

Queen's Harbour Master's Office
 Longroom
 RM Barracks
 Stonehouse

QHM 532/3

17 March 2006

Notes of the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum meeting held at 10.15am on Thursday 9 March 2006 in HM Naval Base Devonport conference room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Commander I Hugo Royal Navy	Chairman and Queen's Harbour Master (QHM)
Lt Cdr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master (DQHM), Secretary
Mr A Winder	Devon County Council (DCC)
Ms P Hoskin Cllr B Preston	Cornwall County Council (CCC)
Cllr R Pike	West Devon Borough Council (WDBC)
Mr R Toogood	South Hams District Council (SHDC)
Cllr G Wheeler Cllr B Vincent	Plymouth City Council (PCC)
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group (WCG)
Ms C Barrow	Environment Agency (EA)
Mr C Greenwell	Associated British Ports (ABP)
Mr K Bower	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee (DSF)
Captain T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners (CHC)
Mr P Bromley	Sutton Harbour Company (SHC)
Mr T Selman Mr B Gamble Mr T Fletcher	Tamar Valley AONB (TVAONB) World Heritage Site Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project
Mr A MacPherson	Coastal Officer (CO)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion and Decisions</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Introduction.	1. Cdr Hugo welcomed those present to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves. He briefed that the principal focus of the meeting would be the management plan and future funding.	
2. Apologies for Absence.	1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr S Murray, Mr James, Ms C Lewis, Mr P McNie, Ms J Perry, Cllr A Hoskin, Mr M Palmer, Ms S Taylor, Mr C Davis.	
3. Notes of	1. The notes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2005 were	

Previous Meeting.	accepted.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p>4.1. <u>Coordination and Information.</u></p> <p>1. <u>Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project.</u> Mr T Selman and his team gave an informative presentation on the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project and the bid for World Heritage Site status and funding. QHM thanked them for their presentation and observed that it was important that TECF were engaged and contributed to the development of the project in order to influence priorities and advise the decision makers. Mr Selman outlined the proposed governance and embryonic management structure. It was agreed that clarity of responsibilities was required. Clearly TECF had a role to play here and looked forward to a successful bid.</p> <p>2. <u>Management Plan.</u> The Coastal Officer (CO) provided an update on progress with the new Management Plan and distributed a summary of feedback received following the consultation stage. He thanked members for their support and noted that feedback had been generally positive with useful comments on specific areas of focus. Mr Winder (DCC) highlighted the aspiration to develop a central database that could be used as a common asset and be used to inform EIAs etc. Following discussion it was agreed that it would be a useful product but care was needed not to duplicate existing sources. The timeline for adoption and publication was discussed, the deadline for any final minor amendments was 27 Mar 06. Document design work would then be completed by the end of April with the final plan being passed to partners for internal endorsement/adoption in preparation for endorsement at the next meeting (13 July). QHM would be providing an introduction that would outline the context of the overall plan. The format and publication media was debated, it was agreed that the primary method of promulgating the plan would be via the internet/ website with a small print run of hard copies. The CO advised that he was working with EN to identify some funding for the design and printing. Finally it was agreed that a press facility to launch the new plan should be arranged for the week following endorsement at the July meeting.</p> <p>3. <u>Financial Statement and Funding.</u> QHM provided an update and expanded on his recent letter to partners. He summarised the key outputs of TECF and reiterated that the Coastal Management Best Value Review had concluded that TECF was the better way of co-ordinating the management of issues associated with the Tamar Estuaries; particularly and specifically the production of the statutorily required management plan. A lively debate ensued in which all the delegates voiced their support for the Forum. Cllr Preston (CCC) suggested that members should consider the cost of</p>	CO

