

## **Notes**

### **River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 2pm-4pm**

**Herefordshire Record Centre, Rotherwas Hereford**

#### **Present**

Cllr Philip Price	Herefordshire Council (Cllr P)
Kevin Singleton	Herefordshire Council (KS)
Samantha Banks	Herefordshire Council (SB)
Rob Widdicombe	Herefordshire Council (RW)
Dane Bloomfield	Environment Agency (DB)
Dave Throup	Environment Agency (DT)
Simon Evans	Wye Catchment Partnership (SE)
Claire Minett	Natural England (CM)
Mark Rychnovsky	Welsh Water (MR)
Nick Read	Brightspace Foundation (NR)

#### **Apologies**

Steve Morgan	Natural Resources Wales (SM)
Kevin Bishop	Herefordshire Council
Richard Gabb	Herefordshire Council
Sarah Falconer	NFU (SF)
Richard Pitts	Powys CC

#### **Observers**

Ian Jardin	CPRE
Cllr J Bartlett	Herefordshire Council member
Cllr F Norman	Herefordshire Council member
Cllr Powers	Herefordshire Council member

#### **Notes**

1. Introductions & apologies – Chair  
Cllr Price gave the known apologies and introductions and welcomes the member of the public
2. Notes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017.  
Notes agreed as a true record
3. Monitoring “dashboard” update  
Dashboard will provide information on the monitoring of the NMP.  
DB gave a presentation of the dashboard. Once completed it will be on the HC website. The front page will have easy to interpret infographics.

Includes water quality data, sewerage works performance and plans for improvements (AMPs), soil related incidents and housing growth completions.

Map based system of looking at indicators.

Some additional information is required regarding Catchment Sensitive Farming  
PP – highlighted that there is random testing at bridges which could show spikes in the graphs. DB – confirmed that this is the case. Data is collected on an annual monitoring programme with samples taken throughout the year. The dashboard will be updated on an annual basis as an annual average. A spike is not an issue it is the prolonged presents which causes the issues ecologically.

NR – Is working on a user friendly intro, setting out why are we monitoring this and links to the open data first hand.

DT – web based portal will help the understanding for all.

DB – NRW will monitor the Welsh part of the catchment and EA will monitoring the English side. Currently the information is concentrated on the parts of the catchment at most at risk as set out in the NMP. It is intended that the dashboard will allow interested parties to drill down to view the most up to date samples and data. The compliance is based on an annual average.

SE – is the Lower Wye going to be separated below the Monnow? DB – no reason it cannot be expanded once the dashboard has been developed.

Concern expressed about current Algae blooms on the River Wye so monitoring is important.

CM – will add more data regarding the agri-environment.

NR – need to look at some social monitoring regarding any changes in behaviours

PP – soil pollution incidents have nothing prior to 2015

Date for 'go-live' on the dash board will be added to the minutes.

DB shows presentation regarding soil pollution incidents and introduces the risk matrix based on soil types, heights and satellite data. This is twin tracked with the incentive work undertaken with farmers.

NR – lot of interested in the farming community regarding soils

MR – working being undertaken at the moment and this will feed into AMP7 to address phosphate within the system. WW2020 page 59 has case study for the investigations which are currently ongoing.

4. Update of work of the TAG group to review of the NMP action plan.

DB updated group – reviewed of dashboard and the action plan.

Good progress is being made with all of the actions and a discussion of the next potential iteration of the actions will be.

Suggested that the action plan is updated annually.

**Next Board meeting – agenda item to include Action Plan actions update.**

5. Update from WCP

SE – Indicated that he was pleased that all the actions and goals have been defined and aligned between the partners.

SE had ongoing concerns regarding issues within Wales and was aiming to develop the excellent working practises within England to help tackle these concerns. SE was meeting with the Welsh Assembly Government to try and address this.

In addition a bid for funding to implement natural flood management measures had been made.

PP – should the Board be ensuring that the policies in place now ensure that work continues post Brexit and are recognised?

