regional Environment Strategy contains much already that is complementary and overlapping – the group were asked for suggestions as to how to develop and implement the Programme for Action based on the Regional Environment Strategy experience.</p> <p>The question was asked as to what is the relation of the Programme for Action to economic factors relating to the priorities of emda. There was a recognition of the need for buy-in and resources in order to ensure implementation. How can EG inform projects that should be researched? The drivers from the environment sector need to be related to the research and technological solutions being undertaken/sought in Universities. It was agreed that GP and SL should have a chat about this.</p> <p>Other advice given by members included the need for regional added value in any work proposed. It is also vital to have the buy-in of the organizations agreeing to lead on the actions.</p> <p>In relation to the need for International/ interregional links, relationships are currently being developed by the region with places like Sweden and Sichuan Province in China.</p> <p>A plea was made for benchmarking the East Midlands within both the UK and also within the EU as. The need for monitoring of progress was highlighted, possibly through the State of the Region as part of the IRS, but possibly by some more popular means.</p> <p>SL mentioned that emda are in discussion about a more regionally focused May Day Event in 2008, which tries to raise awareness and public Knowledge about Climate Change Issues. The 2007 event (organized in Prince Charles' name) had a more National focus. The 2008 event is being organized by Business in the Community. SL promised to feed more details on this to the Group as and when.</p>	<p>SL/GP</p> <p>SL</p>
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	<p>Various events will be announced in the next few weeks for the Programme for Action. Parallel bilateral conversations will be held with the private sector. Events are due to take place at venues in Leicester, Derby, Lincoln and Northampton.</p> <p>More detailed comments were then given on specifics within the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why is the amount of Renewable Energy not being pushed to increase?(A: its more about reducing overall demand). ○ When talking of offsetting projects, why not concentrate on offsetting projects within the region? ○ Priority 3 – this is agreed as an emerging priority, however some alteration to the wording was proposed ○ Heritage and Local food – links missed ○ What will be the end product of this process? Will it be a paper strategy/ website/ signposting facility or a pack of information? (A: the intention is to include slides/ presentations for download ie something meaningful) <p>Each region is taking a slightly different approach. Ecofys are developing action plans for the regional bodies to consider and sign off early in the New Year. There will be something high level to launch around the end of March. The detail will take a little longer.</p>	
4.	<p>Sub National Review Update</p> <p>Discussed at the EAG meeting (see notes from EAG Action Points distributed with the reports for this meeting).</p> <p>There is an overall need for this Group to ensure that work it is championing is not lost in the whole SNR process. The key is to identify the good things and how to take them forward.</p> <p>EAG suggested two ways forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarity on key issues(how to add value) ○ Initial discussions needed once Emda makes suggestions as to the proposed new governance structures. <p>In order to take forward the first of these, EAG has suggested that a “Think Tank” be held in the afternoon of the 29 January, following the next EAG meeting in the morning at GOEM. EG members are cordially invited to attend this Think Tank in order to help in the clarification of the key issues for the group that need to be highlighted and how.</p> <p>Points made by the group at this meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Group Memorandum of Understanding (Group MoU) needs urgently updating. This is an opportunity to encapsulate the change as an interim for the new organisation(s) to pick up. ACTION: AH to pick up with NR as a matter of 	

	<p>urgency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Message from EG to Kevin Baillie (Emda lead on SNR work) the Group await more information from emda and request that emda think about consulting with organisations on this. ○ More National Guidance is expected on SNR soon. ○ Proposal from EAG is accepted for the Think Tank on 29 January 	
5.	<p>Update from project sub groups on the work programme:</p> <p>Green Infrastructure The GIN series of awareness raising sessions is now underway. Seminars have been held so far at Derby and Lincoln. Leicester will take place on 16 November. Nottingham will take place at emda on 6 December. One more seminar is planned for Northamptonshire (venue and date to be confirmed). The steering group will meet in January to discuss the analysis of the seminars. Further work will be needed to develop the EMGIN website.</p> <p>Key issues arising from the seminars so far are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need for an annual event for the network. ○ General enthusiasm and support for the network. ○ Long term mechanisms need to be set in place. ○ Does the MKSM Growth Area cover the whole of Northamptonshire or only parts and to what degree? <p>Soil Management The project proposal is still being developed by the group and will be shared with the group once agreed.</p> <p>5.1 Environmental data needs and an environmental evidence base for the region: Embedding Better Decision-making and Delivery (EMBEDD) The UK launch of the new LIFE+ funding initiative took place (by invite only) in Derby on 26 July. Philip Owen (the author of the LIFE+ regulation) attended to answer questions on the form of the new funding.</p> <p>As a result of the information gathered at this event, the project may not be suitable for this funding stream. Investigations will be made as to whether or not it would be better suited to INTERREG, or an alternative approach. AH to submit a project form to the INTERREG Surgeries being held at Emda on 30 November for this and the Soil Management Project.</p> <p>Further discussions are need by the steering group as to how to keep the momentum going on this project and an action plan is being drawn up for discussion shortly by the steering group.</p> <p>5.2 Landscapes Karen Davenport of NE has taken the lead on this, following Mark Felton's departure to pastures new). Group members were reminded of the purpose of the work. A</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>

