

BFI Combined Elected Members Forum and Initiative Project Team

Wednesday 15 April, 10am-4pm

Environment Agency, Dragonfly House, Gilders Way, Norwich NR3 1UB

Present: Amy Capon, Cllr Andrée Gee, Catherine Harries, Charles Krolik-Root, Cllr Jan Davis, Dan Hoare, Daniel Wray, David Cobby, Ed Richardson, Fiona Hinds, Fiona Johnson, Giles Bloomfield, Cllr Harry Blathwayt, Iain Glanville, Jonathan Hillaby, Kari Nash, Kellie Fisher, Kevin Hart, Kevin Marsh, Marie-Pierre Tighe, Matthew Philpot, Matthew Shardlow, Cllr Noel Galer, Peter Doktor, Philip Pearson, Rebecca Bromley, Rebecca Clark, Rob Rogers, Cllr Robert Savage, Robert Young, Tony Grayling, Vanessa Gouldsmith

Apologies: Wendy Brooks, Andrew Marsh, Charlotte Rivett, Kevin Maguire

Welcome and introductions

		Action
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1	Baselines and FRM action pathways modelling – recap	
	The EA project team presented an overview of the steps completed so far in the BFI programme and a recap of the purpose of the Baselines modelling (product 34) and FRM action pathways modelling (product 35). There was a reminder that the assessment of the economic and Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) performance of the pathways (i.e. their impact, pros and cons) is in a future phase.	
2	Baselines modelling: Results and takeaway messages	
	The Jacobs project team presented an overview on the Baseline scenario modelling (product 34), including the key assumptions used for the 'Do nothing' and 'Sustain Standard of Service'. The EA project team explained the current funding challenges to 'Sustain Standard of Service' – we cannot maintain the status quo into the future with the current flood risk management approach and limited funding.	
3	Recap on the agreed Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) and economics – and outcomes from applying this to the Baselines modelling	
	The Jacobs project team presented an overview the MCDA and reminder of the 22 criteria previously agreed for the 10 BFI objectives. They explained how the criteria have been applied in practice for BFI so far by showing a selection of the 22 criteria that have been scored using either economics-based criteria, expert judgement, or technical assessment. They also explained initial calculations of economic damages and benefits and that these will be further developed, taking into account the newly released Environment Agency guidance.	
4	Look ahead and timeline for completing the Baselines report for your review and acceptance	
	The project team presented the timeline for sharing the draft report with the IPT and EMF and the online meetings that have been scheduled.	

	Post meeting note: due to updates to the national funding guidance released in April, the project team will require further time to apply these to the MCDA for some of the 22 criteria. Therefore, the complete report for product 34 will be issued in June, ahead of the 7 July meeting (the product 35 timeline is unchanged).	
5	FRM action pathways modelling: Recap on what's been modelled and why	
	The Jacobs project team presented an overview of what has been modelled across the 4 pathways and the initial conclusions of the effectiveness of those pathways in reducing flooding, across the 3 time periods.	
6	Interactive session – your feedback on what's been modelled, sharing your knowledge, collective action planning	
	The group were invited to share their comments on the FRM actions that have been modelled and to share where they are aware of projects/partnerships that we can engage with to further explore those actions.	
7	Look ahead and timeline for completing the FRM action pathways report for your review and acceptance (now to July)	
	The project team presented the timeline for sharing the Product 35 draft report with the IPT and EMF and the online meetings that have been scheduled.	
8	Agreed actions and next steps	
	A question was raised about the role of the IDB pumps as FRM assets and the assumptions about their operation in the 'Do nothing' scenario. ACTION: EA/Jacobs Project team to clarify assumptions about IDB pumps in the 'Do nothing' scenario A question was raised about Landfill sites and applying economic calculations in the MCDA, including impacts of flooding on pollution. ACTION: EA team to speak to EA economists about how this is included in FCERM appraisal A question was raised about additional volumes of water in the system in the future (as a result of reductions in abstraction licences and the introduction of water from other areas to service water consumption needs) and what impact this could have. ACTION: EA & Jacobs team to discuss with Anglian Water regarding applying a sensitivity test Navigation issues as a result of sea level rise affecting boat traffic ability to go under bridges was mentioned. ACTION: EA team to discuss with Broads Authority A question was raised around the locations of potential storage areas versus designated sites and the need for HRA. ACTION: EA team discussed with Natural England after the meeting A point was raised about potable water supply and foul water discharge being negatively impacted during a flood event. ACTION: EA team to discuss with water companies A comment was made about saline water impacting on biological processes of sewage treatment works. ACTION: EA team to discuss with Anglian Water	

	A further comment was made about how salinity is monitored and whether the long-range radio network could help. ACTION: EA team to consider as part of the appraisal	
9	AOB - For info from the Environment Agency FCRM team: Register your interest in the Natural Flood Management (NFM) guidance webinar, 12 May (non-RMAs) register your interest in the NFM webinars here - For info: Green Finance Institute's new report, <i>Developing Regional Economic Resilience through Nature-based Solutions: Norfolk and Suffolk</i>. Explores how co-ordinated co-investment in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) by businesses and local government can reduce growing climate and nature-related risks while supporting long-term regional growth https://www.greenfinanceinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/GFI-DEVELOPING-ECONOMIC-RESILIENCE-NORFOLK-SUFFOLK_FINAL.pdf	