

Herefordshire Water Steering Group 16th January

Meeting Notes

Present:

Ian Butterfield (IB), Hayley Pankhurst (HP) - Natural England

Harry Addshead (AD) – Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Caroline Chapman (CC) - David Tyldesley Associates

Kevin Singleton (KS), Kevin Bishop (KB), Bridgit Symonds (BS), Samantha Banks
Rob Widdecombe (RW), Bill Bloxsome (BB) - Herefordshire Council

Apologies:

Environment Agency

1. Introductions

Participants were welcomed and introductions took place. EA unfortunately did not attend the meeting however IB had briefly spoken with Dane Broomfield (EA) and was able to provide some *provisional* jointly held views.

2. Statement of Intent

The Statement of Intent had not yet been signed NE/EA were considering the comments made by HC their view is that the scope of the NMP is to meet the P target when all available existing permitted capacity at the WWTWs has been assigned, thereby making such capacity available and as a result the CS will therefore need to include appropriate policies in relation to any such development

3. Interim position paper

The Group discussed an interim position paper produced by DTA to inform the determination of planning applications within the catchment of the River Wye SAC prior to the production of the nutrient management plan. Generally the group was happy with the paper but NE expressed the view that the approach may perhaps be overly complex and more robust that it might need to be, they went on to explain that both EA and NE consider that the Sol (and forthcoming NMP) is sufficient to allow all available capacity at WWTW to be allocated to development without the need for further assessment.

Discussions followed regarding whether the NE suggestion would be consistent with the tests set out in Regulation 61. NE agreed that further work would be required, in relation to stretches which are not currently exceeded but which would be if WWTW operated at maximum capacity.

There was further discussion about the effects of further phosphate on stretches which are already exceeded (ie: The Lugg). The advice of relevant specialists at NE would be required and any approach would need careful consideration in terms of being able to show that the conservation objectives would not be undermined.

4. Nutrient Management Plan(NMP)

The NMP will be commissioned by NE/EA as soon as possible following completion of the Statement of Intent.

5. Next Steps:

- HC to produce a list of outstanding planning applications and those currently at pre-application stage identify the receiving works in each case and screen any that might be non-mains.
- HC will request from EA some modelling work to show the effects within the SAC boundary of all available capacity being).
- NE will seek a view from their national specialist in relation to the ecological effects of further increases within the exceeded stretches.

6. Next Meeting

It was anticipated that a further meeting may be needed in March, date to be arranged.