	<p>meeting will be organised shortly to discuss taking this work forward and an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>5.3 LAAs A further meeting of the steering group has been held. Key points agreed at this meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alex Bowness to remind LAAs of their “duty to cooperate with Statutory Agencies” ○ Alex Bowness agreed to draft leaflet about LAAs and the environment. To be circulated when drafted and sent out to LSPs etc probably from the Assembly. ○ Opportunity – need for environment to be included ○ Sustainable Community strategies need to be included in process. <p>Concern had been expressed by Hugh Fenton, who was not able to make this meeting. The Group agreed that Hugh be asked to take the chair on this group in order to ensure that the appropriate actions are delivered in respect of this issue. Action : AH to talk to HF</p> <p>5.4 Water As covered in the report for this agenda item, Comments made previously by this group on this proposal included the fact that this should be fully supported, and that it is absolutely essential good practice. A discussion has taken place, by email with partners around the region with an interest in water issues, to find out who is already working on the issue, and if there is anything that we could do at regional level to add value.</p> <p>One idea would be to produce a toolkit for Local Authorities and contractors to pick up and use in undertaking a “water Cycle” study. Feedback seems to indicate that a lot of guidance and work has been undertaken around the region (and nationally). Further discussions are needed to decide whether or not there is any mileage in producing “regionally badged” guidance that draws together all the various work done into one place. The group asked that the Water Resources Study (produced as part of the RSS process) should be revisited to check for suitable recommendations for further work.</p>	<p>AH/ KD</p> <p>ABo</p> <p>ABo</p> <p>AH/ HF</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Updates on regional activity: The group were informed of key elements of regional activity to date.</p> <p>Behavioural Change Steering Group The phase 1 study is now complete and the report was circulated with the papers for this meeting.</p> <p>The Group asked what this study will lead to. They thought it useful as a snapshot to see who is doing what, however it was observed that although “Environment” is highlighted as a priority in the beginning of the report, there seems to be little in the way of recommendations for further work that the Group can sign up to.</p>	<p>CG</p>

	<p>AH to check and report back to the Group on what needs to happen next and how the Environment Group might contribute.</p> <p>Regional Biodiversity Forum Biodiversity duty – report to be prepared for EAG/EG/ Policy Board next series of meetings.</p> <p>The next annual RBF conference will take place in February with a Climate Change Adaptation focus.</p> <p>Water Framework Directive – the Humber RBD Liaison Panel Report on the WFD/ River Basin Districts/ River Basin Management Plans to be prepared and taken to EAG/EG/Policy Board and Joint HPT Board. AH to discuss mechanisms with YD/ AP.</p> <p>Structural Funds MD reported on the first meeting of the England Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Shadow Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) onto which he has been co-opted as Chair of this Group. Simon Drury has been similarly co-opted as chair of the Promoting SD Group. This is a decision making group on RDF funding, discussing where the money comes from and what it is used for. Environment is a cross-cutting theme.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>CG</p> <p>AH</p>
7.	<p>Messages for the Regional Communities and Policy Board: Matt Doran expressed the following points to members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Duty • Sherwood BLF Bid 	
8.	<p>Tit bits/ grapevine The following items of interest were brought to the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Big Lottery Fund – two bids in the final round cover at least part of the region. ○ Sherwood –the Living Legend is aiming to develop a world class and environmentally friendly visitor complex, one of the biggest walking, cycling and horse riding networks in Europe and the recreation of Sherwood’s former glory through the creation of new areas of woodland, helping communities celebrate their cultural heritage. The other project is a National one. The Connect2 project is led by Sustrans but with 79 schemes across the whole country. This project deals with making the connections necessary to encourage people to walk or cycle rather than to automatically reach for the car keys for local journeys. The Connect2 projects in the East Midlands, which will spend approximately £6 of the overall £50 million, are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Watermead Country Park and surrounding communities, Leicestershire, ▪ Northampton, Briar Hill and Upton Park, River Nene, ▪ Wellingborough, Rushden Higham ferrers, ▪ Holdingham and Sleaford, 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carlton-le-Moorland and Basingham Link ▪ Killamarsh - Chesterfield Canal Link <p>Internet voting will open at 9am on Monday 26 November until 12 noon on Monday 10 December at www.thepeoplesmillions.org.uk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Trust debate about the Green Belt – MD informed the group that Sir William Proby’s last speech as chairman of the National Trust was seeking to launch a debate about NT buying all the green belt, which was misreported in the National press recently. This was intended to simply stimulate debate. ○ English Heritage’s Heritage Counts – annual set of indicators was recently launched in Leicester. This year’s theme is Learning and Skills from the volunteering point of view. ○ CLAB – AH informed the group of recent attendance of the Regional Committee meeting to do a presentation about GI. The observation was made that this committee contains members with a high degree of environmental knowledge and perhaps should be invited to forge closer links with the work of the Assembly. AH to talk to Helen Woolley about the possibility of a representative joining the Environment Group. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>AH</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any other business None</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Forward dates and venues for meetings: 29 January 2008 1400 (after the EAG meeting am) – Thinktank on Environmental priorities for the SNR. GOEM, Nottingham</p> <p>19 February - 10.30 am to 1.30 pm, venue to be announced – any offers?</p>	