

# River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board

**29<sup>th</sup> June, 10am-1pm**

**Bromyard and Sutton Rooms, Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices,  
Plough Lane, Hereford HR4 0LE**

## **Attending**

Cllr Philip Price	Herefordshire Council (Cllr P)
Kevin Singleton	Herefordshire Council (KS)
Samantha Banks	Herefordshire Council (SB)
Dane Bloomfield	Environment Agency (DB)
Claire Walters	Welsh Water
Mark Rychnovsky	Welsh Water (MR)
Richard Pitts	Powys CC (RP)
David Letellier	Natural Resources Wales (SM)
Simon Evans	Wye Catchment Partnership (SE)
Sarah Falconer	NFU (SF)
Nick Read	Brightspace Foundation (NR)
Rob Sargent	National England

## **Apologies**

Rob Widdicombe	Herefordshire Council (RW)
Kevin Bishop	Herefordshire Council
Richard Gabb	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Price	Powys Council

## **Observers**

Ian Jardin	CPRE
------------	------

## **Notes**

- 1. Introductions & apologies – Chair**
- 2. Notes of the meeting of December 2017.**

Signed as a true record of the meeting

- 3. Monitoring “dashboard” update.**

Collating the datasets and awaiting some information from colleagues. The next board meeting will have the update and will circulate in advance.

The dashboard for last year could be live on website and the update for this year could be placed live once it is completed.

Some of the datasets are collating annually by calendar year and some by financial year therefore there will also be a lag in update around spring time.

Suggest that the current dashboard should appear on the website with a note to indicate that the dashboard will be updated.

The purpose of the dashboard is for the board and Environment Agency only collates the data and does not control the collection of that data.

Need to manage the expectations of the dashboard and the date of the production of the data and include links to the data.

**4. Update of the NMP action plan.**

TAG meeting on 12 June to discuss the action plan and a draft update has been produced. A number of important things had occurred: BREXIT, review of agricultural subs, introduction of basic measures, consent order review with water protection zones and flood management.

These needed to be updated within the action plan.

Intention is to bring the Draft to the Board towards the end of the year for approval.

The actions of the NMP can take 10 years of monitoring to see the difference.

**5. Update from WCP**

Work continues in the catchments at a pace in compared to other parts of the country.

Funding applied for in May for the Dore and Worm Brook and Lower Wye to assist with phosphate reduction.

Peer to Peer support for farmers

Continuation for Farm Herefordshire activities

In Wales - 4 water boards targeted by Farming Connect.

NFM is being joined on a catchment scale. 2025 initiative – farmers can be rewarded by business to bring about environmental issues. Lots of interest from large companies to find ways of assisting farmers with regards water usage and quality.

NE supporting the dirty drinking place initiative. 22 have now been resolved, 1 difficult case with the new rules had now changed.

**6. Farm Herefordshire update**

Meeting with major landowners in the county to get them interested in soil and water management.

4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the soils group has taken place and informing the programme of works.

Capacity is an issue, hoping for additional support which is being requested.

Raising issues nationally and responded to DEFA post Brexit farming.

Educating the general public at shows and open farm Sunday.

**7. Update from DCWW**

AMP7 update.

Taking account of the National Environment Programme.

SAGIS modelling for the Wye catchment – 11 WWTW are having an impact on the Wye. Other sectors will need to reduce inputs by 30/35%

5 in Wales / 6 in Herefordshire

- Rhayder
- Builth Wells
- Llandrinod Wells
- Norton
- Presteigne
- Pontrilas
- Weobley
- Kingstone and Madley
- Leominster
- Eign
- Rotherwas

Monitoring smaller WWTW and investigations in Storm overflow assessment framework, invasive non-native species, and chemicals. Drinking water protected area on 23 safeguard zones. Can the information on SAGIS be shared? It is the same information used to produce the dashboard.

#### **8. Natural Flood Management Project**

Alternative flood risk reduction measures with wider benefits. Funded by DEFRA. £2m of funding.

Communities at risk involved, project in the Wye is associated with soil management.

Work is complimentary to other projects in the catchment

Main objective is to increase infiltration rates and soil storage capacity for a range of rainfall events.

#### **9. Diffuse Water Pollution consent order update**

JR regarding the failure of water protection zones to look at diffuse pollution in protected areas.

Wye – review modelling and some additional modelling around what has already been done.

Challenging and complicated.

Drivers are habitat directive statutory duties.

#### **10. Update from local authorities.**

*Herefordshire:*

Hereford Area Plan – consultation August.

Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan – consultation in the autumn.

Rural Area Site Allocation DPD – consultation in the autumn.

Review of the Core Strategy – 2019. Need to look at the scope of the review.

*Powys:*

Adopted the LDP on 17 April 2018

4 years from the statutory review

SPG – biodiversity and geodiversity - consultation on 11 July. Section on Livestock, air quality and NMP

11. **Joint Powys/Herefordshire Member seminar.**

Looking at the Baskerville Arms at the end of September

36 members from Powys could be a completely new audience so a potential review of the previous seminar would be useful.

First half – to provide the context for the NMP, second half presentations from the key partners on activity on the ground.

12. **Questions from the public.**

*Question for DCWW* – Leominster is mentioned within AMP7 for work to improve water quality. Super low phosphate plants were highlighted at the Core Strategy EIP as the way the proposed growth could be achieved. Will the AMP deliver the improvements to enable growth?

*Response* – AMP7 will see a reduction in phosphate but the solution has not been finalised as yet.

*Question on monitoring/dashboard* – The long term issue is illustrated by the dashboard but this NMP requires a medium term solution for the problems to be solved by 2027. What progress is being made? Not all datasets are equal – what is happening to phosphate levels in the river, why can't there be a more timely way of producing the data? CPRE has created an interactive map and graphs of the changes over time. There is a link on the CPRE website to the data. It could be continued to be produced as the raw data is in the public domain.

*Response* – CPRE work is good and could be on the website. However, there are issues within the data as it only shows part of the picture. It needs to be presented within trends. Peaks in phosphate are not an issue in themselves – there are often peaks in rivers following rainfall events. It's the long term elevated levels which are the issues. River Lugg presents the biggest challenge and that is recognised in the NMP.

13. Dates of next meeting

Hosted by Powys - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

14. AOB

Action - add update to NR Wales on the agenda

Web link to the NMP Action Plan:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nutrient-management-plan-river-wye>