**Research Centre for Marine Sciences and Climate Change**

Minutes of steering group meeting on 7th September 2009

**Present:** Ric Williams (Director), Terry Hedges (Eng), Andrew Willmott (Director, POL), George Wolff (DEOS), Miguel Morales Maqueda (POL), Jonathan Sharples (POL), Ian Bamber (DEOS) and Peter Thorne (POL)

**Agenda**

**1. Apologies**

Richard Burrows (Eng), Chris Frid (SoBS), Steve Holloway (Dean), Andy Plater (Geography) and Dave Prior (HoD, DEOS)

**2. Minutes of the last meeting 24th June 2009**

Approved.

**3. Report back on activity over the last few months**

Ric Williams reported that 1 of has 2 NERC grants that were in review has been funded.

Ric Williams reported that a meeting was held on 3rd September with the Bishop of Liverpool and other civic leaders to discuss climate change issues and presentations were given by Ric Williams, Chris Hughes and Jonathan Sharples (presentations are at:
<http://www.liv.ac.uk/collage/climate/meetings.html> ). Special thanks go to Robert Smith and Julie Ledder for assisting with the organization of the event. This may be repeated as a number of people were unable to attend.

Ric Williams reported that Andy Heath is working with Graham Linberry at Sefton Council in producing resources for school teachers on the changing coastline of Sefton over recent years.

Chris Frid and his group are hosting the European Marine Biology Symposium this week (8-11 September) here in Liverpool.

**4. Meetings/Workshops to take place**

Ric Williams reported that a Liverpool Mini-Stern meeting is being held on 15th September in the Foresight Centre looking at Tidal power and the effects of disturbing heavy metal deposits in the sediments in the Mersey Estuary.

Ric Williams, Andy Plater and Phil Woodworth are to give talks at the launch event for the Victoria Gallery & Museum Dinner Club on the subject **"Climate change: global threats and local impacts."** The VG&M Dinner Club is jointly chaired by the University, Liverpool City Council, Merseytravel and the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. The club allows individuals from key organisations to debate topical public policy issues and consider matters of societal importance in a suitable environment.

Andrew Willmott reported that the Royal Society is holding a conference on sea level where Kevin Horsburgh and Phil Woodworth are making presentations. There is also a conference being held at Leasowe castle on 21st September looking at marine renewables, including briefings on barrages, turbines and sediment.

**5. Energy Institute**

Ric Williams reported that further to the initial meeting in June, the University are supporting the launch of an Energy Institute. This is being taken forward by Werner Hofer (Surface Science) and Tim Greenshaw (Physics). Regular social meeting of participants will commence in Surface Science on Thursday 10th September at 5.00pm (and in subsequent months).

**6. University Support for Fellowships**

Ric Williams reported that DEOS has been awarded 2 (3 year) fellowships based on its RAE performance. Can colleagues please inform Ric of any quality candidates that could take forward the research of the centre.

**7. Funding of Research Centre**

Ric Williams reported that funding cuts have put limits on the level of financial support for the centre from the constituent University departments. Ric is awaiting feedback from the Dean on any financial support available from the University. To support the case for continued financial support the centre needs to produce a report outlining the evidence of outputs facilitated by the collaborative work of the centre since its inception.

Terry Hedges suggested that CPD could be a vehicle for generating revenue for the centre and colleagues in Engineering have experience and expertise in this area.

**8. Marine Science Symposium (January 2010)**

Ric Williams suggested that the scope of the 2010 meeting would involve more senior staff giving presentations. Possible themes were discussed and suggestions are to be directed to Ric in the first instance.

**9. NERC updates and funding outlook**

Andrew Willmott discussed the situation with NERC and expects to find out in the New Year which funding streams will be supported and to what level.

**10. Planned meetings**

Ric Williams reported that there is an Isaac Newton meeting on Mathematical and Statistical Approaches to Climate Modelling and Prediction <http://www.newton.ac.uk/programmes/CLP/index.html>
Kevin Horsburgh and John Huthnance from POL will be involved.

**11. Any other business**

Andrew Willmott gave formal thanks on behalf of the Research Centre to Terry Hedges on his retirement from the University after 37 years.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Friday 4th December, 2PM, Doodson Room.