NR – should have a response ready for any Government consultation which takes places upon Brexit to ensure that the work on water quality is not lost.

6. Farm Herefordshire update

Group is growing, funding from the EA for a part time co-ordinator and discussing the operational budget.

Open Farm this Sunday and visit to Holme Lacy College.

Developing a joint database for all members

But as always there remains the issue of resources. It was suggested that larger corporate businesses in the County could be approached to seek some funding for the operation of Farm Herefordshire.

**Action – consider how to engage with larger businesses to promote the work of Farm Herefordshire and try to secure their support.**

7. Update from DCWW

Currently planning for the next AMP period for the period 2020-2025.

Data is being produced and baseline modelling should be ready by September. This will highlighted a list of schemes of the next AMP.

Phosphate trials have been undertaken nationally to identify the most appropriate means of achieving lower levels of phosphate in water discharged from sewage works. These are expected to report in July.

Bio-solids - sludge is a good source of p. Concern that levels need to be monitored before adding to fields.

PP – are there sufficient actions being undertaken by WW to address the issues?

MR – there are to meet and WW is heavily regulated to ensure that permits are met.

The programme for the next AMP will focus on phosphate reduction.

8. Questions from the public

Question 1: One written question had been submitted to the Board asking *what organisation or body is responsible for delivering the targets of the Nutrient Management Plan and how does it monitor the effectiveness of its actions?*

There was discussion within the Board (and with the public) regarding the interpretation of the question and whether it was seeking a response regarding legal responsibility of the organisations on the Board. Following discussion the agreed response was:

*“All organisations represented on the NMP Board are working collaboratively to identify and deliver actions that achieve the phosphorous conservation target of the River Wye SAC, primarily through the delivery of the Nutrient Management Plan.*

*The Board is developing a monitoring dashboard which will help review performance and delivery of actions within the plan in order to take timely corrective action where identified.”*

Cllr Price then asked whether any of the public attending the meeting had any questions:

Question 2: The first issue raised asked whether everything was being done to address the phosphate issue and whether the risk being of failure was being considered. DB – indicated that the work on the River Wye NMP was considered to be innovative, ground breaking and better than many others across the country.

There was an ongoing need to work within the current legislation and there remained confidence that the process would be successful.

Question 3: The next question asked how are trends in phosphate levels being demonstrated and monitored as this was a key task of the Board in order to consider the implications of the data.

DB – The emerging dashboard will be the main tool to demonstrate the monitoring of the phosphate levels. It was acknowledged that although monitoring is ongoing it

can be difficult to identify trends in water quality due to the wide variety of variables. However, once the modelling from DCWW has been completed and implementation of further measure at sewage works undertaken trends should be easier to demonstrate. Over a prolonged period P has reduced in most rivers across the country as a result of the work undertaken by water companies.

Question 4: A further question asked whether such reductions would not be outweighed by intensive livestock units and also asking whether the dashboard graphs would include the line of the legal limit.

DB – these is a limit line on the graphs but doesn't show up clearly on the black and white print outs produced for the meeting.

NR – need to look at where real behaviours are changing and that farmers have the skills and capacity to undertake soil management efficiently.

DB – intensive livestock units which receive permits are amongst the most regulated sites and the vast majority work within their permits. Problems generally arise not within the units themselves but where the litter is removed from the site to be used by a third party, therefore education of the waste users is important. However, it is not an issue restricted to intensive livestock units as if the sale of litter was prevented other sources of phosphate would be sourced.

NR – Farm Herefordshire are actively seeking to educate farmers in a holistic way to help address this.

9. Dates of future meetings

4 December 2017 – with a meeting venue in Powys

10. AOB

SE – Concern that things are improving in Herefordshire but there are continuing issue in Wales.

Action – to encourage the members of the Board in Wales to attend. Potentially consider joint seminar with planning officers and Cllrs from both counties.

Meeting closed 15:41