

# **River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board**

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 2pm**

**Herefordshire Record Centre, Rotherwas Hereford**

## **Notes of meeting**

1. Apologies received from:

Kevin Bishop (HC)  
Richard Pitts (Powys CC)  
Richard Gabb (HC)  
Simon Evans (WCP)

### Attendees

Cllr Philip Price, Chair (Cabinet Member: Infrastructure Herefordshire Council (HC))  
Kevin Singleton (HC)  
Samantha Banks (HC)  
Nick Read (Bulmer Foundation)  
Sarah Falconer (NFU)  
Steve Morgan (NRW)  
Mark Riches (CLA)  
Dave Throup (EA)  
Dane Broomfield (EA)  
Perry Hobbs (DCWW)  
Claire Minnett (NE)

Cllr Price also welcomed representatives from the press and public observers who were present.

2. Notes of NMP Board of 5<sup>th</sup> April (attached)

Item 4 – Simon’s paper on funding query – but as Simon was not present it was not clear whether this had been prepared.

Notes were agreed

3. Monitoring “dashboard”

DB reported back upon the TAG group meeting in the previous week which had discussed the dashboard. Work begun to put together the data sets to create. Nothing to show at present as the work is ongoing.

The aim is to have the first version ready for the next meeting. Dashboard will be iterative and there may be datasets needed which are currently not collected.

NR – sustainable route map for Herefordshire was being prepared and the indicators could be part of this map. It was agreed that the dashboard would be publicly available. There are a number of options to host the mapping. TAG will consider the draft and refine for the next board meeting. TAG will advise on the possible indicators and these will be used to develop the first draft. The expectation is that it will be easily accessible and in a form to allow the public to interact.

DB commentary to provide an explanation should also be available.

DT – information is mainly in the public domain now but the dashboard will present the information in a more accessible format.

CM – some data will be new and some is not accessible if you don't know where to find it. Increase public engagement.

KS – cross references and links to the dashboard from the HC website

#### 4. Initial thoughts on the impact of EU referendum result

DB circulated a brief paper (attached). The legislation remains in place until revoked. As time goes on the UK will come up with its own Agri-environment schemes which the board may want to be involved in.

SF – NUF is engaging with members about this issue, which may raise things to be discussed in due course.

The Board agreed that it should assume business as usual unless told differently

NR – the drive for this is the water quality and would be good for the Board to reiterate that this remains an important issue.

DT – The water quality issue will remain, it will only be the drivers that may change.

Cllr P – The opinions of the Board should be expressed in order to try to influence the decision makers.

5. Update from WUF

Simon provided an update via email

3 years of funding from DCWW had been won for Improving Maize Practices (IMP) project: This fills a gap in getting farmers to adopt under sowing of maize (which reduces P loss by C70%). A new drill is available to farmers with grant support.

Submitted bid for ERDF funding. This free up funds to deliver the Soil and Water (SAW) Project

Submitted bid for six figure Enforcement undertaking funding that will start the Soil and Water project and mean it's doesn't rely on ERDF.

SAW will use an agreed new mid-tier CS delivery model, such that we ensure this grant is spent on the right actions in the right place on the right scale.

Worked with 45 farmers in Herefordshire and 32 in Wales to deliver P reductions from farms. Continued to work with the nearly 600 farmers already engaged.

Working with NRW and WG to ensure that GAEC 5 is the same both sides of the border

Set up diatom monitoring network in Llynfi and Ithon to quantify Welsh P input and identify high risk areas

Partnership actions

Meeting last week to update partnership of what has been achieved and where we go next.

Continuation of farm Herefordshire (new videos of good practice uploaded on Wycatchmnet.org website).

Completion of SASS project (Regulation/advice/awareness/science).

Diffuse water pollution study completed and about to be circulated.

6. Farm Herefordshire update

A presentation for Farm Herefordshire was delivered by NR

Farmers group meeting held a year ago with 14 local farmers to discuss what they can do.

7 key messages in leaflet

32 events had been held across the county.

Two gaps – land agents and major landowners

Very productive and pushing at an open door. Farmers have welcomed the opportunities and practical messages. Short videos being produced to help promote the key messages.

Need to engage the corporate interests –Cargills

Second meeting – issues of resources and don't want to lose momentum. Target for the next two years – secure funding, functional database, promotional videos, network of champions, 90% of farmers aware of issues.

