

River Wye Statutory Officer Group

Decisions & actions

Date/Time: 13 May 2024, 14:30

Location: MS Teams

Attendees:	
Emma Johnson, Natural England (EJ) Chair	Peter Morris, Powys County Council (PM)
Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales (AW)	Liz Duberley Herefordshire CC (LD)
Marc Liddeth, Environment Agency (ML)	Frances O'Brien, Monmouthshire County Council (FOB)
Daniel Humphreys, Welsh Water (DH)	Lisa Hobbs, Environment Agency, note taker (LH)
Apologies:	
Craig O'Connor, Monmouthshire County Council (COC)	
Mark Averill, Herefordshire Council (MA)	
Nigel Brinn, Forest of Dean District Council (RC)	
Nia Thomas , Bannau Brycheiniog (NT)	

Item No.	Item	Action Note/Agreement	Action by / date
1.	Introductions, apologies, review of minutes and actions (EJ)	<p>Emma Johnson chaired and welcomed all attendees</p> <p>Notes of last meeting Question under 1. Welsh Govt funding. – see item 4 Feasibility of light touch progress update of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). ACTION: AW to report back on progress on the approach</p> <p>Notes from meeting held 27th March - agreed</p>	AW next mtg
2.	Reflections on River Wye Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient Management Board (NMB) meeting had been organised at short notice by Counsellor Swinglehurst. A Defra representative attended, as did River Champion Anthea McIntyre. Meeting organised on 3rd June with key organisations and Anthea to review alignment of the RWAP with the current plans put in place on both sides. Noted that this should help Anthea understand what is already in place and support actions she will pick up. ACTION: Need to ensure Anthea is encouraged to make connections. ML talked about the alignment of all the statutory organisations' plans currently in play. Martin Quine EA is working with the team through the Wye Catchment Partnership to simplify it in a diagram form to show how plans link together. ACTION: Draft diagram will be presented to Anthea and shared to SOG members. 	EJ/ML ML
3.	Task & Finish nutrient tool group - progress	<p>NMPT Group will meet quarterly. ACTION: Andrew Osbaldiston, EA to set up new meeting in May.</p>	AO
4.	Next steps for development of	LD had provided a summary note on the Welsh Government funding to the group via email on 29.4.24.	

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	<p>the NMP and opportunities for utilisation of available Welsh Government funding to support delivery of this work</p>	<p>Agreed recommendations for spend moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment into the future NMP on the Welsh side. • a request from the River Wye Catchment Partnership meeting around an allocation of funding for a part-time temporary role to pull together all the work that is being done on the plans. • A bid is also likely to go in via Farm Herefordshire. <p>ACTION: Any other suggestions or thoughts on the recommendations from SOG members for the funding to be shared asap.</p> <p>Confirmation of funding is yet to be received from Welsh Government. Given the underspend last year, it was recommended that these funds also be added to the request.</p> <p>LD confirmed the bid had already been submitted for the £70k plus the £11k underspend – just waiting to hear if the ask has been successful.</p> <p>It was agreed that the clarity of scope of the project needs to be confirmed as it appears the ask that has gone to Welsh Government is not accurate. Therefore, need to go back to Welsh Government to re-frame the ask which may mean more funding is required. LD will pick up to ensure the right amount of funding can be obtained.</p> <p>LD recommended work to pull together the overview Welsh NMP and costs associated with that looking at the Dee model and then any lower priorities as well.</p> <p>ACTION: LD and AW to speak to Les McNamara at the EA. LD and Gillian Parry to hook up and explore a more detailed look around the Welsh part of the NMP and whether there are parts of the works already done on the Dee that we could learn from.</p>	<p>ALL - asap</p> <p>LD/AW</p>
5.	<p>NMP – progress update (EJ)</p>	<p>Looked at each action on the NMP and a progress update will be given at the July NMB and brought to this group before then.</p> <p>The original NMP back in 2014 was primarily to help HCC help with their core strategy. When refreshed in 2021 the plan focus was to help meet the outcome of the Dutch nitrogen case, trying to make sure the river was in a good enough state for development to take place. Now we have better information with nutrient calculators and mitigation options but the NMP is reliant on voluntary actions it cannot be relied on to deliver certainty.</p> <p>NE have talked this through with LD and Cllr Swinglehurst, NRW, EA and HCILG (Merry Albright).</p>	
5.	<p>SOG Member Updates</p>	<p>Welsh Water</p> <p>DH- working on an getting information together ready for the 10th June deadline on the NMP. 16+ sites named along the Wye of various activities taking place including phosphate removal. Schemes are currently ahead of schedule. Resilience works are carrying on on-sites. Handful are due for completion March 2025 but all currently on course. Also setting up for next AMP period, 2025-2030 which will see more investment. Works ongoing to tighten down on permits.</p> <p>ACTION: DH to share information that can be used in response to developers AMP 8 proposals that we can work into the calculator noting that it is speculative.</p>	<p>DH</p>

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		<p>Powys CC Nutrient management officer available until end December – may need to find some extra funding to keep him on board. Looking at project work, site by site. Wales calculators have been delayed by Welsh Govt – probably due to accessibility issues.</p> <p>EA Meeting 3rd June to look at DWPP plans with wider partners. Also looking at Wye catchment partnership to see how all that stitches together and how that links into the RWAP.</p> <p>Herefordshire CC DLUHC grant of £1.76m for funding future wetland and also PTP upgrades has been approved.</p> <p>Monmouthshire Council Nothing significant to report.</p> <p>NE Farm Scoper has been updated and is now out for release. ACTION: EJ to circulate the link</p> <p>EJ had shared briefing note, Projects - Severn and Wye Nature. Not heard anything recently and awaiting a proposal.</p> <p>NRW Poor water quality summit being planned for July, possibly being held at the Royal Welsh Show, focus will be on agriculture. Revision to planning advice from NRW is bringing in agricultural developments, a shift away from just developments. Revision of permits – bringing in tighter limits for phosphates on discharges. Invites have gone out for the launch of the Upper Welsh Wye Restoration Programme on Friday 7th June, being held at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells.</p>	EJ
6.	Key messages and timing for sharing outside of SOG	<p>EJ to put headlines from this mtg to next NMB – one suggestion was to make minutes from this meeting available. Agreed by Board ML - have another mtg before next NMB so suggest both minutes and one slide pack reviewed at that meeting ready for the next NMB. Anything confidential or anything relating to AMP would not be shared.</p> <p>ACTION EJ to confirm who is collating the slide pack for next NMB. SOG members to prepare their updates to fit the slide pack- headlines only</p>	EJ ALL
7.	AOB	<p>ML stated that papers from the NMB posted on Herefordshire’s Council noticeboard could be misleading giving the impression that SOG members had the same status as other members. ML felt it needed to be made clearer that SOG members did not have any voting rights and would not lobby MPs. This was agreed.</p> <p>ACTION: EJ to check governance/Terms of Reference and then write, as Chair person, to Councillor Swinglehurst (copying in Henry) and SOG members.</p>	EJ
8.	Next Meeting date	26 th June 2024	

