

# River Wye Statutory Officer Group

## Decisions & actions

**Date/Time:** 26 June 2024, 11:00

**Location:** MS Teams

**Attendees:**

Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales (AW)	Liz Duberley Herefordshire CC (LD)
Marc Liddeth, Environment Agency (ML) (chair)	Frances O'Brien, Monmouthshire County Council (FOB)
Craig O'Connor, Monmouthshire County Council (COC)	
Clair Minett, Natural England	
Viv Rowland, EA, Notes	
Matt	

**Apologies:**

Peter Morris, Powys County Council (PM)  
 Emma Johnson, Natural England (EJ) Chair  
 Gavin Bown, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru /NRW  
 Tom Johnston, Beacons NPA  
 Daniel Humphreys, Welsh Water (DH)  
 Mark Averill, Herefordshire Council (MA)  
 Nia Thomas , Bannau Brycheiniog (NT)  
 Nigel Brinn, Forest of Dean District Council (RC)

Item No.	Item	Action Note/Agreement	Action by / date
1.	<b>Introductions, apologies, review of minutes and actions from 13 May (ML)</b>	<p>Marc Chair in Emma's absence.            Welcomes and apologies</p> <p><b>Notes of last meeting</b>            Item 2 – encouraging Anthea to act River Champion, but we need to wait until after the election regarding communications of role - continuing            ML to prepare a draft diagram. This draft has been done and appears in slide deck.            Item 3 – Complete. Andrew did set up a meeting            Item 4 – completed. Liz and Gill Parry looking at work on the Dee.            Item 5 (6) – Welsh Water –<b>ACTION</b> ML to check with Daniel whether action complete. NE action complete            Item 6(7) ML for those not in attendance today, <b>ACTION</b> ML will collate the slides for today's meeting that have not been provided from SOG members for June 2024 slide deck in preparation for NMB            7(8) AOB – Statutory organisation leads who are classed as members of NMB, it must be clearly distinguished on NMB ToR and papers that they do not have voting rights. EJ email to Councillor Swinglehurst asking for this to be made clear in ToR was agreed and will be actioned.</p> <p><b>Notes from meeting held 13 May - agreed</b></p>	<p>ML</p> <p>EJ</p>
2.	<b>Proposal for spending the Welsh Govt funding - HCC Liz D</b>	<p>Proposal is work in progress to put in the specification detail and although the funding sits with Herefordshire, need support from others – NRW, Monmouthshire and Powys to provide input.  <b>ACTION</b> SO from those above to help support development of paper and will need separate call to go over specification. Ask to include Jeremy Tanner            Once done run it through internal group first (Craig) <b>ACTION</b>            Liz to ask Ben Boswell before going to tender <b>ACTION</b></p>	<p>AW</p> <p>LD/AW LD</p>

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		<p><b>ACTION</b> Liz need to set up in agreement with AnnW separate group within a month to meet and discuss.</p> <p>Liz confirmed money from Welsh Govt still not confirmed, but SOG has agreed that we still continue to develop the proposal in preparation to spend grant funding.</p>	LD LD/AW
3.	<p><b>Sharing the progress update on the NMP – NE</b> <b>Claire M</b></p>	<p>ML it is to demonstrate where we have got to, need to let NMB where we have got to and what is next.</p> <p>Claire – a very good point and comms is key. A slide for a future slide pack needed on this, explaining what it is and what it is not, and ensure we are using the right and consistent language. (<b>ACTION</b>)</p> <p>We need to pick up the planned Welsh piece of work in the introduction (<b>ACTION</b>)</p> <p>The slide pack needs to be sequential in the right order (<b>ACTION</b>) Claire will put this into a single slide and keep it as simple as possible</p> <p>Claire – Liz could you add in the commission to the Welsh side the link Sally sent you a sentence below the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan item in the Introduction (<b>ACTION</b>)</p> <p>ML to circulate the table of meeting dates for both future SOG meetings and NMB meetings ( <b>ACTION</b>)</p> <p>Confirmed that the NMB has moved to the 31<sup>st</sup> July. (<b>ACTION</b>)ML has agreed to coordinate the papers from SOG in preparation for the meeting. Papers to be pulled together before week before NMB meeting so they can be published.</p> <p>Claire will ensure the NMP Progress Report summary will be ready to share as part of the papers for the NMB on 31 July (<b>ACTION</b>)</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>CM</p> <p>CM</p> <p>LD</p> <p>ML</p> <p>ML</p> <p>CM</p>
4.	<p><b>SOG member updates</b></p>	<p><b>Welsh Water</b> No attendee</p> <p><b>Powys CC</b> No attendee</p> <p><b>EA – ML</b> You will have seen the slides 1<sup>st</sup> slide will be updated to say 26<sup>th</sup> June as it has previous slide deck date (<b>ACTION</b>) 2<sup>nd</sup> slide – diagram has been designed to demonstrate the plans that are in place on both the English and Welsh borders of the Wye. Will share this with NMB and seek feedback. (<b>ACTION</b>) 3<sup>rd</sup> slide – Diffuse Water Pollution Plans – there are 3 DWPPs going on in the West Midlands area to be delivered by March 2025 – we are currently on track to deliver these by that date. The table we have put in there breakdown the tasks between now and the end date. Mentioned the 3 main components. There is a workshop about to happen to look at how reductions are going to happen and how we can help. Outcome of the election – MPs in Wye catchment – once this is known will need to look at engagement at both each organisation level and possibly collectively as Statutory Bodies.</p>	<p>ML</p> <p>ML</p>

