

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group Meeting

MINUTES



Tuesday 20th June 2017 (10am – 12.30pm)

Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (chair), Adrian Clarke, Simon Hooton, Keith Lead, Amy Prendergast, Neil Punchard, Rory Sanderson, Ian Skinner, Heidi Smith, Paul Sorrell, Sarah Taigel, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes).

Apologies: Richard Cooper, David Diggins, Sue Hogarth, Rob Holland, Jocelyn Moore, Richard Reynolds, Robin Twigge

	Action items	Actions
1.	Welcome, introductions, apologies	None
	Attendees were welcomed and introductions were made. Apologies as above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2017	
	It was agreed to amend the River Waveney Trust update to 'Keith Lead is taking over from Robin Twigge as Chairman...'. The minutes were otherwise agreed as accurate.	
3.	River Wensum Strategy	
	<p>Adrian Clarke, Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer, Broads Authority gave a presentation on the River Wensum Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norwich and the River Wensum is a part of the Broadland Catchment and there are potential funding partnerships available linked to the River Wensum Strategy. The strategy was initiated 2 years ago by the Norwich Society after observations that the river had virtually no boating or activity and this could be improved. A public consultation prompted a huge response and a draft strategy has now been produced. The area runs from Hellesdon Mill to Whitlingham Country Park with links to Norfolk Trails at each end. Themes have emerged including cycling and walking, waterway leisure access, environment and better management of the river. Projects proposals have been drafted to reflect these themes. The BCP's views are sought as part of the public consultation running from 26th July to 15th September. A consultation event is planned at Blackfriars Hall on 26th July to launch the consultation. A link to the consultation documents to be circulated by 1st August (action). <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With environment as a theme the diagrammatic map needs to have some vegetation/plants on it. Smaller pots of funding will be available via smaller charities e.g. Norfolk Rivers Trust could input some useful ideas. Utilities Site and Julien's Bridge development and heat exchange pumps need to be looked at. Norwich City planners historically did not focus on riverside. Now they are trying to encourage developers not to build right up to the water's edge and allow access and green spaces. Ongoing maintenance is being looked at via potential CIL funding. 	NP
4.	Mud on Road funding bid	
	<p>Paul Sorrell, CSF Officer for Natural England presented a case for funding of the 'Mud on Road' campaign.</p> <p>With a target audience of drivers of farm vehicles the project hoped to provide advice</p>	

	<p>and reminders about the issues of mud on the roads Approx. £1000 was being sought.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity needed on items produced over issues, who to contact and responsibilities. • Sweepers are used on tractors by bigger contractors. Information on where to hire or employ contractor. Time sensitive nature of job and problem of getting hire equipment to site/transporting operatives makes this a difficult option. • A laminated card with key messages including clarity on legal issues, who to contact etc. would be better than stickers. • Motivation for change needed to change behavior. Equipment costs information needed for landowners/farmers. • Catchy slogan 'Road to River' needed. • 2 issues: mud brought onto road from fields and created from driving over verges. Advice to use most appropriate roads, avoiding driving over verges where possible. • Risks of working on roads and police link important. • BCP keen to support the project and happy to provide further advice and PS agreed to bring to the next steering group meeting in late September and circulate (action). 	PS
	Additional Item: BCP funding pot criteria	
	<p>The BCP funding pot is currently standing at approx. £94K. A set of project funding criteria has been drafted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The project must be for 'on-the-ground' delivery* if the grant value is greater than £1K. [*exceptions include surveys and information gathering that are very likely to lead to future funding for delivery; or surveys that are a small proportion of a project e.g. protected species survey in order to comply with the law.] 2) The project must provide benefits for two or more partners. 3) The project must provide benefit to people and nature. 4) The project must be submitted to the Steering Group for consideration at the subsequent quarterly meeting.** [**using the BCP Project Proposal form that can be provided by the Catchment Partnership Officer or Catchment Co-ordinator] <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a criteria 'Match funding has been considered'. • Remember there is no guarantee of further funding to replace anything spent. • The third criterion is too broad to be meaningful – change to 'and/or' to rectify. • Agreed that feasibility studies can be included if confident of follow on delivery. 	
5.	BCP work planning 2017-2018	
	<p>Sarah Taigel's 15 month work focus was reviewed. It was agreed that 'River and Floodplain Management' (and multiple benefits including water quality and habitat) should be a short term focus whilst Natural Flood Management funding was available, but not to lose focus on water quality and 'Land Management' that has been a previous priority from the catchment plan goals.</p> <p>The following work areas were discussed in groups:</p> <p>Communications planning: Development of social media presence, digital newsletter.</p> <p>Website and web map: Development and population of website and web map (including historic and potential projects database).</p> <p>River/floodplain opportunity mapping: GIS modelling and mapping including partner engagement, landowner liaison, and feasibility studies.</p> <p>Newsletter (quarterly): Partner liaison, writing, dissemination.</p> <p>Steering Group meetings (quarterly): Partner liaison, agenda setting, presentations</p>	