Cllr P – very positive message and good work and needs to continue.

NR – now need to do more qualitative information. There is a role for legislation to play

Cllr P – frustrating whilst involved in agriculture, it is becoming increasing need for highways management as public see ditches as a big issue.

PH –there is something specific reference in the NMP Action Plan regarding to watercourses and ditch management.

DB – have had meeting with Balfour Beatty regarding issues about drainage and mud on road clearing etc – so are starting to explore how this can be addressed.

DT – Indicated that the Board should not underestimate the partnership work which is being undertaken through the NMP process for the Wye Catchment and it is recognised as an example of best practice nationally.

PH – asked whether discussion been about P or good soil management in general.

NR – responded that the discussions had been in the context of wider soil management

7. Update from DCWW on AMP6/7

PH – explained that DCWW were continuing with p removal trials - two technologies being trialled at Ross-on-Wye and Llanberis. Results will be considered in association with NRW and EA to find best solution.

Research on behaviours of P in the environment and what needs to be looked at in the permits and how permit limits are credited.

Investigation on Wye catchment between now and 2020 including a re-run of SAGIS modelling.

There was an ongoing project to remove surface water from Hereford sewerage network – an update would be provided to this group in the near future.

DB – potentially highly significant in terms of Hfd if effective and will create headroom for development.

PB – surface water flooding will need to be address with regards to any solutions.

#### 8. NMP Seminar

KS explained that the intention was that the seminar should be for both HC and Powys members.

It was hoped that there could be a joint event as Powys officers were trying to get confirmation from their members but as yet there had been no firm commitment. Herefordshire Councillors had expressed considerable interest in such an event.

September was considered earliest date for this and HC will arrange without Powys if necessary.

Cllr P – asked whether the event should it be just members or for a wider audience?

DB – suggested that this should be tailored for councillors and the message may be different than that for the wider community. If required a further seminar could be delivered later to a wider audience.

Cllr P – it would be useful if information was provided to assist with planning decisions. Need to address both diffuse pollution (agriculture etc) and point source.

All members of the Board agreed to participate with the presentations

DB – suggested considering case studies at locations where different approaches were necessary.

**Action: agreement of meeting in mid-September**

Liaise with KS regarding support and available dates

9. AOB

DB – indicated that a draft informative re poultry unit applications had been prepared by HC. This was endorsed by the TAG and message and this reported this back to HC's Development Management team.

SM – there had been a pollution incident in Wales in the Three Cocks area– major fish kill from land spreading activity. NRW are investigating the source of the pollution.

SM – Welsh p targets are still subject to sign off by board and will share once signed. Hoped to create combined standards

Press/public questions

Q How many are EU directives and how many are English and Welsh acts/regulations?

Response - Most water quality targets original arise from EU directives however, they are now part of UK law through various regulations. These will not be removed from law by leaving EU unless there is specific legislation to revoke them.

The targets themselves are defined by member states. In the case of the phosphate target these have been set by the UK technical advisory group

Q The public are likely to be interested in “extremes” of data for example, it has been reported that the R Lugg had 20 times the P target and the public need to know information what such extremes mean. What is the general state of the p levels at the moment?

Response - DB –There is a significant risk with using spot data as it is the annual average which is the target Peaks of p are not an issue in their own right, there will be spikes. Overall trends in p in Herefordshire are reducing not least due to the removal of p at sewage treatment works.

Q In event of extremes, who is responsible of the prosecution?

Response - NRW in Wales and EA in England.

Q Is there any way of knowing how much p is due to farming or sewage treatment works (STWs)?

Response - Modelling has shown that it is broadly split 50/50. In respect of the point source (STWs) 75% comes from food rather than cleaning products. p has been significantly reduced from cleaning products.

Reductions are also due to work on sustainable drainage systems (SUDs) as well as STW and agriculture.

Ian Jardin (CPRE) – dashboard idea interesting but would be helpful for laypeople to have explanations. For example why sample points are chosen, why sample timings vary and how key indicators are chosen. It would also be useful to show trends to assess whether the plan is working.

Response - It was recognised that the need for appropriate commentary would be important.

Close of meeting 15:25

**Next meeting dates 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

Web link to the NMP Action Plan:

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