

# Broadland Futures Initiative

## Minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020

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## Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) - Broads Authority, Giles Bloomfield – IDB, John Jones – NCC, Gavin Rumsey - Environment Agency, Kellie Fisher - Environment Agency, Rob Goodliffe - Coastal Partnership East, Peter Doktor - Environment Agency, Rob Wise - National Farmers Union, Philip Pearson- RSPB, Mark Johnson – Environment Agency, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (Minutes) Dave Cobby - Jacobs.

## 1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Matthew Philpot, Emma Dixon and Andy Millar

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) welcomed attendees to the remote meeting.

## 2. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) gave a summary of progress with Jacobs as of the end of July 2020.

Product	Progress
1/1 The origins of the plan area	100%
1/2 The sources and nature of flood risk within the plan area	100%
1/3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (modelling review)	100%
1/3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (Inception report)	80%
1/4 Coastal processes within the plan area	90%
1/5 Current approaches to flood risk management within the plan area	100%
1/5B Partnership funding challenge	80%
1/6 The influence of flood risk management within the plan area	90%
1/6B Natural capital assessment	80%
1/7 Strategic plans and documents relating to the plan area	100%
1/8 Existing key data sources and indicators for the plan area	10%
1/9 The impact of climate change within the plan area	60%
1/11 Objectives for the plan (potential objectives for EMF)	10%
1/12 The methodology for options appraisal and preferred option selection	0%
1/13 SEA scoping report	10%
1/14 Virtual stakeholder engagement event space	0%
1/15 Long list of strategic flood risk management techniques (TBC)	-
1/16 Videos on hydraulic modelling and dredging	10%

The technical and public facing reports for Product 6 have been shared with IPT for feedback, and are now with Jacobs.

The webinar for Product 6b was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, comments from the report have been requested by 19<sup>th</sup> August from the IPT. The local detail of the flood compartment analysis was at risk of becoming too complex, a reconsideration of the strategic requirement is needed. The next steps will look to develop a summary overview giving the strategic direction which is appropriate for the BFI.

Comments for Product 9 have been fed back following the IPT review and are now with Jacobs.

Products 14 and 16 have been added with a focus on stakeholder engagement. Product 15 is to be confirmed, and will look at strategic flood risk management techniques.

### **Comments on progress**

- Consideration needs to be given for the natural capital assessment to accommodate and anticipate the local feedback and intelligence. Following a national approach alone is not recommended.
- Information and local detail that has been gathered for the flood compartment analysis will be used in the appraisal and considered as a 'next steps' document.
- Currently there is not a delivery date on Product 15, however this should not conflict with, or hold back the developing Broads IDB pump replacement project in the Upper Thurne. The product will give a full range of strategic flood risk management available.

### **Product 9**

Based on feedback when communicating climate change PD presented a proposed approach for delivering the public facing Product 9. The 4-stage approach will flow as follows:

- Vision- A positive message, the 'hope'.
- Choice- What is the challenge? What is the alternative to the vision?
- Plan- How will we achieve the vision?
- Action- How will we achieve the plan?

Starting with the vision yields better engagement, compared to starting with the choice, which can often be overwhelming and too much for people to engage with, particularly when considering long term climate change impacts.

The BFI statements are also themed around the 3 ambitions in new national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (FCERM). This will be a key link in setting objectives for the BFI plan, however it must not be presented as a solution, and will need to go to consultation.

### **Comments and answers to questions**

- The consultation will be important to ensure that this is not perceived as a 'top down' strategy.

- Currently the draft Vision is a series of 8-10 bullet points and statements that have been drafted by Jacobs around 3 ambitions in new national FCERM strategy, set in a Broads context. This will need to be reduced to something that is smaller, with a headline vision written in non-technical terms.
- The 4-stage approach is designed to form a method of communication, and to structure the BFI's approach and engagement with stakeholders.
- There is lots of detail provided in the Vision, care must be given to ensure it is engaging and also realistic, managing people's expectations.
- This is intended to be fed back into Product 9 at beginning of October.
- IPT members to provide written feedback to PD on approach and statements by 26<sup>th</sup> August.

### 3. Update on Communications and Community Engagement

Gavin Rumsey (GR) presented updates on communications and community engagement since the last IPT meeting.

Some of the completed products are now ready to be uploaded to the BFI website. To provide context, Jacobs are drafting an infographic which will be added to the BFI website. This will show how many products there are, which ones are key for the decision process and which are for information. The infographic will also be supplemented with YouTube videos from the Broads Authority Youtube Channel.

GR will commence work on the next digital newsletter over the next couple of weeks.

Content for the BFI FAQ page is currently still in development and will be available in the next two months.