	See attached table.	
6.	Partner updates	
	Updates were provided prior to and further additions supplied subsequent to the meeting (see attached).	
7.	Working group updates	
	<p>Environment Agency Natural Flood Management funding: The 12 projects were reviewed and prioritised as either highly recommended, worthy or not going forward. £50k is available for each successful project. Broadland: Buxton project got highly recommended. Catton Norwich slow the flow is on the books but needs further work, Kings Beck not put through as not worked up sufficiently, Ingworth Mill not put through as gauging station needs further thought. A decision is expected from Defra this week on which recommended projects have been successful in gaining funding.</p>	
8.	BCP key activity since the last steering group meeting	
	Covered by document circulated prior to the meeting.	
9.	Any other business	
	None.	
10.	Date of next meeting	
	Doodle poll to be circulated (Sept 2017). Possibly to include site visit (TBC).	

Action Summary

Who	What	Deadline
NP	Circulate link to River Wensum Strategy consultation	01/08/2017
PS	Revise Mud on Road funding bid and circulate and present at next Steering Group meeting	30/09/2017

Visit: www.broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk to download the catchment plan.

Email: admin@broadlandcatchmentpartnership.org.uk for further information.

Group discussions: Focus for Catchment Coordinator (15 month role)

Communications planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twitter/social media – real information and statistics not logos etc.• Evolve newsletter to share information – snippets with links rather than long articles. Good examples: SCC environment and NBIS.• Repetition with simple messages.• Who? Between organisations, reaching certain target groups/individuals (e.g. anglers).• How to get ‘buy in’.• Video use, engaging speakers to share enthusiasm.• Ask for help, guidance from youth input.• Look ahead to 5 years.
Website and web map
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audience? Stakeholders, landowners/farmers or wider?• Run-off mapping useful.• Simple information – statistics useful.• Map of who works where to ensure better cooperation.• Keep simple – landing page and click further for greater depth of interest.• Must be easy to update.• How to engage with key audience of landowners but also others who will be interested.
River floodplain opportunity mapping
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Huge flood plain areas, where should Sarah start? Need to concentrate down.• Focus on upland areas and tributaries.• Already some duplication but gaps elsewhere.• Individual focus for e.g. water companies, EA, collaborative projects to help all.• Sites not in stewardship and non-agricultural use may be best starting point for demonstration projects. Uncertainties over stewardship and agricultural payments post Brexit.• Opportunities on the Bure/Waveney. Many SSSIs downstream, so argument as to why focus needed.
Newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other models – easy to click onto articles from shorter start. Review options and how to change.• Is there a risk involved in change?• Who reads them? Who else could be interested?• Archive newsletters produced to date as useful information.• Make it easier for partners to link directly into.• Success defined by ID new projects and delivery not just administration.• Web maps archive and looking forward liked.• Focus setting, getting things done on the ground and project ready/on the shelf focus for future.
Steering Group meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly meetings valuable• A summer/autumn site visit to provide a reminder of reasons for BCP.• County Council attendance should be encouraged.• Presentations limited to one per meeting.• Break out groups and discussion about issues good.• Free up Sarah’s time for project/delivery work by using administrative help from Lottie.• Make use of partner resources e.g. on location re. site visits.• Wider stakeholder event to avoid becoming insular.• Ensure mechanisms for spreading messages out from steering group are effective.• Task and finish groups used to ensure better use of organisational expertise.• Take updates off meeting agendas (big attendance, takes over an hour!). Instead provide prior to meeting and have Q/A session if needed for clarity during meeting.

Partner Updates: Broadland Catchment Partnership: 20th June 2017 Steering Group Meeting

Natural England

Current investigations:

- Setting up water quality sampling of SAC ditches in the Bure catchment – July 2017 – March 2018.
- Ant and Thurne monitoring projects – consultant investigating phosphate sources and pathways as well as internal cycling of phosphorous within both catchments – 1 year project.
- Phosphate analyser in place at Strumpshaw, waiting on additional parts before we can start monitoring, working closely with RSPB.
- Modelling starting – updated SAGIS (source apportionment model) now available so river modelling starting and lake modelling approach being developed. Should have first results shortly.
- NE/EA/BA/ FWAG met with Highways to discuss a method to address sediment from roads in the Wensum catchment.

