

Broadland Futures Initiative

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2020

Contents

1. Apologies for absence and welcome	2
2. Update on Communications and Community Engagement	2
3. Update on consultant work	3
4. Online exhibition tool	4
5. Discussion on the Elected Members Forum	5
6. Presentation on dredging for navigation	6
7. Any other business	6
8. Date of next meeting	6

Attendees

Marie-Pierre Tighe (Chair) - Broads Authority, Philip Pearson - RSPB, Gavin Rumsey - Environment Agency, Kellie Fisher - Environment Agency, Keith Mc Aughtry - Jacobs , Dan Hoare - Broads Authority, Rob Goodliffe - Coastal Partnership East, Mark Johnson - Environment Agency, Peter Doktor - Environment Agency, Rob Wise - National Farmers Union, Simon Curl - Suffolk County Council, Silvia Garattini - Jacobs , Emma Dixon - IDB Kylie Moos - Broads Authority (Minutes).

1. Apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received from Andy Millar – Natural England.

Marie-Pierre Tighe (MPT) welcomed attendees to the meeting, the first to be held over video conference due to the current Covid- 19 pandemic.

2. Update on Communications and Community Engagement

Gavin Rumsey (GR) provided an update on Communications and Community Engagement updates since the last IPT meeting.

In February GR and Peter Doktor (PD) attended the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Trinity Broads Event with Asher Minns of the UEA. This was a good opportunity to network, with guests engaging in climate change and signing up to the BFI mailing list. In March the EDP interviewed Kellie Fisher (KF) on Broads flooding. The article was received positively and was a good opportunity to promote the online flood modelling survey.

Natural Capital Stakeholder Workshop follow up will be scheduled once safe and feasible to do so.

The online Flood Modelling survey has now closed, results will be shared on the BFI webpage via the online newsletter and at public consultations. 19 full responses were received, with participants mainly 40 years old over, the majority being 60 and over. Engagement feedback was as follows:

- Good timing in the newsletter and website about giving feedback to stakeholders and communities on how the data is used and to share some of the trends and themes identified through the process.
- To create a video with a voiceover talking about the modelling process for those that have any further interest.
- More information on dredging to be made available and FAQ provided with supporting links.
- Adding new participants to the mailing list. A notable positive addition was the Angling Trust.

Successful meetings were held with both Somerton and Horsey Parish councils. Confidence was gained in BFI and a lot of focus on Flood Modelling techniques. Minutes will be available on the webpage.

The Covid-19 impacts have meant that all planning for Septembers face to face engagement activities have been put on hold. With social distancing measures in place for the foreseeable future an alternative approach would be to supplement these events with online engagement and delay face to face meetings until spring 2021. Examples include:

- Virtual exhibitions, twitter polls, survey monkeys, and online campaigns.

Online engagement will enable a larger reach to a wider demographic, allows people who do not want to travel to events to attend and still hits high level BFI strategic objectives.

Comments and answers to questions

- Positives can be taken and lessons learned in the future from these unforeseen circumstances. Proposal received positively by IPT and happy with GR to progress.
- Online engagement will keep the momentum going, with more to share in the face to face meetings of spring 2021.
- The changes to online engagement will be communicated through regular avenues, and timings will be discussed further with project team.
- The public are engaged online now more than ever, and may appreciate seeing something that is not focused on Covid-19.

3. Update on consultant work

PD gave a summary of products and progress with Jacobs as of the end of March 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	90%
1/3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (modelling review)	100%
1/3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (Inception report)	20%
1/4 Coastal processes within the plan area	85%
1/5 Current approaches to flood risk management within the plan area	85%
1/5B Partnership funding challenge	15%
1/6 The influence of flood risk management within the plan area	60%
1/6B Natural capital assessment	25%
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%

Product	Progress
1/9 The impact of climate change within the plan area	60%

Following advice from Ulysse Pasquiers presentation in February, IPT comments concerning model outputs for stakeholder engagement in 1/3 Hydraulic models for the plan area (Inception report) have been fed back to Jacobs.

A new technical report has been added to products; 1/5B Partnership funding challenge, looking to explore high level funding requirements and possible sources.

1/6B Natural capital assessment workshop was delivered in March. Subsequent workshop was scheduled for early July, now on hold and will need to review when it is appropriate to deliver.

