

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2023

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Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair)- Broads Authority, Libby Bush- Jacobs, David Cobby- Jacobs, Peter Doktor- Environment Agency, Victoria Egan-National Trust, Catherine Harris- Environment Agency, Mark Johnson- Environment Agency, Charles Krolik-Root- Coastal Partnership East, Philip Pearson- RSPB, Gavin Rumsey- Environment Agency, Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (minutes).

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

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

Apologies received from Julie Beeden, Giles Bloomfield, Kevin Hart, Fiona Hinds, Nathan Harris John Jones, Sarah Luff, Charlotte Rivett, Rob Wise.

2. Update of technical work

Peter Doktor (PD) provided an update on the technical work and the activities that are due to take place before completion. The project team are working on identifying possible actions for managing flood risk and appraisal of the different options. There has been a 6 month delay for technical work due to having to review the business case for BFI and going through the Environment Agency assurance and approval process. The hydrological modelling work continued during this time. Approval has now been granted and Jacobs will resume the technical work, also known as Phase C. During the approval process there was concern that the scope of BFI was increasing beyond its means. The review is a reminder that the project needs to be delivered with the resources available and the agreed timescales.

PD shared the detail appraisal preparation for the following products:

- Product 25 - Methodologies for additional studies to inform appraisal
- Product 26 - Key decisions to inform appraisal
- Product 27 - Combinations of management actions
- Product 28 - Rules for transition between combinations of management options
- Product 29 - Climate scenarios and periods used in the appraisal
- Product 30 - The use and nature of 'other changes' in the appraisal

Product 25d (salinity model) is being carried out by HR Wallingford. A statistical model is being used to make best use of the data available and to display where additional modelling is needed, a project which can be picked up outside of BFI.

Between August and December 2023 there will be a lot of products coming out and the Initiative Project Team (IPT) will be asked to review the technical and public facing reports.

Comments

Philip Pearson (PP) reported that Natural England have views on what they want to see for some of their habitats and the RSPB are reviewing their management plans. There is a need to think outside of the BFI area if habitats are going to change. PD confirmed that they are looking to set up a meeting with Natural England in the next few weeks. Compensatory habitats will be in strong demand with Biodiversity Net Gain also competing for the same land.

With respect Product 28 sea level rise is a core trigger for adaption. Social and economic factors are relevant to flood risk and are harder to measure but will still need to be considered.

The use of 'rules' in the title for product 28 needs to be considered carefully when shared with members of the public. David Cobby (DC) confirmed that the 'rules' is referencing modelling types.

Victoria Egan (VE) reported that the National Trust has been looking at relative sea level and beach lowering in relation to concrete walls and asked if there is data around beaches for product 25. PD confirmed that there has been a piece of work (Product 18) completed around beach levels and triggers for action which has previously been shared. It was suggested that a summary for each of the BFI products and their outputs would be useful for reporting back stakeholders. Gavin Rumsey (GR) agreed to pick up this action and create a document summarising BFI products and their outputs. DC added that the BFI virtual event room is still open and contains all the public facing products.

The infographic which has been prepared to summarise the long list of options for product 21 was shown and will be used in public consultation to see if any options have been missed.

3. Update on communications and community engagement

Gavin Rumsey (GR) presented the engagement activity timeline for longlisting Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) actions. The online survey period will launch on 16 June and run for four weeks. To supplement the online survey, there will be a series of interviews with the following specific interest groups.

- Farming/Land use
- Sailing/Navigation
- Angling
- Flood Wardens
- Business/Commerce
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Water Resources
- Heritages and sense of place
- Tourism

There will be a supporting introductory document which will be available alongside the survey. IPT members will be asked to review the document next week. Users will be able to click on the infographics for photos and in-depth descriptions before starting the survey. Engagement cannot take place until the purdah period has ended.

Comments

The coast is not listed as a specific interest for interview but there will be coastal related questions in the survey.

Charles Krolik-Root (CKR) recommended interviewing again at a later date to see how views change during the length of the project.

4. Elected Members Forum

The Elected Members Forum (EMF) meeting took place on the 4 April. There was good representation and members were engaged and supportive of the work that has taken place. The EMF Terms of Reference has now been agreed.

The upcoming elections could see a change of members to the forum. The IPT project team have been successfully carrying out inductions to make sure new members are up to speed and are ready to arrange more if needed.

5. AOB

This meeting will be followed by a workshop on possible indicators for the BFI objectives.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 19 June 2023

Summary of progress

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Create a document summarising BFI products and their outputs	19/04/2023	GR