

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group

MINUTES



Thursday 26th February 2015 (10am - 1pm)

Harnser Room, Dragonfly House, Environment Agency, 2 Gilders Way, Norwich, NR3 1UB

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (Chair), Barry Bendall, Dave Brady, David Diggens, Geoff Doggett, Tony Goodwin, Greg Hall, Hannah Wallace, John Hiskett, Keith Lead, Bridget Marr, Fay Outram, Neil Punchard, Richard Reynolds, Will Robinson, Rory Sanderson, Nigel Simpson, Tim Strudwick, Henry Walker, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes)

Apologies: Rebecca Banks, Victoria Fradley, Ian Robinson, Heidi Thompson

	Action items	Actions
1.	Welcome, introductions, apologies	None
	Apologies were received as above. New members to the group were welcomed and introductions were made round the room.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2014	None
	The minutes were agreed as accurate. All actions had been completed.	
3.	Broads Water Quality Partnership closure	None
	<p>It had been agreed to close the Broads Water Quality Partnership due to duplication of work with the Broadland Catchment Partnership (BCP) and a need to focus further afield than the Broads Executive Area.</p> <p>Membership of BCP: Regarding farmer representation within the BCP, following feedback and advice from NFU and Andrew Alston it had been agreed that focussed workshops on specific issues were the best way to engage with farmers in combination with inviting farming representation to Partnership Steering Group meetings with relevant agenda items.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the BCP had been reviewed and were felt to be still current. There were no bars to membership of the partnership, but the Steering Group needed to be kept smaller.</p>	
4.	Activity since the last steering group meeting	
	<p>Defra Smarter Legislation Workshop: emphasis on environmental legislation being less prescribed but still protective. Defra were impressed with the catchment approach, particularly partnership/local work. Farmer representation at the Defra workshop made significant contributions. The Defra team would look at recommendations for long term and large scale actions.</p> <p>Action: BB to circulate the notes from the Workshop to Steering Group.</p> <p>Farming Events: Over 100 farmers had attended Swaffham and Lavenham events and had appreciated the short, punchy format and method of gathering their feedback.</p> <p>BAWAG: NP and RS had presented and new contacts had been made.</p> <p>CSF meeting: Upper Yare (livestock farmers). Most had not heard of the BCP and this presented an opportunity to improve communication in this area.</p> <p>Ecosystem Modelling Workshop: Field level targeting was covered (Nick Palin). A report had been circulated by NP to the Steering Group. BA was providing support with GIS work.</p>	BB

	<p>Collaboration Training/Film Making Training: NP had attended BBC Voices course.</p> <p>Waveney Agri Advice: 2 successful meetings had taken place with good BCP representation. A 2015 work plan was being created. Partners were contributing financially and in-kind.</p> <p>Defra Atrium Event: 20-30 stands looking at catchment approach to provide an overview for Defra departments on how the approach was working.</p> <p>Long term funding for catchment partnerships: It was noted that water companies could not be relied on for this funding into the future. Knowing what the partnership has done, how it's been achieved and promoting this will prove influential in getting other organisations/individuals on board regarding the approach, support and funding.</p>	
5.	<p>Defra Catchment Partnership Action Fund bid – ‘Slow the Flow’</p>	
	<p>SLOW THE FLOW: NP gave a presentation on the ‘Slow the Flow’ bid that he was finalising for submission to Defra for Catchment Partnership funding. The deadline was extremely tight – only 18 days. The terms and conditions had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% funding for farmers was questioned as it may not produce ‘buy in’ to the project and lower percentage contributions would also allow for more projects but some farmers previously not interested if only 40% funding available. ‘Up to’ 100% funding would be added with financial/in kind contributions recommended. • Suggestion to link to the Stewardship fee structure and conditions to avoid discrepancies. • Future maintenance cost needs consideration – could be in kind provision by farmer if 100% funding received. • Add more partners into the ‘in-kind’ section of the bid. • Put BCP in D9. • Consider financial benefit of keeping soil on fields and cost benefit of expensive treatments/fertilisers plus reduced ditch maintenance costs. BM to provide wording (action). • Risks: if too many applications for grants - recommend Stewardship Scheme in 2016. • Keep application form simple and offer assistance with completion. <p>There was also potential for larger projects to benefit from any National Defra funding remaining once all bids were in and the following would be requested (if guaranteed permissions and consents could be in place in time for delivery the financial year 2015-2016):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Elmham flood embankment/woody debris. • Lenwade project. • Blickling Bure project/Ingworth mill bypass chanel. • Alma Beck. <p>It was noted that potential conflicts with match funding needed to be clarified e.g. WFD funded projects could not be used as match funding.</p> <p>Any of these projects that were not able to be submitted for any reason would continue to be developed so as to be ‘on the shelf’ ready for any future funding opportunities.</p> <p>Thanks were given to NP for putting together the bid in such a short space of time.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BM</p>