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		<p><b>Herefordshire CC</b>  <b>Liz</b> - pulling together our nature recovery mapping. Need to understand what Monmouthshire are doing. We will be going out for consultation after the election.                      I wanted to reiterate the AMP8 I know Welsh water are not here today, but it would be really good to have that information and to have it incorporated into the Nutrient Budget calculator as well moving forward those upgrades to that infrastructure because I think we are starting to come under quite a lot of pressure from the construction lobby group around the work that has been done on Poole Harbour, and the question has been raised as to why the upgrade on the infrastructure  <b>Claire</b> difference in Poole Harbor the improvements to the treatments works projected forwards delivered the required reduction in phosphate to achieve favorable condition targets and that is not the position on the Lugg. On the Lugg, point source water treatment if they were completed, that does not achieve favorable water conservation targets because 70% of Lugg is agricultural. (diffuse agricultural) and that is much more difficult issue to tackle. Two differences. They will continue to challenge.  <b>Liz</b> - It would be helpful to have this updated to the Budget calculator Mention that Herefordshire Council has won an award on our Wetlands project.</p> <p><b>Monmouthshire Council</b>  <b>Frances</b> – cabinet Commission met Monday – they are the leaders from the local authorities to consider why they were meeting. They are cross political parties. On the Agenda was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEFRA Action Plan;</li> <li>• an agreement to draft a letter around the opportunity to work together on the Wye catchment; Alyssa going to request a meeting.</li> <li>• Keen to explore plan and policy matters that differ/similar across borders, and how to work together collaboratively.</li> <li>• AMP8 – making sure this was shared widely.</li> <li>• SOG – The whole nutrient management is critical. Alyssa was keen to understand our thinking as a SOG , we are chasing phosphates at the moment but actually the whole nutrient management of the catchment is a far bigger issue and do we as a SOG have our eyes on that and are we actually thinking about the wider picture . Also conversation about private treatment systems and private treatment plants and sharing learning between the local authorities and sharing learning where we are doing good work and where we can take things forward. Grant funding – looking what funding is available and what might need funding and where it could be used collaboratively.</li> </ul> <p><b>Liz</b> - how can cabinet members support officers in progressing the work?  <b>Craig</b> - Climate Nature Emergency Strategy the council have adopted now. I can share the papers (<b>ACTION</b>)  <b>ML</b> – sounds like really good work, will be interesting to know how the work dove-tails and aligns.</p> <p><b>NE</b> – good progress on other areas of work, landscape recovery projects progressing well with input from those. Proactive wye visits happening all over the Wye and very good farmer liaison with them. Plenty happening.</p> <p><b>NRW</b> – The main thing is the launch of the Wye Restoration Project which was planned for the first week of June but was put on hold due</p>	<p>COC</p>

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		<p>to election. It is looking like there will be a launch of a kind at the Royal Welsh Show on 22 July. The big event has been moved to September/October time and invitations are coming out shortly - more of a Stakeholder event rather than a media event. Some conversations are going on regarding the certainty of funding - a lot happening politically. Board meeting questions likely to be raised.</p> <p><b>ML</b> – Bathing water status in Wales, how has that landed?</p> <p><b>AW</b>, yes it will be interesting to see how we will deal with it, it is positive and will provide more data and information. A popular spot on the Wye</p>	
5.	<b>AOB</b>	Decisions and action notes to be forwarded to NMB	
6.	<b>Next Meeting date</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	