

# Broadland Futures Initiative

## Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2019

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## Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) – Broads Authority, Gavin Rumsey – Environment Agency, Andy Millar – Natural England, Rob Wise - National Farmers Union, Kellie Fisher – Environment Agency, Simon Curl- Suffolk County Council, Philip Pearson – RSPB, Silvia Garattini – Jacobs Consultants, Robin Price- Water Resource East (For item 1), Matthew Philpot – IDM/WLMA, Kylie Moos – Broads Authority (Minutes)

## 1. Apologies for absence and welcome

**Apologies** received from John Jones – Norfolk County Council, Mark Johnson – Environment Agency, Karen Thomas – Coastal Partnership East

Marie-Pierre Tighe welcomed attendees and new members introduced themselves to the group.

## 2. Water Resources East

Robin Price, Managing Director from Water Resources East (WRE) gave a presentation on delivering a reliable, sustainable and affordable system of water supply in the East of England to 2060 and beyond. WRE was formed in 2014 by Anglian Water working with representatives from water companies, Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships, the energy and agricultural sectors, landowners and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), but is now an independent organisations with a diverse Board of Directors, including the Broads Authority. WRE are working as part of a new National Framework for water resources, and are co-creating a Regional Plan with stakeholders from across the region, which will aim to:

- Seek to increase the level of resilience for water resources for all sectors.
- Identify opportunities to deliver wider benefits in terms of flood risk and water quality.
- Ensure that water (either too much or not enough) is not a barrier to economic development in the region.
- Enhance the environment.
- Feed directly into water company Water Resource Management Plans

WRE is noted as a diverse region in terms of water management issues and opportunities with both hydrological and political boundaries needing consideration. Both existing regional strategies, planning groups and green finance models must also be linked to the plan. The first draft regional plan is due in August 2021 for consultation with the final draft plan due in August 2022.

### Comments and answers to questions

- Access to existing water company assets as often file data provided is too vast. WRE membership includes five water companies, and so WRE will support in obtaining datasets as required.

- Often the difficulty is conveying the severity of flood/water risk with district councils. WRE has previous examples of success in other regions of the country, these should be commended and passed on as examples to district councils.
- The ecological issues associated with water transfers must be given careful consideration. Similar environmental risk assessments will be required for coastal areas.
- With the footprint for water continuing to grow and the effect of climate change, this is a positive and exciting opportunity for a joined-up partnership. Language and communication will be vital with all parties.
- There are currently discrepancies on the currently published WRE boundaries, notably Hertfordshire. WRE has agreed to review the maps and update publications accordingly; these will be freely available on WRE's new website which is due for launch at the end of January 2020
- The IPT would welcome WRE to attend future BFI meetings for further updates.
- Any further questions are to be emailed to WRE via MPT.

### 3. Review of actions since last meeting

Gavin Rumsey (GR) presented on the following:

- The action log has been refined based on communications with Kellie Fisher (KF), acronyms have been updated and the document will be circulated to Initiative Project Team (IPT).
- GR and Tom Waterfall (Senior Communications Officer at the Broads Authority) have updated the FAQ's. The current set of questions are to be circulated to the IPT. Any further comments need to be sent to GR.
- Minutes from the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 have been circulated and agreed with no further comments to make.
- There has been no response from Irene Lorenzoni at UEA regarding the most recent climate change presentation. MPT to check contact details.
- Work has started on the next Broadland Futures Initiative Newsletter is due mid-January 2020.

### 4. Update on consultant work

#### Progress to date

Updates since September 2019 were presented by Silvia Garattini and Kellie Fisher (KF). The coastal area lines have been extended to reflect sediment transfer in the area, adjustments have also been made to the Eccles-Winterton flood line.

## Overview of programme

There are 13 products in the plan, 8 are currently in motion and good progress has been made on 1,2,3,4 and 7 which are due early 2020. The products are as follows;

- The origins of the plan area.
- The sources and nature of flood risk within the plan area.
- Hydraulic models for the plan area.
- Coastal processes within the plan area.
- Current approaches to flood risk management within the plan area.
- The impact of flood risk management within the plan area.
- Strategic plans and documents relating to the plan area.
- Existing key data sources and indicators for the plan area.

## IPT Input

Considerable developments have been made from the first draft of product 1. Ensuring that the product encapsulates enough information but keeps readers engaged has been a key challenge. It was suggested that a 'where to go' page was added to the document to enable further detailed reading and FAQ's.