	<p>replicating the services provided by the CO when reconciling their contribution to the Forum. Capt Charlesworth (CHC) endorsed the value of the CO, in many instances the shared resources of the CO saved the need to employ a specialist. This had been recognised by the Commissioners who had tripled their contribution to the Forum. Ms Hoskin (CCC) welcomed the Cattewater’s commitment and stated that this partnership needed to be highlighted when presenting the funding case to individual authorities. Cllr Pike (WDC) voiced concerns that some neighbouring authorities were not contributing. Cllr Wheeler (PCC) highlighted the success and work of the TECF over the past years. He went on to explain that the PCC were not able to continue to resource the funding deficit whilst some non-funders were equal partners. There was a general agreement that to be “in” and to realise the clear benefits of TECF membership, partners had to pay their share. Mr Toogood (SHDC) advised that his authority were evaluating the cost/benefit and should be in a position to report back in the near future. It was generally agreed that if members are unable to pay they should withdraw from the forum. There was a need to resolve the status of contributing authorities prior to the publishing of the new management plan. QHM undertook to write to all members with a proposed budget for the forthcoming years.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note – The current status of contributions is attached.</p> <p>4. <u>Dredging Update</u>. TECF had facilitated a meeting between DEFRA and local campaigners at which the issues associated with the disposal of dredge spoil at the Rame Head Disposal Site were discussed. DEFRA have subsequently held a public meeting to hear local concerns. Ms Hoskins advised that CCC had recently voted on the issue and would be meeting with CEFAS to discuss monitoring and how to address the local concerns. DQHM advised that the annual maintenance dredging campaign was underway and on this occasion there was not a requirement to dispose at sea. Capt Charlesworth stated that some dredging was programmed for later this year which would include injection dredging of Sutton Channel and approaches to QAB.</p> <p>5. <u>Tamar Coastal Festival</u>. The CO provided an update. A working group of stakeholders had met in January to consider the format for Splash ’06. It was concluded that there were insufficient resources to repeat last year’s festival. However, an effective network of ‘marine educators’ had been established and it was hoped to build on this by promoting existing events and projects through this forum. The viability of creating a diary of events was being investigated. Mr Selman offered that TVAONB might be able to help with funding.</p> <p>6. <u>Signage Review</u>. DQHM stated that the Port Surveyor and CO had completed the survey of signage. The results had been</p>	<p>CO/QHM</p> <p>CO</p> <p>DQHM/CO</p>
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	<p>catalogued. The next stage was to review the findings and produce a programme for refurbishment, update and replacement.</p> <p>7. <u>Devon Maritime Forum Update.</u> A working group had been established and a budget set. The next meeting was scheduled for the end of May with the forthcoming Marine Bill being one of the main items.</p> <p>8. <u>Oil Spill Response Training.</u> Harbour Authorities were working with the Local Authorities to review existing plans and to co-ordinate a graduated training programme for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>9. <u>Website.</u> The CO advised on recent developments of the TECF website and the need to adjust the format in order to remain hosted on the PCC website. The benefit was a modern, fully supported site.</p> <p>4.2. <u>Waterfront and Marine Development.</u></p> <p>1. <u>Ernesettle Jetty.</u> Refurbishment works were due to be carried out at Ernesettle Jetty. Most consents were in place with the EA requiring details of pollution plans and method of works before final consents could be issued.</p> <p>2. <u>Sutton Channel pontoons.</u> Capt Charlesworth provided a brief overview of the proposed new pontoons off Commercial Wharf.</p> <p>3. <u>Coastal Planning Study.</u> Consultants had been commissioned to take forward this final work stream from the current management plan. A workshop was being held next week and the final report was expected in late April.</p> <p>4.3. <u>Marine Litter.</u></p> <p>1. <u>Information Boards for Fishing at Devil's Point.</u> The CO passed around a copy of the new sign for Devils Point that was in the final stages of production.</p> <p>4.4. <u>Nature Conservation.</u></p> <p>1. <u>SAC Matters.</u> Mr Davis was unable to attend. A copy of his report was distributed to attendees. See attached.</p> <p>2. <u>Cotehele Wetland Creation.</u> Planning permission had been refused for a second time despite strong support from many statutory consultees. It was understood that the National Trust were considering an appeal.</p>	
5. Matters	1. No significant issues to report. The proposed new landing stage	

Brought Forward from PPMLC.	had attracted lively discussion at the last meeting.											
6. Significant Future Events.	<p>1. DQHM provided an update on events for 2006:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Start of Round Britian & Ireland Race</td> <td>11 Jun</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Port of Plymouth Regatta</td> <td>23 – 29 Jul</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Classic Boat Rally</td> <td>28 Jul – 1 Aug</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C1 Power Boat Grand Prix</td> <td>4 – 6 Aug</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Navy Days</td> <td>26 – 28 Aug</td> </tr> </table>	Start of Round Britian & Ireland Race	11 Jun	Port of Plymouth Regatta	23 – 29 Jul	Classic Boat Rally	28 Jul – 1 Aug	C1 Power Boat Grand Prix	4 – 6 Aug	Navy Days	26 – 28 Aug	
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7. Any Other Business.	<p>1. Mr Bower (DSF) reported that a boat conducting illegal netting had been apprehended in the Hamoaze.</p> <p>2. Ms Hoskin (CCC) informed the meeting that the next stage in the framing of the Marine Bill was the consultation stage due to commence at the end of March.</p> <p>3. Capt Charlesworth (CHC) announced that the Cattewater Harbour Revision Order had completed due process and was now in place. A proportion of the Commissioner’s post would be advertised in the forthcoming months ready for selection in Oct 06.</p> <p>4. Mr Selman (TVONB) referred to a project at Wacker Quay and sought advice on use of MOD land. QHM advise that he needed to contact Defence Estates.</p>											
8. Future Meeting Dates.	<p>1. Dates for future TECF and PPMLC meetings as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td><u>PPMLC</u></td> <td><u>TECF</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 June 06</td> <td>13 July 06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 October 06</td> <td>9 November 06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 February 07</td> <td>15 March 07</td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	8 June 06	13 July 06	12 October 06	9 November 06	15 February 07	15 March 07			
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