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

Minutes of steering group meeting on 24th June 2009

**Present:** Ric Williams (Director), Andrew Willmott (Director, POL), George Wolff (DEOS), Dave Prior (HoD, DEOS), Miguel Morales Maqueda (POL), Ian Bamber (DEOS), Chris Frid (SoBS), Richard Burrows (Eng) and Terry Hedges (Eng)

**Agenda**

**1. Apologies**

 Andy Plater (Geography), Jonathan Sharples (POL), Peter Thorne (POL) and Steve Holloway (Dean)

**2. Minutes of the last meeting 13th Feb 2009**

Approved.

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

Ric Williams reported that he has 2 NERC grants in review and George Wolff has an EU contract extension. Chris Frid has been awarded a 6.5m Euro EU grant in conjunction with Edinburgh and Lowestoft. The centre needs to demonstrate that collaborative work is producing successful grant awards to justify its existence and prove the concept is bearing fruit.

Ric Williams reported that a nutrient workshop was held on 13th May, Mike Ellis (BGS) visited on 17th June and had discussions with a number of staff. An Energy & Climate meeting was held on 23rd June (details at <http://hep.ph.liv.ac.uk/~green/energy/>)

**4. Implications for School restructuring**

Dave Prior updated the group on the fact that DEOS, Geography and Civic Design will form a School of the Environment. Some additional members from SOBS may also move in to this school. A Head of School has still to be appointed so there is little else to report at present.

**5. Updates with regard to NERC priorities**

Andrew Willmott reported that NERC has appointed 2 new theme leaders and the group agreed to invite them to Liverpool for discussions in the Autumn. POL are organising a Sea Level Meeting at the Royal Society on 2nd November. Chris Frid reported that he and colleagues are hosting the European Marine Biology Symposium from 7-11 September (details at <http://www.liv.ac.uk/marinebiology/embs.html>)

**6. Climate Change Meeting**

The MSCC are to host a meeting with the Archbishop of Liverpool and other civic leaders to discuss climate change issues on 3rd September.

**7. Knowledge Exchange Initiatives**

Andy Heath (Research Fellow, DEOS) presented examples of outreach videos that he has worked on and suggested that the Centre may be able to produce some outreach videos. Discussion on ideas followed and will be taken forward in further consultation with Andy.

**8. Planned Ocean Ecosystems Workshop**

Ric Williams reported that a workshop is planned for Spring 2010 with Mick Follows (MIT) on modeling marine microbes involving Ric Willaims, Jonathan Sharples, Jason Holt and Peter Weightman (see <http://darwinproject.mit.edu>)

**9. Any other items**

Richard Burrows reported that an MSc in Marine Planning & Management is going ahead in October. Chris Frid suggested that the centre looks at a more sustainable model to finance its work. Discussion followed and ideas will be developed offline and reported back to future meetings.

**10. Date of next meeting**

Monday 7th September, 10AM, Doodson Room.