



Minutes of the Ninth Management Board Meeting
held at New London House, 6 London Street, London, courtesy of
DP Mann Limited, 15:00 to 18:00 on Monday, 22 February 1999

Attendees	:	Simon Jennings	-	Benfield Greig
		David Simmons	-	Benfield Greig
		Dougal Goodman	-	British Antarctic Survey (Chairman)
		Paul Brand	-	Catlin
		Andrew Dlugolecki	-	CGU
		David Crichton	-	CGU
		Peter Taylor	-	DP Mann
		Julia Graham	-	Royal & SunAlliance
		Lance Garrard	-	Sedgwick
		Jonathan Norman	-	Sedgwick
		James Orr	-	TSUNAMI (Secretary)
		Simon Groves	-	Wren

Minutes:

Dougal Goodman opened by thanking Peter Taylor of DP Mann for hosting the meeting.

He also explained that Julian Hunt of Cambridge University, and Chairman of the TSUNAMI Scientific Advisory Committee, would meet the Board after the meeting. John Taylor, the new Director General of the Research Councils had also been invited to join the meeting, but had not been able to accept. John Taylor had expressed his interest in and support of TSUNAMI's activities, and would be invited to similar events in the future.

1. Introduction of Jonathan Norman to the Management Board

Dougal Goodman introduced Jonathan Norman as the new representative of Sedgwick on the Management Board.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Eighth Management Board Meeting

Dougal Goodman and David Crichton had submitted amendments in advance of the meeting, and these had been incorporated. All other Board members accepted the minutes without amendment.

3. Project Director's Report

a) Financial Position

A high level summary of the commitments of the initiative was presented. This showed that some £815,000 had been committed to date, of the original £960,000 budget. With the inclusion of some £9,000 in respect of the Foundation for Science and Technology event on 13 April, this meant that roughly £136,000 remained uncommitted.

It was also confirmed that these figures assumed that VAT would be payable on employment costs for the Project Director.



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b) VAT

An update was given, which explained that enquiries with NERC in Swindon and Royal & SunAlliance were progressing to assess the VAT status of disbursements handled by BAS in respect of the initiative. An update was expected shortly and the Board would be informed of the outcome.

c) Industry Questionnaire

A paper was presented showing an analysis of the eighty-six questionnaires that had been received to date, in tabular and graphical form. The results were greeted as a useful base-point measure for the impact of the initiative. Also, it was confirmed that the comments on the questionnaires would be used to inform facilitation work with each of the consortium companies.

d) Second Business Plan

The second business plan was presented to the Board, in the form of a yearly schedule. The Board accepted the format and it was suggested that a copy be placed on the Web Site.

Action – James Orr

Peter Taylor emphasised the need for industry representation on all projects. David Simmons also suggested that broader involvement should be encouraged at junior levels within the consortium companies. These suggestions will be incorporated in the future management of projects.

Action – Board and James Orr

e) Web Site

A schedule, describing the usernames and passwords for the different sections of the Web Site was distributed.

4. Tropical Cyclones Forecasting Project

Lance Garrard explained that Dr Merchant of University College London, who had carried out the bulk of the initial research on the project, had been offered a lectureship at Edinburgh University. He expressed his gratitude for Dr Merchant's contribution and wished to bring the issue of succession to the Board's attention. This would be discussed with the Met.Office.

The Board expressed its appreciation of the public relations value gained from the January Press Release. Some companies also confirmed that they had found the forecast useful within their business.

5. Announcements of Opportunity



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a) Scientific Advisory Committee

Dougal Goodman gave an update on the development of the Scientific Advisory Committee. He explained that Julian Hunt had agreed to Chair the Committee. Also, Professor Ian Jolliffe (Aberdeen University) and John Rodda (formerly of the WMO) had accepted invitations. A response was still awaited from Sir John Oxburgh (Imperial), and Chris Browitt (British Geological Survey) would be asked if he declined the offer.

b) UK Flood Risks

David Crichton explained that the coming year would see a number of important developments that would raise the issue of flood risks for the insurance industry. These included:

- An expansion in new housing over the next twenty years, mostly on brown-field sites;
- New planning regimes in Scotland (and potentially Wales, following devolution);
- Completion of the national flood claims data base;
- Publication of a flood estimation handbook by the Environment Agency (EA); and
- The creation of a R&D facility for the EA in London.

David explained that he would like the Board's mandate to discuss the UK Flood Risks project with the ABI, EA, MAFF and other Government bodies. The Board accepted this request.

David then explained that he would seek to merge the two favoured proposals from Professor Edmund Penning-Rowsell and Nigel Arnell by referring back to the original announcement of opportunity. A meeting had been arranged on Thursday, 11 March to begin this process.

