

River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board

17th April 2019, 1:30pm

Herefordshire Council, Sutton & Bromyard Room, Plough Lane
Offices

Notes

1. *Introductions & apologies – Chair*

Attendance: Cllr Price, Beth Lewis, Claire Minnett, Claire Walters, David Letellier, Richard Pitts, Nick Read, Simon Evans, Dane Broomfield Jenny Gamble, Mark Rychnovsky, Samantha Banks, Juliet Wheatley, Kevin Singleton
Apologies: Kevin Bishop, Richard Gabb, Dave Throup, Sarah Faulkner

2. *Notes of the meeting of December 2018.*

Minor change was made to the draft notes of December 2018.

In the WCP section the notes should have read “solutions enforced in 12 cases of farming practices”.

3. *Monitoring “dashboard” update.*

DB gave a demonstration of the dashboard.

The dashboard figures are as at 2017 (calendar years apart from the housing data) and the work is beginning on 2018 figures now. Additional resource being brought into the team (EA) in order to begin the dashboard up to date sooner.

The purpose of the dashboard is explained in the introduction. Water quality data is included from 1992 and the dashboard is interactive to enable clicking on the points on the map, individual data on sample points can be accessed.

It was suggested that the information could be enhanced by including the additional sampling points within the Welsh part of the River Wye at Glasbury and this was to be investigated.

DCWW were to add some additional text regarding AMP7

The dashboard will go live once it's had a final quality control, probably about 2 weeks. Powys & Herefordshire Councils were going to add the link to their websites.

4. *Update of the NMP action plan.*

Draft document circulated last week

Three meetings of the TAG had been held to update the action plan. The TAG had suggested some additional organisations be invited to join the board, including:

- Brecon Beacons NP
- Monmouthshire
- CPRE
- CPRW
- Severn Trent Water
- Farming Connect
- Farming Union of Wales

DB advised regarding the most significant changes/additions to the Action Plan and also advised that, as an audit, the previous actions would be listed in an appendix. He invited Board Members respond within 2 weeks with any final amendments before the Board be invited to approve the Action Plan “virtually”.

5. *Board Membership/chair and regularity of board meetings.*

It was proposed that the chair of the board to rotate between Herefordshire and Powys. It was recognised that the elections in Herefordshire may also result in a need to change the chair of the Board.

6 monthly meetings were considered to be appropriate with the ability to have additional meetings if required to deal with specific issues.

Board meetings in September would be sensible as that’s when the update to the dashboard would be made.

Action: KS to share the terms of reference with Monmouthshire

Action: KS to email the other organisations to invite them to the Board

6. *Natural Flood Management Project – presentation*

Funding and projected explained are currently only within England
River Wye and Lugg NFM project is considering 7 catchments with different characteristics and challenges.

Yazor Brook project is a community project rather than a catchment project it is aiming to reduction flooding, improve habitats, engage communities and contribute to research.

Progress so far – maps produced to show areas for leaky dams, catchment advisors talking to farmers and the community, soil research being undertaken, leaky dams installed on Cheaton Brook, grant schemes

launched, 6 events within the catchment areas, river and rain fall monitors within the catchment.

Yazor Brook seeking to enhance the flood alleviation scheme, leaky dams, wildlife trust reviewing SUDs and natural flood management within the more urban areas.

7. *Update from WCP*

Improving and renewing the NE/WUF MOU. Since 2017 this has allowed £3.5m of mid-tier to be targeted at causes and pathways of P loss to water from agriculture in last 2 years. Methodology agree to include other partners.

Courtauld 2025 Agri board

1st meeting 4th March 2019, 25 suppliers engaged.

Identify threats and opportunities by sector and so by clarifying the ask of buyers. Buyers responsive: 5 companies investing so far, in conversation with 16 others.

Sellers keen to get involved

WUF acting as honest broker

Other projects based on natural capital markets that will reduce P eg: Herefordshire NFM, WISE, Lugg living landscapes

Next

Still waiting for WEG bid

Important to remember where we have come in last 10 years

2012 doubling in farm advisory function

2012 continuing improvement in farm advice and peer to peer improvement.

2014 Hereford soils group

2015 Launch of WCP

2016 EA regulation of soil loss starts

2017 MOU with NE

2018 Addition of supply chain

2019 New markets

2020 New grant structures?

NB/ Encouraging change at the top – Gove/Helm, Tony Juniper, Elizabeth Passey.

8. *Farm Herefordshire update*

12 organisations now signed up.

Funding is being made available for evaluation of Farm Herefordshire, to consider whether there is evidence of any behavioural changes.

Herefordshire Green Network about to launch a consultation

9. *Update from DCWW*

The AMP7 package had been largely accepted by Offwat although there remained a number of challenges regarding efficiencies. Which was seen as a good result for the NMP in respect of point source phosphate reduction.

ACTION: WW to draft note regarding AMP7 schemes within the next month

10. *NRW Update*

NRW were currently undergoing a significant restructure and this would mean they were aligned to LA boundaries

Reviewing grants programme with three strategic strands

Nutrient Management regulations in Wales by 2020

11. *Development Plan update from local authorities.*

Herefordshire - Hereford Area Plan – draft plan and design SPD

Rural Area Site Options – consultation in September

Mineral and Waste – currently reviewing the responses to the draft plan

Travellers - at examination, adoption in the summer

Review of the Core Strategy – begin at the end of 2019.

Powys – SPG on open space

Team restructuring and new planning administration systems being implemented.

12. *Questions from the public.*

1. Poultry farming – does the Action Plan or the dashboard account /monitor agriculturally producing nutrients within the catchment?

Answer: it isn't monitored and it isn't regulated, it is dominated by the market. Some AD plants require permits and all required planning permission so it would be possible to map these.

2. Dashboard – medium term target of 2027 therefore does the dashboard need to reflect that?

Answer: There is a commitment around the table to meet that target and the target can be met and the monitoring is showing that it is moving in the right direction.

Core Strategy/LDP review will also need to review the progress of the management plan.

3. The review of EA monitoring has resulted in 43 sampling points being reduced to 8 was the board consulted about this? And what the significance is of this reduction?

Answer: The decision was taken by EA at national level and did not involve consultation, it reflects the need to use limited resources in the most efficient way. Water quality is only one type of monitoring. The key sentinel sampling points in respect of the NMP data will continue to be monitored. The points where samples will no longer be used are in areas where there is an understanding of what is happening within the catchment. There are other assessments recording other data that will continue and it is possible to switch sampling points back one if required.

WCP – were planning on undertaking additional monitoring of water quality.

13. *Dates of next meeting*

Wed 25 September 2019

Powys

14. *AOB*

None