Previous stakeholder engagement highlighted a knowledge gap around Flood Modelling and Dredging. Videos are being created on both topics and will also be used for the Virtual Exhibition.

The final draft of the online survey will be shared soon. Where possible questions have been linked to the 4-stage approach 'Vision, Choice, Action, Plan'.

The Virtual Exhibition and online survey has been moved to January 2021, with a running time of 8-12 weeks. This gives more time for additional products and will be closer to the face to face engagement (TBC). If running in parallel, there is also the possibility of reducing the number of face to face engagement events to 3 rather than 6. The change of date will be added to the next BFI newsletter.

#### Comments and answers to questions

- Rob Goodliffe (RG) to share Coastal Partnership East questionnaire with GR.
- FAQ's will be updated and reviewed on a regular basis. Feedback can be given via [info@broadland-futures.org.uk](mailto:info@broadland-futures.org.uk).

## 4. Broads IDB pump replacement

Over the past 10 years a part of Giles Bloomfield's (GB) role with the IDB has been to look at incremental improvement to the networks at a catchment scale. Today GB gave a presentation on the Upper Thurne Integrated Drainage Improvements to the IPT.

Some of the key considerations for the improvements include:

- Affordability
- Drought- adaptation and resilience in the face of changing climate
- High flow Water availability –abstraction for irrigation public water supply
- Sediment Management
- Inter dependencies: BFI, ELMS 25 Environment Plan, WRE

test and trials have included low cost selective vegetation management shown at Somerton North pumping station to accelerate ochre sediment; whilst a more technical battery powered automated water control gate at Hempstead marshes has successfully retained the high salinity water upstream while the fresher (lower density) water flows over the top of the gate heading downstream.

The Asset Replacement Programme highlighted the 58 pumping stations that are approaching the end of their life. These are now being evaluated at river catchment scale, starting with the Upper Thurne.

Jacobs are currently undertaking the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the next phase of works at in the Upper Thurne at:

- Somerton North
- Somerton South
- Somerton Auxiliary
- Horsey
- Stubb
- Brograve
- Eastfield
- Catfield
- Heigham Holmes
- Potter Heigham
- Horse Fen
- St Benet's 1&2
- Repps

- Martham

Where possible the IDB will look to reduce the number of stations enabling adaptive business opportunities such as paludiculture, carbon storage and wider public goods and services in line with ELMS ambition during detailed design phase.

#### Comments and answers to questions

- Water Resource East (WRE) have shown support for the project.
- Project Manager, John Patrick (PM for Felixstowe Peninsular water transfer scheme) through Broadland Agricultural Water Abstractors Group (BAWAG) will investigate surface water abstraction opportunities and will present findings in due course.
- Currently looking to make choices that are adaptable to climate change.
- A review and technical assessment of the OBC is due to be completed by March 2021.
- Mark Johnson (MJ) confirmed that the EA has systems in place to ensure there is not a conflict of projects running in parallel, this would be picked up at the assessment phase.

## 5. Elected Members Forum

Following feedback at the last IPT Kellie Fisher (KF) had a discussion with Paul Hayden, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Chair and the final draft versions of the BFI Elected Members Forum documents have been completed.

The Terms of Reference has been updated to include a section on the context of the forum, and a sectoral business approach during phase 2.

IPT to review and approve by 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## 6. FCERM Policy Statement and National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

PD presented an overview on the EA's National FCERM Strategy, which launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. The Government's FCERM Policy Statement was also launched on the same day.

The FCERM Strategy offers a new long-term approach to improve the resilience of the nation, setting out national ambitions for England that work for every place. The Strategy acknowledges that climate change is happening now, and looks to move the nation from a concept of protection to one of resilience.

The Strategy has three long term ambitions:

- **Climate resilient places** - Working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change.

- **Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate** - Making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change.
- **A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change** - Ensuring local people understand the risks posed by flooding and coastal change, are responsible for managing the impacts and know how to take action.

The final strategy has now been published and is subject to further parliamentary scrutiny. A consultation response document is due to be published during autumn/winter 2020.

## 7. AOB

### EMF engagement

Member support has begun for the forum. Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) noted that the next step is to finalise the ToR and supporting documents. Engagement is likely to commence early in 2021. Item to be discussed further at the next IPT.

### Draft Coastal Adaption SPD

BFI to coordinate a response once the public consultation has been announced.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 19<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am via video conference or Yare House, 62 – 64 Thorpe Road, Norwich. Location to be confirmed.

## Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
IPT members to provide written feedback to PD on Product 9 approach and statements by 26 <sup>th</sup> August.	17/08/2020	ALL
RG to share Coastal Partnership East questionnaire with GR.	17/08/2020	RG
IPT to review and approve EMF documents by 7 <sup>th</sup> September.	17/08/2020	ALL