

River Wye Statutory Officer Group

Meeting notes, decisions & actions

Date/Time: 26 September 2024, 14:00

Location: MS Teams

Attendees:	
Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales (AW)	Liz Duberley Herefordshire CC (LD)
Marc Liddeth, Environment Agency (ML) (chair)	Emma Johnson, Natural England (EJ)
Craig O'Connor, Monmouthshire County Council (COC)	Daniel Humphreys, Welsh Water (DH)
Clair Minett, Natural England	Peter Morris, Powys County Council (PM)
Viv Rowland, EA, Notes	
Apologies:	
Gavin Brown, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru /NRW	
Frances O'Brien, Monmouthshire County Council (FOB)	
Matthew Perry, Powys (MP)	
Nia Thomas , Bannau Brycheiniog (NT)	
Nigel Brinn, Forest of Dean District Council (RC)	

Item No.	Item	Action Note/Agreement	Action by / date
1.	Welcome, Introductions, apologies	Welcomes and apologies	
2.	Review of minutes and actions from 26 June 2024 (ML)	Notes of last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Actions from previous SOG meeting had been completed. Marc to follow up with Dan outside of SOG to check on document being shared. Feedback sought on diagram EA produced showing the various plans ACTION ML to re-circulate the diagram and then once all feedback provided to finalise and share wider.	ML
2.	Feedback from NMB	<p>Nutrient Management Board appreciated the pack SOG provided. Decide what to do with the progress update on NM phosphate action plan ACTION (look at AOB)</p> <p>SOG members identified that with the turnover in Councillors and new members to NMB we need to ensure that those members of SOG who work directly with their local councillors are providing briefing updates on our work. ACTION Potential to invite out for visit on site from Dan.</p> <p>Liz said its usual practice to brief the new members of a council on key topics. May offer councillor an opportunity to attend SOG.</p> <p>SOG members agreed that Local Authorities should take responsibility to brief any new Councillor and to utilise existing products produced such as SOG Slide Decks, ToR and Governance Structure slides to help with briefing.</p> <p>ML spoke about if SOG wanted to consider a Comms and Engagement sub-group – see item 6.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DH</p> <p>Local Auth leads</p>
3.	Welsh Govt Funding – updates	Liz presented the latest draft document on the Welsh Govt funding and the proposal on what to spend it on. Paper was shared in advance of the meeting and although Liz had received some initial comments,	

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	<p>and Next steps - Liz Seeking feedback from the Project Brief itself.</p>	<p>wanted to seek final feedback before finalising the paper and getting the process of tender underway.</p> <p>SOG members thanked Liz for the work to date. Comments made during the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some members needed to provided feedback ACTION – final feedback to be back to Liz no later than COP 2 Oct 2024 - Procurement process, we can invite to tender, and Liz happy to take suggestions - Herefordshire Council administrating the contract, but technical side will potential require a steering Group within the SOG. ACTION – to follow up if this is required and who should be on it - Agreement that transparency on the Welsh Govt money spending is needed. - Need to ensure paper gives clarity about what we are looking for this funding to do. The EA work on Wye DWPP is informing the NMP. This funding is to support the evidence base of the NMP on Welsh side of the border. Objective in paper needs to be clearer on this point. ACTION - Marc will drop Liz an email on this point <p>SOG thanked Liz again on the work to date on this.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>LD</p> <p>ML</p>
4.	SOG member updates	<p>ACTION Marc will update headlines in slide deck before it goes to NMB</p> <p>ACTION Ask to all those who have not provided their slide(s) to send to Marc by no later than 4 October 2024</p> <p>Slides that had been received for SOG were from EA and Monmouthshire.</p> <p>Verbal updates were provided from NE, Powys, NRW, HCC and Dwr Cymru. Slides to follow from these organisations for Slide Deck.</p> <p>See slides for information shared during this item.</p> <p>Other key points discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOG identified that R. Lugg data is needing focus and to join English Lugg with Welsh. - NRW will have data on the Lugg and will be publishing in January 2025 which will cover the past 3 years. - SOG members who are Regulatory Bodies agreed that we need to ensure our messages around our work are being communicated wider and that we are still ‘championing’ the River Wye to improve it’s water quality. (see item 6 for Comms and Engagement discussion). - NRW deployed SONDS into Wye over summer and are now collating all the data. 	<p>ML</p> <p>All</p>
6.	SOG Governance and Subgroups	<p>Discussion held on the current SOG Governance and Subgroups.</p> <p>Review of SOG ToR to ensure still fit for purpose – have been in place for c12 months.</p> <p>ACTION: For SOG members to review ToR and provided feedback to Marc – deadline set for end of November to bring to next SOG (18 Dec 24)</p> <p>The work that the Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) carried out is being covered by other groups such as the Wye Catchment Partnership (WCP) where SOG are represented and the DWP.</p>	<p>All</p>

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		<p>SOG members agreed that we need to ensure we can resource any TAGs going forward if we need to create a TAG for future work outside of WCP & DWP.</p> <p>Discussion held on Comms and Engagement (C&E). Marc spoke about the current C&E work that the EA do and the Engagement HQ website for the Wye. As more work progresses a C&E Strategy could help SOG organisations to inform wider audiences – public, stakeholders, govt, on work and progress.</p> <p>SOG members agreed that in principle we should explore further and strategize through SOG what a C&E plan would look like, how it is resourced and any funds required, and to ensure we do not duplicate any other groups i.e. WCP in messaging/engagement</p> <p>ACTIONS: Marc to co-ordinate a SOG members meeting to discuss C&E Strategy. SOG members to look at who is best to attend that meeting and provide name if not them.</p>	ML All
6.	AOB	<p>NM Action Plan – what do we do next now update has been completed. Marc and Emma liaise ACTION</p> <p>Marc gave an update from meeting with Ellie Chowns MP which was very constructive.</p> <p>Ann advised that on 17th October other MPs are visiting Wales and possibly Area</p>	ML/EJ
6.	Next Meeting date	18 December 2024	