

# Nutrient Management Plan Board

5<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Herefordshire Record Centre, Rotherwas Hereford

## Draft Notes of meeting

### 1. Apologies

Kevin Bishop, Herefordshire Council  
Samantha Banks, Herefordshire Council

#### Attendees

Cllr Philip Price, Chair (Cabinet Member: Infrastructure Herefordshire Council (HC))  
Richard Gabb (HC)  
Kevin Singleton (HC)  
Rob Widdicombe (HC)  
Nick Read (Bulmer Foundation)  
Sarah Falconer (NFU)  
Steve Morgan (NRW)  
Mark Riches (CLA)  
Dave Throup (EA)  
Dane Broomfield (EA)  
Jenny Gamble (EA)  
Perry Hobbs (DCWW)  
Claire Minnett (NE)  
Simon Evans (Wye Catchment Partnership (WCP))  
Richard Pitts (Powys CC)

### 2. *Welcome and Introductions*

Cllr Price (PP) welcomed the members.

### 3. *Notes and actions*

A number of minor errors were identified in the notes of 19<sup>th</sup> October, corrections for most were identified. PH agreed to provide a few words to clarify the text regarding future work of DCWW. Otherwise the notes were considered an accurate record of the meeting.

Most actions were to be dealt with on other sections of the agenda. The draft notes of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) group were also shared and these were also matters to be discussed as later Board agenda items.

### 4. *Funding sources*

DB introduced a draft paper outlining sources of funding for delivery of the NMP. This included external funding sources, Community Infrastructure Levy/Section 106 agreements and Water Company Asset Management Plan (AMP) programmes. DB

asked for Board Members to consider whether they were aware of other potential funding sources to include within the paper.

SE considered that there was potentially sufficient funding available within the catchment to deliver the NMP noting that a number of projects required match funding and there was a need to be innovative in demonstrating that match funding was available. CM asked what the next stage in taking forward the paper should be and whether the paper has an appropriate level of detail. SE offered to produce a paper for the next meeting of the Board.

**ACTION: was it agreed that Simon produce a paper?**

5. *Monitoring*

JG shared a draft monitoring paper which predominantly covered the monitoring regime in England. This was split into three sections covering:

- Environmental monitoring
- Growth monitoring
- Social Monitoring

JG indicated that there were particular gaps in the social monitoring area in respect of data regarding farming/behavioural changes. The monitoring process should be able to indicate where any bar had been set and to assess the progress of the NMP in reducing P in the catchment.

Detailed discussion followed regarding the robustness of the monitoring processes. There was a general acknowledgement that monitoring should aim to identify the impacts of various projects. SM indicated that NRW would be reviewing their monitoring processes over the next 6 months and targets may change which are likely to require consultation.

**Action: TAG be tasked with preparing a monitoring “dashboard”.**

6. *Water Protection Zones(WPZ) project*

DB provided an update regarding WPZs which apply only to England. Following a judicial review of the failure of DEFRA to designate WPZs the parties had been asked by the Court to agree a Statement of Common Ground to review the need for WPZs as a national project. The chosen catchments included the River Lugg and the River Clun.

Proposal in respect of the River Lugg is that the existing links to the NMP Board and Catchment Partnership should be used in parallel undertake consultation upon the

project. Timescales are not yet established but it is likely to be in the next 12 months.

DB indicated however that this is potentially a draconian piece of legislation that could prevent certain activities although the project may be an opportunity to bring in more resources. NR indicated that care would be needed in presenting any consultation to make clear that this was not an NMP Board or Catchment Partnership project.

7. *The fate and behaviour of Phosphate in rivers*

DB provided a brief summary of a paper. This was a complex matter but the main issue for the NMP Board was to stop P getting into the rivers. SF considered that it was important for farmers to understand how P moves through soils.

8. *Wye Catchment Partnership update*

- 512 farms (34% of Herefordshire) surveyed
- Substantive changes in land use being seen.
- New kit purchased to enable grass to be planted under maize as a direct response to anaerobic digesters and maize growth.
- Considerable facilitation work underway.
- Group in Wales formed similar to Farm Herefordshire
- Partnership with NE to work with farmers
- Safeguarding soils project in Herefordshire increasing enforcement.
- Overall new partnership working is developing well.

9. *Farm Herefordshire update*

The profile of Farm Herefordshire has been raised considerably over the past 6 months, involving discussions with 500 farmers. Funds are available to continue the project for around a further 3 months and videos are now being made. However, the availability of future resources is a real issue and there is a danger that momentum will be lost.

10. *DCWW Update*

PH indicated that advanced P removal trials were being advanced at Ross (fuzzy filters) with other trials ongoing in North Wales. AMP6 investigations would be reporting in 1-2 years focussing on implementation in AMP7.

AMP6 maintenance/p removal schemes were being implemented.

In respect of monitoring DCWW undertake regulated monitoring.

11. *Public Attendance at future NMP Board meetings*

There were no objections to public attendance at future board meetings but some concerns regarding the practicalities of the venue for the public. It was agreed that any members of the public wishing to attend should be asked to notify the Board in advance in order that suitable seating arrangements could be arranged.

The issue of public questions being considered by the Board was also discussed. It was agreed that a process for submitting questions ahead of meetings via the Stakeholder Group would also be established.

12. *Seminar for Councillors*

It was agreed that the TAG be tasked with arranging a seminar for Councillors (preferably both Powys and Herefordshire) upon the NMP and related issues.

**Action: TAG be charged with making arrangements for a seminar for Councillors.**

13. *AOB*

It was agreed that SE would arrange a visit to a farm in order for the Board to view good practice for P reduction in practice.

14. *Date of next meetings*

5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

4<sup>th</sup> October 2016

10<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Meeting closed 12:00 and was followed by a visit to Rotherwas Sewage Treatment Works