

River Wye Statutory Officer Group

Decisions & actions

Date/Time: 18 December 2024, 14:30

Location: MS Teams

Attendees:

Gavin Bown, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / NRW (GB) (chair)	Liz Duberley, Herefordshire CC (LD)
Marc Liddeth, Environment Agency (ML)	Emma Johnson, Natural England (EJ)
Craig O’Connor, Monmouthshire County Council (COC)	Peter Morris, Powys County Council (PM)
Jennifer Grubb, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (JG)	
Jenny Hodgkiss, EA, Notes	

Apologies: Ann Weedy, Natural Resources Wales; Clair Minett, Natural England; Nia Thomas, Bannau Brycheiniog; Nigel Brinn, Forest of Dean District Council; Matthew Perry, Powys County Council; Daniel Humphreys, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

Item No.	Item	Action Note/Agreement	Action by / date
1.	Welcome, Introductions, apologies (GB)	Welcomes and apologies	
2.	Review of minutes and actions from 26 September 2024 (GB)	Notes of last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Actions from previous SOG meeting had been completed. 	
3.	Welsh Govt Funding – Latest situation (LD)	<p>Feedback has been received from SOG and necessary amendments have been made to ITT which has now been issued. Bids have been received and will be reviewed by LD, AW and PM. A moderation meeting will take place, followed by the awarding of the contract.</p> <p>An overview of a proposal of what to spend last year’s £11k underspend on has been received from Farm Cymru.</p> <p>ACTION LD to share email with proposal on and ask Farm Cymru for further details on the proposal.</p> <p>Welsh Government funding spend needs to be completed by 30 April.</p>	LD
4.	Minister Hardy meeting (12 Dec) with invited Wye stakeholders and MPs (AW, EJ, GB, LD, ML)	<p>SOG members agreed that there was a positive reception at the meeting with a focus on delivery of the Wye catchment management plan.</p> <p>It is felt that there is a need for an evidence-led plan, with a contribution from Defra towards identified actions, a priority order for actions should be made.</p> <p>EJ highlighted other reviews ongoing in England and they’re all pointing towards having less plans but more support for those we have. It was felt that Minister Hardy listened to the message.</p> <p>JG confirmed there had been follow up since the meeting from Ellie Chowns MP, she would like a visit focussing on phosphorus schemes in the Wye catchment. A Welsh Water site and North Herefordshire have</p>	

DRAFT – To be reviewed by SOG members

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		been identified as locations. HCC invited to collaborate on the visit.	
5.	SOG ToR – Final comment / review & sign off (ML)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wording changed to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority Additional point added – ToR to be reviewed on an annual basis All other proposed amendments accepted 	
6.	SOG C&E with NMB – feedback from Wye NMB Chair (ML, EJ)	<p>The slide deck works well, including the level of detail, more detailed papers can be sent as attachments. Important that new members to the NMB should read the NMP and progress update as a starting point. A question arose as to whether there needs to be two plans, one for the DWPP and one for the NMP.</p> <p>SOG may want to do an annual update for them or send them updates on actions. Need to recognise resource capacity and focus on delivering progress/outcomes.</p> <p style="color: red;">ACTION ML to confirm governance and consultation arrangements for DWPP.</p> <p style="color: red;">ACTION all to consider by the next meeting what this means for the NMP.</p> <p>Potential for a special NMB in April 2025 to go through DWPP.</p>	<p style="color: red;">ML</p> <p style="color: red;">All</p>
7.	SOG Members – Updates	<p>Wording changed to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority.</p> <p>Slides received from Dwr Cymru, EA, HCC and Powys.</p> <p>Verbal updates were provided from Bannau Brycheiniog, NRW, NE and Monmouthshire. Slides to follow from these organisations.</p> <p>See slides for information shared during this item.</p> <p>Other key points discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supplementary paper from the EA will be given to the NMB and has already been shared with Ellie Chowns MP. ML confirmed that visit numbers are cumulative, and that Top 5 themes are created for non-compliance and good practice. EA and NE officers regularly collaborate following farm visits. <p style="color: red;">ACTION GB to contact Nigel Brinn to reiterate their invite to SOG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of South Wales are doing some interesting research into anaerobic digestion and also farm slurries. <p style="color: red;">ACTION all to finalise the slide pack ahead of 06 January 2025</p>	<p style="color: red;">GB</p> <p style="color: red;">All</p>
8.	AOB	<p>NE have been asked by the NMB why they don't have targets for nitrogen. To consider a target a review of the evidence and common standards guidance is needed. A paper can go as an attachment to the next NMB.</p> <p style="color: red;">ACTION EJ to share the paper to get views ahead of the next NMB.</p> <p style="color: red;">ACTION EJ/ML to produce a response to be sent to the next NMB as a supplementary paper.</p>	<p style="color: red;">All</p> <p style="color: red;">EJ / ML</p>

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9.	Next Meeting date	26 th March 2025 (next Wye NMB meeting on 15 January 2025)	