



Severn Estuary Commission meeting

Tuesday 17th September 2024, 13:00 – 14:30

Living Levels Project, Pye Corner, Newport.

Attendees

Commission: Andrew Garrad (Chair) (AG)

Sue Barr (SB)

Nigel Costley (NC)

Peter Davies (PD)

Madeleine Havard (MH)

Ian Simm (IS)

Secretariat: Will Mansfield, Head of Sustainable Energy (WM)

Steph Jary, Deputy Director (SJ)

Joe Ball, Head of Communications (JB)

Fiona Williams, Communications Officer (FW)

Nicola Lomax, Project Support Officer (NL)

Guests: Lucy Stephenson, The Crown Estate (LS)

Hanne Larson, WSP (HL)

Stuart Hardisty, Hardisty Jones Associates (SH)

Apologies: Chris Mills, Commissioner (CM)

Alys Morris, Severn Estuary Partnership (AM)

Minutes: Nicola Lomax

Introductions, welcome and confirmation of minutes

AG formally welcomed Ian Simm as a new Commissioner. He will be leading on the finance work package for the Commission.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Finance work package update

IS provided an overview of the workstream, which will be executed in three distinct stages:

- Stage 1: Analysis and Research: use of archetypes of potential projects to assess factors such as private sector debt, government support types, and key risks.
- Stage 2: Stakeholder Consultation: analysis will be refined through engagement with stakeholders, aiming to build consensus and secure buy-in from key parties.
- Stage 3: Reporting: compiling and delivering final report.



A consultancy firm has been identified and engaged, and the finalisation of contracts is currently in progress.

Reflections on RSPB presentation

Representatives from the RSPB delivered a highly informative presentation on the rich history and environmental significance of the Gwent Levels. The ensuing discussion offered a constructive examination of the policy challenges surrounding the Severn, particularly considering the climate and nature emergency.

Environment work package update

The consultant team from WSP presented an update on progress and next steps which was discussed by the Commission.

Socio-economic work package update

The consultant team from HJA presented an update on progress and next steps which was discussed by the Commission.

Energy work package update

The Secretariat continues to explore potential options for delivering this work package.

Stakeholder Framework and Narrative

Comments from Commissioners and other stakeholders have been integrated into the Stakeholder Framework.

The Secretariat, with support from Commissioners, has drafted a narrative on the Commission's work with an emphasis on the wider context of the estuary's potential, urgency and global responsibility to tackle climate change, and considerations from both an environmental and socio-economic perspective. Some further refinement of the narrative will be completed this week.

Political Engagement Strategy

The Secretariat and Commissioners met last week for an initial discussion on the broader political engagement strategy for the Commission and the Western Gateway.

It was agreed that the Secretariat will develop a communications and engagement strategy and timeline with a follow-up meeting scheduled for October to finalise this.

Meetings and visits

The Commission discussed the Chair's visits and engagements with key stakeholders over the last month and reviewed upcoming meetings.

AOB

The next Commission meeting will be held online on Tuesday 15th October 2024, 13:00 – 14.30.