

Broadland Catchment Partnership - Steering Group MINUTES



Wednesday 19th August 2015 (10am - 1pm)

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

Attendees: Andrea Kelly (Chair), Rebecca Banks, Barry Bendall, Richard Cooper, David Diggins, Geoff Doggett, Rosanna Kellingray, Elaine Mills (work shadowing), Bridget Marr, Neil Punchard, Richard Reynolds, Will Robinson, Ian Skinner, Heidi Thompson, Rob Wise, Lottie Carlton (minutes)

Apologies: Graham Brown, Bob Bulmer, Rory Sanderson, Karen Thomas, 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 21st May 2015	
	<p>The minutes were agreed as accurate. Matters arising as follows:</p> <p>Item 3: Broads Lake Review: At a meeting on 25th September, partners would be agreeing follow up actions for each lake and prioritisation of work.</p> <p>Item 4: The newsletter had been circulated. The steering group was reminded that this was an opportunity to get messages across and articles were welcomed. There could be a focus on the Waveney in a future issue.</p> <p>Item 6: Information had not yet been circulated by Martin Horlock (action).</p> <p>Item 7: The Interreg bid was ongoing. The meeting between RSPB and NFU had been productive.</p> <p>Item 8: A final draft report on the Ecosystem Services pilot had been received including an economic accounting tool for all habitats using national data. A workshop would follow on from the report and Defra would then decide whether to roll out the scheme.</p>	MH/NP
3.	Activity since the last steering group meeting	
	<p>Soil and Water Workshop:</p> <p>The workshop summary had been circulated prior to the meeting. Representation from farmers had been good and the workshop productive with useful discussions held. Positive feedback, particularly for the mapping, provided evidence for a strategic approach. The information was already being used on farm visits and provided excellent evidence when applying for funding. CSF champion farmer groups were to be set up and catchment mapping and information would be used. It was confirmed that the maps were available as shape files and a web map in development to make them publically available.</p>	
4.	Defra Catchment Partnership Action Fund	
	<p>Slow the Flow: NP gave a presentation summarising each proposed scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits had been made to potential schemes and these were discussed. • It was agreed to use certain Slow the Flow schemes as best practice case studies. • A large project at Saxthorpe could provide demonstration of a variety of techniques. Further development work was required, including approaching potential funding partnerships with Highways and IDB (action). • The group discussed the potential to use some of the Broadland Catchment 	NP

	<p>Partnership's reserves. It was agreed that work would need to be of high priority and no other funding available before reserves could be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties and delays due to Environment Agency consents required for a proposed project at Bloodman's Corner, particularly for that of an impoundment licence, seemed to members to be excessive. IS was thanked for the considerable time he had put into chasing these consents. BM agreed to look into the issue of consents and report back (action). 	BM
5.	WaterLIFE Water Sensitive Farming: Expression of Interest (Eoi)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD updated the group on a WaterLIFE Water Sensitive Farming expression of interest that had been submitted by the Norfolk Rivers Trust. AK and BB were thanked for their help in putting together the submission. • The group was supportive and felt that the specific criteria of the funding would prove favourable for this submission. • It was requested that the Eoi was circulated to the group for information (action). • A similar Eoi had been submitted by the Cam & Ely Ouse but it was not known what other submissions had been made. 	NP
6.	Wensum DTC sediment fingerprinting	
	<p>Richard Cooper, UEA, gave a presentation on sediment fingerprinting research at the Wensum DTC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 bankside monitoring stations were being used to study sediment fingerprinting. • Potential sources of sediments were first identified, samples collected and then analysis of sediment geochemistry undertaken. • Methodology developed had reduced time and cost inputs. This improved methodology incorporated uncertainties and provided a more accurate reflection of reality. Examples given included rainfall events and how these effected the catchment and showed where sediment came from under different conditions. • Statistical analysis used the Bayesian Mixing Model. • Ground truthing was used to back up statistical analysis. • Mitigation options were being trialed including cover crops, sediment traps and improving field entrances. <p>Comments and answers to questions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These were excellent results and the improvements in accuracy and reduced costs would prove extremely useful when engaging with farmers. • Erosion of road verges was raised as an issue, with buses and other larger vehicles felt to be a major contributor. • Simple, effective measures backed up by scientific research were likely to prove popular. An example included changing bale arrangements for containing sugar beet prior to transport. • Summaries of the results were available in less technical language and these would be circulated to the group (action). • Costs were now down to £2 per sample compared to £60 previously. Spectrometers were needed for analysis of samples. Samples were filtered and then oven dried and this process meant that they could therefore be stored. • Quantitative analysis of road run-off and topsoil contributions would prove invaluable to farmers wanting to cut down on topsoil losses. 	NP/RC
7.	Updates	
	<p>BB: 'Topsoil' EU bid led by Danish partner – here in November.</p> <p>IS: Pestiwise project on Dickleburgh Stream. Grants for farmyard infrastructure and</p>	

	<p>boom spreader. Remote sampling over next few months. Hoping for event sampling.</p> <p>GD: Billingsford-Scole project to start in October with eel passes at Earsham and Mendham to start in September. Potential floodplain re-connection at Earsham.</p> <p>RW: There are 1,100 farmers in the Broadland catchment with around 800 on e-mail. These contacts were sent newsletters and the workshop report. A Farm Business Update is planned for January 2016 at a local venue (possibly Wortwell Village Hall).</p> <p>GB: Halvergate water transfer update. Brograve intensive monitoring sent to Cranfield University for analysis. Received a letter from agent of landowner at Somerton reporting 150ha of land unworkable due to high water levels.</p> <p>RB: NWT is working with the IDB at Alderfen re red alder.</p> <p>RR: Pesticide trials outside of BRC and coastal imagery identified some risky pig operations. Anglian Water is working with the farmers in question.</p> <p>RK: New CSF officers (Wensum and Bure) will hopefully be in post by November for next BCP meeting (unfortunately fixed term contracts to 31st March hoped to be made permanent once CSF funding for 2016/17 confirmed). Helen Mandley delivering 28 days service on behalf of CSF until end of financial year (grateful to NRT for partnership work). ADAS have been let a contract to help carry out CSF mid-tier Stewardship advice work. Events programme for autumn/winter to include cover crops, soil management (in partnership with Soil and Water Management Centre and hoping to collaborate with DTC), sensitive ditch management (in partnership with IDB) and CS for water.</p> <p>AK: BA awaiting results of funding bids to Interreg –Hickling Peat Project and HLF – Landscape Partnership Scheme.</p> <p>BM: Has been working 1 day a week with NRT over past few months to assist in consents/permission process for Grant in Aid projects. This will hopefully lead to a checklist that can be used by the partnership in future projects.</p>	
8.	Any Other Business	
	None	
9.	Date of next meeting	
	To be confirmed via doodle poll. http://doodle.com/h5ra3dwsdabmqwib	

Action Summary

Who	What and deadline
MH/NP	MH to circulate Norfolk Biosecurity data/information to the steering group via catchment officer by next meeting.
NP	Slow the Flow: Further development work was required, including approaching potential funding partnerships with Highways and IDB by 01.10.15.
BM	To look into the issue of consents and report back by next meeting.
NP	To circulate the WaterLife Water Sensitive Farming EoI to the group for information by 21.08.15.
NP/RC	Summaries of the results were available in layman terms and these would be circulated to the group by 21.08.15.

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

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