

# The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

## Minutes of the twenty-second meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 27 June 2006.

**Present:** Allan Rogers, Chairman  
Chris King, Vice Chairman  
Cally Oldershaw, ESEF(EW) Development Officer  
Tim Parry (Quarry Products Association)  
Peter Warren  
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts)  
Lorraine Craig (Royal School of Mines / Imperial College)

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from representatives of the following member organisations: MIRO/Capita Symonds; Royal Meteorological Society; Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining; Royal Society of Chemistry; Gemmological Association; Geographical Association; Association for Science Education; Geological Curators' Group; English Nature / Natural England; Earth Science Teachers' Association; Geologists' Association / Rockwatch; National Museum Wales; National Stone Centre; British Geological Survey; UKRIGS; Geological Society of London; Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers); Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Geography, Earth and Environmental Science (GEES); The Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics Network (SETNET); Open University; Health and Safety Executive, Geological Curators' Group; Committee of Heads of University Geosciences Departments; Earth Science Education Unit.

### 2 Chairman's introduction

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a report on the ESEF-Cymru event , which took place at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. The meeting was on 'Geotourism – Wales from the land and air'. A donation has been received for the work of ESEF Cymru. The Chairman will be meeting with Sue Essex (Finance Minister, Welsh Assembly) to discuss future development and finance.
- 2.2 The Chairman highlighted fundraising as a priority for ESEF. Membership fees had been agreed at the last meeting and it was decided that a letter be sent to all members with an invoice for their subscription. A proposal had been submitted to the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), but changes in government funding meant that no money was available for any submissions. A number of fund-raising suggestions were made by members of the forum; details of which were to be given to the Development Officer for discussion and potential development.

**Action: All**

- 2.3 It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair would both be Chairs and that both would be referred to as 'Co-Chair'. It was agreed that the Development Officer would now be called the Executive Officer.

### 3 Minutes of the twenty-first meeting, 7 March 2006

The minutes of the twenty-first meeting were accepted as a true record. D Bailey to upload a copy to the ESEF(EW) website.

**Action: D Bailey**

### 4 Matters arising

*[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting.]*

- 4.1 [2.2] *ESEF Earth Science Workforce Group:* The Vice-Chair noted that this had been a good networking opportunity and the first time that key employers of Earth scientists had been able to meet in this way to share information and initiate dialogue. The meeting felt that the 'Graduate

first destinations survey', arranged some years ago by the Geological Society, should be re-done. This was conveyed to the Geological Society and they have now agreed to make the necessary arrangements. UKOOA are also carrying out a survey. It was suggested that a follow-up meeting should be convened when new data is available. **Action: C King**

- 4.2 [4.1] *ESEF Leaflets*: Leaflets had been distributed to all ESEF members. For further copies contact the Executive Officer.
- 4.3 [6] GEES student perception survey: A student has been appointed and will start in September researching 'deep time education'.
- 4.4 [7] Finance: Invoices will be sent to all Forum members. **Action: C Oldershaw**
- 4.5 [13.1] Potential collaborative projects: National Stone Centre bid ongoing.
- 4.6 [13.2] Potential collaborative projects: Because of Government funding there was no money available for any projects.

## 5 Forum Workshop in Reading

This had been cancelled, though it is hoped that following further discussion on aims and objectives, the event may be held at a later date

## 6 Sustainable Schools – DfES Consultation

Executive Officer spoke to the consultation paper. It was agreed that there was scope for Earth science education to increase its profile and involvement in sustainable development in schools. Water and Energy; outdoor learning; and school buildings are areas that may be most relevant to Earth science education. Forum members were asked to obtain a copy of the consultation, or access details on the web, submit an individual response and send copy of their response or their views to the Executive Officer. These will be collated and form a basis for a response submitted by ESEF. Consultation deadline is 30 August. Members are asked to send their views to Executive Officer as soon as possible. **Action: All**

## 7 Finance report

Executive Officer had contacted IOM3 finances to request an end of year statement.

## 8 Executive Officer's report

- 8.1 Arrangements for the next meeting of ESEF-Cymru was completed. 'Outdoor classroom' with presentations by Kim Polistina (Outdoor Learning, University of Glamorgan) and Abigail Brown (The Geology Trusts), at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July (4.30pm – 7.30pm).
- 8.2 The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences met on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June for 'Mineral waste – cleaning up your act' with a presentation by Lester Hicks (Head of Planning – Resources and Environment Policy Division, Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM)).

## 9 ESEF(EW) website ([www.esef.org.uk](http://www.esef.org.uk))

Nothing to report.

## 10 SESEF update

Vice-Chairman reported that Neil Clarke (Hunterian Museum) is the new Chairman of SESEF. The management structure has been changed. Members of the Board will meet annually. A new Management Group will be chaired by Hamish Ross and a Funding Group by Stuart Monro, will meet more often.

## 11 Government policy issues

Nothing to report.

## 12 Annual Conference

Nothing to report.

## 13 Potential collaborative projects

Nothing to report.