	PARTNERSHIP BUDGET: Discussion followed regarding the BCP budget. Contributions from partners were not yet clear and a decision whether to spend on projects or keep a 'carry forward' amount would be deferred to a future meeting.	
6.	Ecosystem Service Modelling and Webmap development	
	NP gave a presentation highlighting key decisions taken from an Ecosystems Services workshop. Webmap sharing: BA had agreed to take on administration. The information was relatively static so once running would not involve too much staff time to manage.	
7.	RBMP consultation – partnership response	
	Water companies had already submitted responses to the consultation. It was agreed that a response from BCP was important. Action: BB agreed to draft a response with assistance from RS.	BB/RS
8.	Partner Updates	
	<p>RS: Consultation discussions with RS were available to Steering Group members.</p> <p>GH: Re Coastal Area overlap – diffuse pollution and links with water quality were being identified. Rob Holland was starting at Anglian Water on 7th April.</p> <p>WR: There was now a vacancy at Essex and Suffolk Water.</p> <p>DB: Clarity was needed with the Bure Valley Partnership regarding sharing of resources and integration.</p> <p>FO: Results from biobeds review was ongoing with EA. UEA was hosting a workshop in the summer for partners to share data.</p> <p>KL: It was important to ensure the BCP had projects ready with permissions and consent ready 'on the shelf'.</p> <p>DD: Thanks to NP for his work and for partners contributions. Interested in working with FO to bring together diffuse pollution work.</p> <p>TG: Upper Wensum Restoration Project had received £3/4million funding via IDB and this was going out to tender in March. Giles Bloomfield would initially be the contact with IDB after march.</p> <p>TS: RPSB were working up an Interreg project bid themed to protect important wetland sites in the Broads re water quality in the Ant Valley and Yare Marshes SSSIs. Discussions were ongoing re integration with other bids and partners. The concept deadline was May with a bid going in within the year.</p> <p>HW: Norfolk FWAG had been renamed and was looking at increasing membership and providing guidance re transition to stewardship scheme. Cluster farms were being worked on re catchment work in the Wensum and Wissey and an HLF project was being worked on for submission. Event notice: Farm Walk 9th June, Hardley further details from HW.</p> <p>HH: Updated there was currently no longer a CSF rep in the Bure, Ant and Muckfleet area.</p> <p>JH: Updated there was a new County Wildlife Sites-River Valleys officer, Sam Brown.</p> <p>BM: EA Executive Director of Environment and Business had been shown the catchment work and had received a presentation by John Packman and NP and had been impressed with achievements so far. He would take back the message re the need for long term funding.</p>	

	<p>AK: The Broads LPS £2.5million HLF bid 'Water, Mills and Marshes' would be submitted in May. If successful the project would run until 2022. 2 Interreg bids for funding were being submitted by BA, IDB, NE and EA with a catchment element: Fens (Ant area): Better Wetter; and Lakes (Hickling): Lively Lakes</p> <p>RW: NFU membership within the Broads catchment area had been isolated to 740 on email and these would be sent relevant newsletter information from the partnership from now on.</p> <p>Action: RW to circulate BCP 'Catch-up' newsletter and any funding info to farmers when received.</p> <p>GD: Thanks were given to BM and the EA for a grant awarded to purchase equipment to allow volunteers to tackle invasive species. Education and training at Earsham re spray tickets etc for farmers had involved 88 farmers over 3 months. 1-2 interns from UEA were due to be taken on.</p>	RW
9.	AOB	
	None.	
10.	Dates of next meetings	
	21 st May (confirmed), 19 th August/3 rd /9 th September 2015 (tbc via Doodle poll). See: http://doodle.com/hfwtkizqi6v3sae5	NP

Action Summary

Who	What and deadline
BB	Circulate the notes from Defra workshop to Steering Group by April 2015
BM	Provide wording for bid by end February 2015 (complete)
BB/RS	Draft BCP response to RBMP in April 2015
RW	Circulate newsletter when received
NP	Send draft minutes, Doodle poll and newsletter by 31 March 2015

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

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