Action – David Crichton and James Orr



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c) Extreme Weather in Northern Europe

David Simmons explained that the project would be reviewed to address the specific issue of catastrophe clash between regions in Europe. A revised specification would be distributed following the first meeting, in March. David also confirmed that the study would seek to stay within the scope of European weather and he would expect any global study to build on the Tropical Cyclones Forecasting Project work by UCL.

Action – David Simmons and James Orr

d) Tsunami Risks

Julia Graham confirmed that Phil Bell (Technical Manager, Global Risks) would act as the industry representative on the Tsunami Risks Project. An initial meeting of the research groups had been arranged for Wednesday, 24 February and a revised specification would be distributed to the Board on Monday, 1 March.

Action – Julia Graham and James Orr

e) Uninsured Losses

The Board confirmed that it would support the funding of the uninsured losses project, on the basis of the distribution of costs set out in paper TSU/99/8. The researchers would be informed of this decision.

Action – James Orr

Simon Jennings presented a paper (TSU/99/10) explaining how he saw that the uninsured losses project might be structured. In particular, he recommended that the first two named objectives (1. Assess the distribution of losses between individuals, communities, governments and lending agencies; and 2. Understand why proportions of such losses are uninsured.) should be retained.

However, he then suggested a review point in the project, where its future development would be reconsidered in the light of the results from the first two objectives.

These suggestions were supported and Simon Jennings agreed to contact Surrey University to arrange a first meeting and discuss re-scheduling the work.

Action – Simon Jennings and James Orr



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6. Foundation for Science and Technology

An update on progress in arranging the event on Tuesday, 13 April was given. Three speakers had now been identified:

- Steve Robson – Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury, and Director, Finance, Regulation & Industry Directorate.
- Nick Golden – Director, Underwriting, Reinsurance & Risk Management, Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Group plc.
- Professor Julian Hunt CB FRS – Department of Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics, University of Cambridge.

The current list of invitees was distributed. A first batch of seventy names would be sent to the Foundation for Science and Technology shortly. The Board will be informed when this action is taken, so that they might prompt their contacts.

Action – James Orr

7. Other Projects

TSU/99/9

a) Wind Vulnerability

A paper (TSU/99/11) describing a proposal from Professor Steven Mobbs of Leeds University was distributed. The Board confirmed its interest in the continued development of the project. A meeting will be arranged between the researchers and industry specialists, to discuss the requirements of the industry.

Action – James Orr

8. Any Other Business

a) Conference at the Royal Society in Easter 2000

Dougal Goodman distributed a paper (TSU/99/12), outlining a proposal for a TSUNAMI conference in Easter on 2000, at the Royal Society. This event would cover the main areas of research for TSUNAMI and would feature presentations from both the scientific community and the insurance industry. The Board supported the continued development of this proposal, although Julia Graham stressed the importance that the presentations cater for the industry audience.

Action – Dougal Goodman and James Orr



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b) **Ships' Logs**

David Crichton distributed a paper (TSU/99/13) describing Dr Dennis Wheeler of Sunderland University's proposal to extract information about historical weather conditions, using ships logs from European Navies and the Dutch East India Company for the last 400 years.

The Board confirmed its interest, but asked for more details before committing to providing funding. In the meantime, a letter of support would be sent by TSUNAMI to David Crichton, which could be sent to Dr Wheeler.

Action – James Orr and David Crichton

c) **BBC Science Unit – Climate Change**

James Orr advised the board that he had been approached by a BBC researcher, developing material for a film looking at the potential impacts of climate change on the developed world, in the year 2050. James Orr proposed that TSUNAMI should not seek to develop and promote a policy on climate change issues, due to a lack of expertise and resources. This was accepted by the Board. David Crichton and Andrew Dlugolecki confirmed that the researcher could be referred to them.

Action – James Orr

d) **Risk Prediction Initiative**

David Simmons gave an update on his recent discussions with the Risk Prediction Initiative in Bermuda. He confirmed that, due to consolidation in the insurance and reinsurance market, the subscribing membership had fallen from twelve to seven. Also, RPI had now introduced an optional approach to funding research and had targeted fifty companies in a promotional drive.

RPI were said to be unhappy with developments under TSUNAMI. In particular, they had been critical of the methodology underlying the Tropical Cyclones Forecasting Project. They had also stated that they were not interested in meeting representatives from TSUNAMI. Dougal Goodman confirmed that a dialogue with RPI was still desirable and asked that the invitation to meet should remain open.



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e) Scientific Advisory Committee

Dougal Goodman confirmed that Peter Young of Lancaster University had accepted an invitation to join the Scientific Advisory Committee.

9. Date of Next Meeting

This was not discussed at meeting, but is likely to be during April.