What next:

- Awaiting FARMSOPER model training – due Aug/Sept.
- Set up stakeholder workshops once we have modelling results.
- Hoping to have a few more CSFOs in post by Sept.

NFU

- The major preoccupation of 2017 has been helping members deal with Natural England's maladministration of Countryside Stewardship.
- 2016 agreement holders were very late in being paid badly affecting cash flow for those whose income is heavily dependent on agri-environment schemes.
- 1 January 2017 agreement applicants submitted their applications by the end of September 2016. Offer letters only started going out in March with 70-80% going out in May. On 11 May NE agreed to extend the deadline for returning signed agreements and 2017 claim forms to 15 June, though this decision was not communicated to many offerees until after 15 January. Many offer letters contained errors, most of which were driven by RPA mapping errors, itself the main cause of the delay in offer letters being finalised and sent out.
- The late receipt of offers meant many members had taken decisions on their cropping and submission of their BPS forms which made the offers inappropriate to the decisions they had had to take in the absence of receiving offers. As a result some offerees have withdrawn from the scheme not taking up their offers. It remains to be seen whether they will have the appetite to apply in 2017 for a 1 January 2018 start date.
- As part of a Broads Authority hosted day for the National Parks Minister, Lord Gardiner, NFU members presented on the need to return post-Brexit to a tailored and simplified Countryside Stewardship scheme option akin to the original Broads ESA scheme for Broads farmers.

Essex & Suffolk Water

- ESW have completed the mud pumping of the Trinity Broads. The results were very satisfactory and the EA and Natural England have signed off our AMP6 NEP Trinity Broads mud pumping scheme. This means that we can now abstract down to the lower abstraction cessation level of -0.44mAOD. The spreading of the dewatered sediment will proceed after the crops on the relevant fields have been harvested and the straw is cleared in accordance with the terms of the deployment issued by the EA.
- We continue to work with farmers in the catchments from which we abstract and are launching a pilot project in the Instead Brook this summer as part of the Think Water – OSR herbicides campaign. This is being delivered as a partnership between the Water Companies, the Voluntary Initiative and the Crop Protection Association. The campaign will be national but will initially focus on three small sub-catchments in different water company areas (Essex & Suffolk Water, Anglia Water and Affinity Water) with one reserve sub-catchment (Thames Water). Engagement meetings with agronomists have been arranged to start in July.

Anglian Water

- Pesticide amnesty Wensum catchment – 1190kg/litres of chemicals removed from 26 farms. Some old pesticides such as simazine and atrazine. – next year is likely to be run in Essex.

- Metaldehyde study with farmer in the Wissey catchment after tracing back a high peak of Met to two fields and one ditch. Looking at the transfer time of Met through the soil profile.
- AHDB Pork meeting today at Swaffham – pig producers, FWAG, AW, Rivers Trust, CSF.
- Frontier 3D Open days stand with Rivers Trust.

FWAG

1. Norfolk FWAG are collaborating with the Environment Agency on the Broadland Run-off Reduction Project. We have secured a small amount of funding from the Water Environment Improvement Fund to create rural Sustainable Drainage Systems or SuDS. This is essentially a large area designed to intercept run off on the field before it can run into a ditch or stream. The aim of this is to reduce the impact of diffuse pollution that arises from rural land use and reduce nutrients going into the river. The benefits to the farmer are that the soil will be captured and can be put to beneficial re-use. Funding can be up to 100%.
2. Regretfully Norfolk FWAG will not be attending this year's Norfolk Show with a stand. We made the decision last year to withdraw from our usual space in the cattle shed as footfall to this area had declined in recent years. The RNAA kindly offered us a free pitch in the main body of the show, but an application to Felix Cobbold Trust to fund a marquee was unsuccessful. We had talked about developing a joint exhibit on the theme of "joined up farm advice". Neil had planned to attend and I had received an enthusiastic response from many partners about this idea.. Perhaps we could pick it up again next year? We will attend the show as punters for one day each.
3. The Wensum Facilitation Fund group of farmers were successful in their bid for grant money under the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. They will receive £5,000 to contribute towards the cost of digger hire to help them restore 17 ponds in 2017.

UEA/Wensum DTC

No significant updates to report from UEA or Wensum DTC.