## 14 AOB

A number of items were submitted as agenda items, but were received too late. They have therefore been included as AOB:

- 14.1 *Geophysics Education in the UK*: The British Geophysical Association (a joint association of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Geological Society of London) have undertaken a review of Geophysics education in the UK, producing recommendations to increase the number of graduates needed in the coming decades to address the major environmental and energy problems confronting society. The launch of the report is to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July at the Institute of Physics, London. ESEF have a number of invitations for Forum members. If you would like to attend, please contact the Executive Officer.
- 14.2 *UK Groundwater Forum*: UK Groundwater Forum, a group representing the groundwater community in the UK which aims to raise the awareness of groundwater and issues relating to its management (see [www.groundwateruk.org](http://www.groundwateruk.org)). The review showed that groundwater is missing from relevant areas of the curricula (e.g. where the water cycle is referred to) and that in general the requirement to teach about water as a natural resource is not sufficiently great. There also appear lots of opportunities to include groundwater to illustrate topics within the curricula/exam specifications which they may act on e.g. by lobbying for groundwater to be mentioned explicitly or for publishers to cover groundwater better in their educational resources. The Vice-Chair noted that groundwater is in the geography syllabus rather than science, though water and energy are included.
- 14.2.1 Tim Parry noted quarries offer good opportunities for groundwater study and there was potential to explore this further. Tim will contact David Macdonald to take this forward.
- 14.2.2 Peter Warren noted that ESEF may be able to propose a project including groundwater issues, for piloting in London schools. It was agreed that a meeting be convened to include Chris King, Peter Warren, Cally Oldershaw and the Groundwater Forum. Civil engineering companies may also be involved. **Action: C Oldershaw**
- 14.2.3 It was agreed that ESEF invite the UK Groundwater Forum and also the National Soil Research Institute to join ESEF. **Action: C Oldershaw**
- 14.3 *Draft criteria for AS and A level Science*: Chris King reported that the consultation had finished and that both he and Cally Oldershaw had been involved in production of the criteria for Geology. See [http://www.qca.org.uk/downloads/QCA-06-2404\\_GCE\\_Science.pdf](http://www.qca.org.uk/downloads/QCA-06-2404_GCE_Science.pdf) (geology is on page 17).
- 14.4 *International Year of Planet Earth*: Chris King reported that the Geological Society had received £1 million (from BP and Shell). A small budget had been allocated for education. This would include funding for a 'KS3 Primer for Science', a web-based information source. ESEU and ESTA were involved in the project, which would have to be completed by December for a mid-March launch.
- 14.4.1 It was agreed that ESEF had a role to play in the IYPE. Chair and Vice-Chair will liaise with the Geological Society. A formal letter will be written to Ted Nield, the Chair of the Outreach Committee. **Action: A Rogers & C King**
- 14.4.2 It was noted that the Geological Society now have an Education Officer (Judi Lakin) in place. Chris King will no longer therefore need to represent the Geological Society at ESEF meetings.

Chris King will contact the Geological Society to ask who they would like to nominate as the Geological Society representative. The ESEF database would then be updated. **Action: C King**

- 14.5 *International Polar Year*: The Chair reported that 2007 was also the International Polar Year (IPY). The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences had been invited to arrange a meeting in conjunction with the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) in Westminster. However, following several meetings, it was decided that this may not be the best way forward. It was suggested that Cally Oldershaw meet with Lorraine Craig to discuss other options. **Action: C Oldershaw & L Craig**
- 14.6 *Geologists Association Magazine*: Chris King noted that the article written by Mike Benton (President of the Geologists' Association) suggests a number of ways that the GA could celebrate the Bicentenary with the Geological Society. It was noted that most of the proposed actions are already being done by ESEF, ESEU and other members of the Forum. **Action: C King**
- 14.7 *Quarry Products Association contact*: Tim Parry noted that Elizabeth Clements had started her maternity leave and would be out of the office for at least 6 months. Tim will be the QPA contact in her absence.
- 14.8 *Foster Yeoman*: Tim Parry reported that Foster Yeoman had been taken over by Aggregate Industries (now Holcim) MD Bill Bolsover. The Chair will contact Angela Yeoman. **Action: A Rogers**
- 14.9 *Natural History Museums supporting education*: Chris King reported that a report 'How can natural history museums support science education?' had been published by the DfES in conjunction with the Natural History Museum, Manchester University and others. The research had been carried out by a team at King's College, London.

## **15 Dates of future meetings**

- 15.1 The next meeting will be at **1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 17 October 2006** at IOM<sup>3</sup> in 1 Carlton House Terrace (the same day as All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences meeting).
- 15.2 The next meeting of ESEF-Cymru will be at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday 11 July in the National Museum of Wales. Provisional date for the following meeting is 7 November 2006.
- 15.3 The next meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences will be on Tuesday 17 October at 6.00pm in the House of Commons. The presentations will be on coal gasification.

Cally Oldershaw 28 June 2006

### **Suggestions put forward for funding etc.**

- Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts) – had applied for lottery funding, however, the initial response he received was that they ‘didn’t expect to have a submission for geology’ which suggests that maybe they expected more youth club, community groups etc. The next submission date is June 2007
- Peter Warren – stressed that we should focus on one or two projects and concentrate effort on them. The projects should have clear aims and objectives and there should be an outcome or product. The admin costs could be as much as 20-25% of the funding. Funding also had to come from ‘inside the family’.
- Lorraine Craig – noted that generally ‘matched funding’ or ‘funding in kind’ could be included in the bid, and that attendance at project meetings would be acceptable. The Geographical Association had focussed on DfES funding and now had 4 projects agreed.
- Chris King – the annual meeting/conference could be the project.

Cally Oldershaw  
28 June 2006