Since the last IPT, issue dates have been delayed by one month. The 7 month delay in engagement events creates an opportunity to bring forward elements of later products and enhance existing products. Examples include;

- Storymaps based on existing products.
- Public facing documents in addition to technical only documents. e.g natural capital assessment.
- Salinity data analysis.
- Virtual exhibitions.

Work on the new Broadland hydraulic modelling is still expected to start in late July.

Comments and answers to questions

- Action for now is to compile a list of additional and enhancing products to supply to Jacobs to develop the scope and cost in more detail.
- For Product 5B if using the 2016 economic analysis as a starting point be aware criticism then was that benefits were missed. New products must not miss this. Jacobs confirmed that a review of benefits such as through the natural capital approach will be taking place during later phases of the project.
- Salinity data analysis will be extremely helpful to support what the ecological changes may be and a future that the BFI is looking to create.
- Partnership funding product came from an EA review group which highlighted the importance of embedding funding partnership early on. This should be a useful tool for partners and stakeholders, and not left until Phase B.

4. Online exhibition tool

Keith McAughtry from Jacobs visual media group presented a live virtual exhibition to the IPT as a tool for public engagement events. The exhibition can be played across all devices and

would only require an internet connection. Users can move around the virtual room and explore exhibition boards, maps, videos, photos, leaflets all derived from material for real exhibitions. The exhibition can be customised to allow users to explore content in a specific order, or a pre guided tour with set times can be created. The web based product allows for easy circulation and live chat functions help replicate Q&A's and build information similar to a public event.

Comments and answers to questions

- Users would have the option of joining anonymously or registering with an email addresses.
- Very user friendly and innovative way of working which could reach a wider audience both logistically and demographically.
- Voiceovers can be used to provide greater detail on any give topic, similar to having an expert in the room.
- With the customization needed costs are estimated around £25k, further research by Jacobs is required.

5. Discussion on the Elected Members Forum

Mark Johnson (MJ) and Kellie Fisher (KF) invited a discussion on the elected member's forum and how they can be brought into the project to assist with decision making. Historically the role was to receive advice and recommendations from the IPT, used similarly in the Shoreline Management Plan.

Elected members for each local authority will need to be aware of baselines, well briefed on stakeholders views and would meet a minimum of once a year, and up to three times a year maximum.

Comments and answers to questions

- A current Terms of Reference (TOR) would be beneficial for engaging members and bring them up to speed. MJ and KF to circulate TOR for comment to IPT.
- Elected members should also have a second for continuity and resilience across the project.
- Timing will be crucial to ensure members are involved at the right time. Engaging with members ahead of the online activities in September would be an easy route into the project.
- All IPT to send MPT local procedures of nominating and electing members to compile for BFI.

6. Presentation on dredging for navigation

Dan Hoare (DH), Head of Construction, Maintenance & Environment at the Broads Authority (BA) attended the meeting to discuss dredging for navigation. Feedback from the recent online survey indicated misconceptions between water levels, dredging and the authority's responsibilities. DH provided the following presentation on hydrographic monitoring and data:

- Driver – navigation duty to maintain water depths, as appropriate.
- Strategy- where to dredge, how deep and the sediment volumes involved.
- Evidence- modelling of riverbed bathymetry against mean low water.
- Action- rolling programme of dredging projects across the Broads
- Review- report progress against Waterways Specification targets

All areas of public navigations are surveyed at least once every 5 years to gain water depths through the system, with post-dredge surveys carried out after major projects. Survey data enables a 1m data grid, with technology continually improving. The use of multibeam sonar and cloud data enable finer details such as picking up a sunken vessel.

Comments and answers to questions

- Dredging is not carried out for flood risk purposes, the sole driver is for navigation purposes.
- Dredging will not decrease tide levels, providing a dredging FAQ's on BFI webpage should help challenge the perceptions of the past.

7. Any other business

None.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Broadland Future Initiative is 15th June 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
PD to request visualisations from UP from 1:1 meetings	10/02/2020	PD
Compile a list of additional and enhancing products to supply to Jacobs	20/04/2020	ALL
Circulate TOR	20/04/2020	MJ/KF

Outstanding actions	Meeting date	Assigned to
Email procedures of nominating and electing members to MPT	20/04/2020	ALL