IPT have requested a copy of the Stage 1 programme Gantt chart to be circulated and to highlight which documents will be public facing.

Timings of the Shoreline Management Plan Refresh (SMPR) must also be taken into consideration when publicising documents to ensure there is no confusion between any of the publications. KF agreed to look at the communication timetable.

To meet the January 2020 deadline the final draft of product 1 is to be circulated by email to IPT, any feedback will be received Jacobs Consultancy prior to being finalised.

## 5. Preparation of 2020 community engagement

Gavin Rumsey presented the proposal for face to face public consultations for the summer of 2020.

2019 has been a productive year with 282 stakeholders on the current data base. Ensuring that a democratic approach captures the view of the public is a key theme for the BFI. This proposed series of public consultations will be the first face to face consultations for the project.

The proposal is for 6 events to be held with locations to be confirmed based on budget and accessibility. Consideration should also be given to virtual events for those that are unable to access the proposed locations.

The events would need a minimum of 6 people made up of IPT and BFI Ambassadors. Junior members of staff are also welcomed and encouraged to assist with the events. A training session will be provided to all staff prior to the events.

Events will be set up in an exhibition style, with 6 tables around the room allowing for natural conversations and information sharing. Focus will be on the history of the broads, current situation for flood risk management, climate change impacts, economic/baseline assessment and a designated area for feedback and any potential ideas.

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

- The summer holidays will restrict certain groups from being able to attend. Similarly the farming sector are restricted in their availability during harvest. It was suggested that smaller focused workgroups can also be targeted at a different point in the year.
- People will need to be made aware of the key issues and the challenge of affordability early on so that expectations are managed. This should not be at the detriment of pursuing wider ambitions and opportunities.
- Engaging and communicating to a wide audience will be vital to ensure that new representatives are attending the proposed events.
- GR agreed to circulate the draft proposal to the IPT for further comments with the aim to begin planning early 2020.

## **6. Somerset landscape visioning project**

KF presented the Somerset WAVE (Water Adaption is Valuable for Everybody) project which is a partnership project supported by EU Interreg funding.

The project includes hydraulic modelling of flood risk across the study area covering fluvial, tidal and surface water flooding. The BFI would not have the financial support to replicate this, however with the use of the animated webpage already provided on the Broads Authority website the same principle could be achieved.

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

- Given the detail and contrast of defended and undefended maps, the visioning tools were not easily accessible on the webpage. When GR enquired about their engagement plans it was met with a mixed response.
- Visualisations have been made in the past in the Upper Thurne and were not well received. It is assumed that people would now be more sensitive to the subject if the flood visualisation tools were recreated for the area.

## **7. Next steps**

- GR to circulate JC presentation and Gantt chart with IPT
- GR to update FAQs and community engagement project and circulate with IPT.

- GR to circulate minutes with IPT.

## 8. Any other business

KF shared further feedback from the Upper Thurne Working Group (UTWG) regarding functional floodplain and flood modelling.

- At this stage the BFI should notify our existing working groups, including the Broadland Catchment Partnership that we will be undertaking new flood modelling.
- As part of the BFI project we wish to inform stakeholders that we will be undertaking some new flood modelling. New flood models are complex and this process is likely to take some time. However, all flood models require calibration and validation using real-world observations. Therefore, we often include traditional ground survey in particularly complex areas or where parts of the model struggle to match what we witness during flood events. We recognise some areas of the Broads will require additional survey. Therefore, observations from stakeholders are really important to help us with this process. BFI wish to inform the UTWG and other stakeholders that, if they have data or observations regarding certain areas, we would love to hear more, so that our modellers can be as informed as possible.

## 9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is currently scheduled 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 10.30am at Yare House, 62 – 64 Thorpe Road, Norwich. It was noted that this falls during half-term. The IPT will be informed if the date is changed.

The meeting ended at 12.45.

## Summary of progress

Actions
GR to circulate JC presentation and Gantt chart with IPT
GR to update FAQ's and community engagement project and circulate with IPT.
GR to circulate minutes with IPT.
MPT to circulate WRE presentation with IPT.
IPT to feedback on Jacobs deliverables (Product 1).

<b>Actions</b>
GR to circulate JC presentation and Gantt chart with IPT