

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2020

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Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) – Broads Authority, Gavin Rumsey – Environment Agency, Donna Deane – Natural England, Rob Wise - National Farmers Union, Mark Johnson – Environment Agency, Simon Curl- Suffolk County Council, Ian Robinson – RSPB, John Jones – Norfolk County Council, Peter Doktor – Environment Agency, Rob Goodliffe – Coastal Partnership East, Kylie Moos – Broads Authority (Minutes)

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Andy Millar – Natural England, Emma Dixon –IDB, Giles Bloomfield–IDB, Kellie Fisher– Environment Agency, Philip Pearson – RSPB

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

2. Presentation from Ulysse Pasquier

Ulysse Pasquier (UP) joined via Skype to give a presentation on ‘Modelling future flooding risk for coastal and inland adaptation – The Broads’. UP is a PhD Candidate at the UEA, within the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. His project is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council in partnership with the Broads Authority and looks to model future flood risk for adaptation planning in the Broads National Park.

Research included:

- What is the sensitivity of the Broads to different flooding hazards?
- How will climate change and sea level rise impact future flooding risk in the Broads?
- How can the integration of a scientific model and stakeholder knowledge help better inform on risk and adaptation to climate change?

Stakeholder workshops were attended by 14 participants over 3 sessions; problem identification/drivers of risk, mapping of potential measures and prioritisation (without looking at economic dimension). The 2 measures which received the most support were flood storage areas (either fresh or saline) and tidal barriers near the mouth of river Yare. The least favoured measures were raising defences. Here are the main take-aways from the workshops:

- Flood risk analysis also need to look at salinity.
- Effect of compound events (tidal and fluvial) should be considered.
- Model should cover all the Broads (solutions in one area may cause problems elsewhere).
- The visualisation of risk progression over time is helpful to assist decision making in the short, medium and long term.

Comments and answers to questions

- All scenarios are based on sea defences holding.
- Limitations of the model: it does not account for a breach of a sea defences, overtopping, wind or wave effects. For salinity, ground water input was not included in the model.
- The extreme scenario (with extreme sea level and extreme river flow) is unlikely to happen because of the statistics on the weather patterns which would be involved (1 in 10,000).
- The river Waveney would be the most impacted, there is less impact in the northern Broads. The model did not evidence flooding risks in the Eccles to Winterton area bearing in mind the limitations of the model.
- The issue of salinity was shared amongst the stakeholder group, however the group was divided in what it meant for the Broads.
- Managing stakeholder fatigue and expectations must be considered from the beginning. For any engagement activity, need to have a clear vision of the goal and what participants would get out of it. It is also beneficial to engage with a wide range of backgrounds; varying knowledge allows groups to go in unexpected directions. It is helpful to use visualisation tools.
- Further analysis was carried out for the 2 most favoured measures (flood storage and tidal barrier). For the flood storage option, there would need extensive works to lower the topography, as well as sluice gates and raised embankment. It did not prevent all kinds of flooding in all areas and would require management plans agreed with landowners. The tidal barrier option would require raising flood walls.
- Categorising feedback, following key discussion points and topics will help to ensure data is qualitative rather than quantitative. In this study, the goal was not to be statistically representative, but a sample of different views
- UP has produced 2 papers, one about the technical data of the model, and one about the stakeholder engagement.
- Rob Wise (RW) requested visualizations presented to stakeholders to be circulated later as these are powerful images that could be of further use.

3. Update on consultant work

Peter Doktor (PD) gave a summary of progress to date displayed in the table below:

| Product | Progress |
|---|----------|
| 1 The origins of the plan area | 100% |
| 2 The sources and nature of flood risk within the plan area | 85% |
| 3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (modelling review) | 85% |

| Product | Progress |
|--|----------|
| 3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (Inception report) | 5% |
| 4 Coastal processes within the plan area | 80% |
| 5 Current approaches to flood risk management within the plan area | 30% |
| 6 The impact of flood risk management within the plan area | 10% |
| 7 Strategic plans and documents relating to the plan area | 100% |
| 8 Existing key data sources and indicators for the plan area | 10% |
| 9 The impact of climate change within the plan area | 5% |

Product 1 is now complete and received positive feedback. Product 2 first draft has been sent back to Jacobs and will be circulated shortly. JBA consulting have also reviewed the modelling review within product 3 and agree with the recommendation of developing a new hydraulic model for the Broadland area. Product 9 has been brought forward by Jacobs, this will be key for stakeholder engagement.

