

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group

MINUTES



Thursday 21st May 2015 (10am - 1pm)

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

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (Chair), Barry Bendall, Robert Camp, David Diggins, Geoff Doggett, John Hiskett, Martin Horlock, Clare Lorenc, Bridget Marr, Fay Outram, James Paul, Neil Punchard, Rory Sanderson, Jason Slack, Paul Sorrell, Karen Thomas, Heidi Thompson, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes)

Apologies: Nigel Simpson, Will Robinson, Rosanna Kellingray, Dave Brady

	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 26th February 2015	None
	The minutes were agreed as accurate. All five actions had been completed.	
3.	Broads Lake Review report and workshop	
	<p>Andrea Kelly gave a short presentation highlighting key messages from the Lake Review report and workshop. The report outlines results from commissioned research work looking at data collated over 40 years. Five scientists had inputted to the report. Documentation available included: the main report, an 8 page summary report and the workshop report.</p> <p>The work only reviewed in lake restoration not catchment measures. How river targets relating to the catchment context would follow on from this work.</p> <p>Rules/criteria would be developed from the review. Using advice from the report a first draft had been made fitting specific Broads to specific restoration techniques. This draft would need to be finalised by partners by June/July.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions arose as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oulton Broad and Fritton Lake, without a designation, had not been monitored and therefore had not been included in the review. The review would help to inform decision making regarding most appropriate management activity following the rules/criteria. • There were different drivers for different lakes e.g. recreation, biodiversity etc. The rules/criteria would be applied to the ecology first and then multi benefits. • The Bure and its broads could be considered as a single interconnected system with regards movement of fish populations and plants in channels, therefore it was better to consider the whole of the Bure rather than separate lakes when devising management options. The same applies to upstream and downstream discharges. <p>Action: AK to circulate reports and presentation to steering group.</p>	AK
4.	Activity since the last steering group meeting	
	<p>RS circulated a tabled paper 'Measures in the XX management catchment'. The Environment Agency's new 5 year River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) was due to be published in December 2015. A one page summary would be included for each catchment partnership highlighting 3 key issues and actions over the next 5 years. Suggestions for work partnerships could deliver towards WFD if they had £100k or</p>	

	<p>£1million funding were needed. Links could be used within the page. The new RBMP linked to EA internal funding for WFD and the plan would help with allocation of funds towards appropriate partnership projects. NP and RS were working on the Broads Catchment page and the tabled paper included some suggested projects that could be included.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species work could be included in the physical modification section. • 26th June is the plan's 'sign off' deadline. • The driver for the catchment pages had come from EA in order to highlight a funding gap towards WFD work. • The steering group felt that sticking to £100k or £1million would necessarily push funding choices to cheaper options. It would be better to create higher aspirations that could be negotiated down. RS gave assurance that the format was not set in stone and was intended as a mechanism to highlight how catchment partnerships can deliver in a more integrated way. • It was felt better not to include separate projects but to highlight how a collaborative approach worked for the catchment partnership with links to the Broadland Catchment Partnership Plan. <p>Action: NP/RS to circulate draft page for comments/feedback. Action: NP to circulate 'Catchment Management Abstraction and Flooding' document.</p> <p>BM circulated a tabled paper outlining draft project list to feed into Defra's WFD Grant in Aid funding. Action: All to review and feedback to BM.</p> <p>JS: Norfolk County Council's Local Flood Risk Management consultation was running until 25th May 2015. Events had been held in each district across the county. Last minute comments were welcome if steering group members had not already submitted a response. It was confirmed that information about the consultation had been circulated via the Broadland Catchment Partnership newsletter.</p> <p>NP: Farmers workshops had been delayed due to basic payments problems. NP had attended the Campaign for Farmed Environment and presented the catchment mapping, IDB board meetings presenting to various landowners and presenting at Broads Forum. Action: All - send any items to NP for end of June newsletter.</p> <p>GD reminded the steering group that the River Waveney Study Centre was available for workshop delivery. An open day at Shotford had been attended by 3000 people. It would be good for the Partnership to get involved with similar events in the future.</p>	<p>NP/RS NP All All</p>
5.	<p>Defra Catchment Partnership Action Fund bid – 'Slow the Flow'</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>NP gave a presentation on 'Slow the Flow'.</p> <p>Information was being circulated and expressions of interested were already being received. A couple of examples were shown (Martham and Saxthorpe). NP would be assisting farmers putting together proposals. Submitted proposals would be discussed at the 19th August meeting. Catchment mapping would help to prioritise these.</p> <p>Successful proposals would then be delivered from September 2015 to Jan/Feb 2016.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers would be responsible for designing proposed schemes with assistance from NP, IDB, CSF and/or FWAG officers. Most could be done very simply and many farmers had the required knowledge. • KT offered to help with any schemes that needed EA flood defence consents. 	
6.	<p>Norfolk biosecurity plans</p>	

	<p>Martin Horlock gave a presentation on the EA contracted Non-Native Species Initiative. Catchment biosecurity plans would inform work in Norfolk and Suffolk. Mike Sutton-Croft and interns had worked on the project. New data records had come in via online surveys and background research and a current picture of non-native species in the two counties highlighted certain hot spots.</p> <p>The plans would be finished by the end of May 2015. Each catchment would work as a stand-alone document taken from the main plan. There was still time to feed into the plans prior to publication.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions arose as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was potential to provide sub catchment information dependent on requests. • Putting across the message was a huge task and some areas, where information was currently missing, were highlighted e.g. Beccles. ID was now good, but more information was needed regarding impacts of certain non-native species. • RiverEye app could be used to report non-native species and pollution incidents. • Run-off maps would be useful regarding species movement. • Landowner engagement was crucial. • A European project SEFINS was looking at invasive species in estuarine areas in the Wash and Suffolk. A four year project was being bid for to take this forward. <p>Action: MH to circulate data/information to the steering group via catchment officer.</p>	MH
7.	RSPB Interreg bid	
	<p>The RSPB's North Sea Interreg programme had been circulated prior to the meeting. The programme had been developed as a response to the threat to reserves through climate change and involved shared knowledge, monitoring and research to understand the relationship between ecology and hydrology and the effects of management, including water quality. The project aimed to bring together people and stakeholders in order to connect people and landscapes, raising awareness of sustainable water use. EU policy elements covered peatland and fen, restoration, biofuels and alternative income streams.</p> <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since BA was working on a similar Interreg bid for Lake Habitats shouldn't this be an example of using the catchment partnership to work together, joining forces to provide a coherent approach? IDB is aware of other Interreg bids and could be involved in these for example. • Successful bids showed strong partnership working. Looking for gaps and overlaps should be what the catchment partnership was all about. • Flood risk management was a driver for attracting funding and linking into this regarding economic resilience, jobs and growth was key. • For the RSPB bid Redgrave and Lopham Fen would be a key partner to get on board. GD offered to assist with this. • The international element needed to be strong identifying countries with similar issues in order to learn from each other. • Feedback from landowners showed they were keen to be involved but with a different emphasis. • This issue linked back to the EA one page summary. Large bids such as Interreg and LEP funding needed to be highlighted as a way of maximising budgets through match funding. <p>Action: JP and AK to meet to discuss how the two Interreg bids could work together. Action: RW to meet with JP to provide an update on landowner feedback.</p>	JP/AK JP/RW
8.	Partner Updates	

	a permanent post. Funding for the post would still be budgeted for in the same way.	
10.	Date of next meeting	None
	19 th August 2015	

Action Summary

Who	What and deadline
AK	Circulate Lake Review reports and presentation to steering group by 9 th June
NP/RS	Circulate Catchment Partnership RBMP draft 1 pager for comments/feedback by 9 th June
NP	Circulate 'Catchment Management Abstraction and Flooding' document by 3 rd June
All	Review and feedback to BM on Defra GiA funding by 30 th June
All	Send any items to NP for end of June newsletter by 9 th June
MH	Circulate data/information to the steering group via catchment officer by 30 th June
JP/AK	Meet to discuss how the two Interreg bids could work together before 19 th August
RW	Meet JP to provide an update on landowner feedback by 30 th June
AK	Circulate Ecosystem Services Accounting report by 30 th June
KT	Circulate draft statement on joint messages re flooding, algal blooms, fish kills prior to incidents for comment before 19 th August.

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

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