Two additional reports have been added to the review;

1/4 Coastal processes within the plan area (technical report in addition to the public report)

1/6B Natural capital baseline assessment (technical report)

Comments and answers to questions

- A Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) of 8.5 will be used in all hydraulic modelling, a common prediction used, as noted in UP presentation.
- A single new hydraulic model is proposed for use both by the BFI and Environment Agency (EA) PSO (Partnership and Strategic Overview) team to ensure that there will not be a conflict in the strategic overview of the BFI and detailed decisions that PSO will need to make.
- In presenting climate change impacts intermediates dates will be beneficial alongside the current day vs 100-year projections.
- Aim to work with stakeholders and ask if there are any shortcomings with the EA's existing hydraulic modelling that we should be aware of.
- Ensuring that the products are used to display the scale of an event rather than a fixed solution and timeline will be a challenge, but key points to engage with stakeholders.

Options Appraisal

If government funding is sought to help implement the BFI plan then a full options appraisal in line with the HM Treasury Green Book will be required. Product 12 (The methodology for options appraisal and preferred option selection) due in 2021 will define the appraisal

process. Ahead of this product being available PD gave a summary of the anticipated criteria. 3 key appraisal criteria for government funding are:

- National Economic
- Technical Feasibility
- Environmental Acceptance

Other criteria might be added to reflect local priorities, including natural capital accounting, carbon management, local economic. The group agreed that PS's slide was a concise and informative way to display contributing and conflicting factors. There is still scope to add and remove options where necessary.

4. Update on Communications and Community Engagement

PD and Kellie Fisher (KF) presented to the IDB and was received very positively. GR and PD are due to meet next week with Asher Minns, Executive Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the UEA. Doodle Poll is currently out for Natural Capital Assessment Workshop in April hosted by Jacobs.

Gavin Rumsey provided a presentation the engagement planning, highlighting the current situation where by stakeholders have a low level of awareness regarding the Broadland Futures Initiative and have yet to fully inform it.

Causes

- Distinct minority are only actively engaged.
- Vast geographical area.
- More resources required to engage with harder to reach minority groups
- Limitations on funding and resource for engagement exercises therefore restraining option availability.
- **Engagement events yet to take place.**

Effects/Identified risks for BFI if not addressed:

- BFI misses an integral piece of information and accused of ignoring local input.
- Not prioritising issues or thoroughly investigating issues raised by stakeholders.
- Only one small demographic engaged with – not representative of wider population.
- Objectives for the BFI are not “robust” – potentially contributing to Elected Members Forum not approving strategic approaches because they do not understand the issues.
- Views and risks from stakeholders not represented in outputs.
- Stakeholders not well informed about future flood scenarios in the Broads

Vision

“Stakeholders have bought into the BFI, informed it, have a sense of ownership and feel they have shaped the outputs to be presented to the Elected Members Forum.” for Phase 1
Baseline Setting

What do we want from stakeholders?

- What local interests are likely to be affected by changing flood risk.
- Are we missing an important piece of local information.
- What do they consider the objectives or priorities should be for the future management of flood risk in the Broads.
- Do they think we are providing the right level of information local communities might need to know about for flood risk and climate change.
- What local knowledge and resources might be available to help the Initiative as it progresses. i.e. funding and resource.

Approaches

- Public Drop in's - sharing product information and gaining feedback. Capturing local information and experiences from stakeholders, awareness raising/informing
- Online Consultations – As above
- Webpage content – updating stakeholders with product content, hosting and landing page for signposting
- Newsletters – progress updates/ news stories
- Focus workshops – Flood modelling focus group / Natural Capital Assessment
- Social media engagement – advertising events and updates
- ‘Awareness raising’ events/ pop up events in public places – can be more mobile to capture wider demographic
- Public events i.e. Norfolk Show

5. Communication and Engagement Gantt chart ‘walk through’

GR provided a walk through for the Communication and Engagement chart walk through, highlighting the priorities and risks for each item. BFI ambassadors could be key for engagement events, with Tim O’Riordan put forward as a recommendation. Ian Robinson (IR) agreed to assist as an ambassador.

6. Set meeting dates

The following meeting dates for next year were agreed:

- Monday 15th June 2020 10.30am
- Monday 17th August 2020 10.30am
- Monday 19th October 2020 10.30am
- Monday 14th December 2020 10.30am
- Monday 8th February 2021 10.30am

7. Any other business

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) will meet with Robin Price from WRE in the next couple of weeks, any questions should from IPT should be emailed to MPT.

Anglian Water have published their Water Management Plan 2020-2015 at the end of 2019.

Norfolk County Council (NCC) have a member oversight group for 'Overseeing NCC environment policy'. John Jones (JJ) recommended that BFI should engage with this group to enable cross party work. Simon Curl (SC) is to look for Suffolk County Councils (SCC) equivalent.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 20th April 2020 at 10.30am at Yare House, 62 – 64 Thorpe Road, Norwich.

The meeting ended at 16.30.

Summary of progress

| Outstanding actions | Meeting date | Assigned to |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| PD to circulate visualisations from UP stakeholder meetings | 10/02/2020 | PD |
| Circulate forthcoming meeting dates | 10/02/2020 | KM |