



Title of Meeting: Western Wales Liaison Panel

Date & Venue of Meeting: 22 October 2014, Penrallt Hotel, Aberporth.

Attendance

NAME	ORGANISATION
Hywel Manley CHAIR	Natural Resources Wales
Alex Harding (for Charlotte Gjerlov)	Natural Resources Wales
Ceri Jones	Natural Resources Wales
Dave Johnston	Natural Resources Wales
Dave Levell (also covering for Bernard Brown)	Milford Haven Port Authority
Dafydd Jarrett	NFU
Gareth Lloyd	Snowdonia National Park
James Dowling	Welsh Government
Jill Howells	Natural Resources Wa.es
Jill Brown	Natural Resources Wales
Mansel Thomas	Consumer Council for Water
Paul Henderson	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
Paul Renfro (for Paul Donovan)	Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
Steve Hill	Coal Authority

Apologies were received from: Martyn Evans, Jeremy Frost, Paul Donovan, Jean-Francois Dulong, Charlotte Gjerlov, Bernard Brown, Rob Parry, Trevor West, Helen Millband, Martin Bishop.

Summary of agenda

- Consultation on the updated Western Wales River Basin Management Plan
- Progress with the 1st cycle, catchment working and communications
- Forward Look

1. Welcome, Minutes and actions

Hywel Manley chaired the meeting in place of Martyn Evans. The panel reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on 5 March 2014 and agreed that they were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Actions carried over from this meeting:

- Dave Johnston agreed to clarify the position regarding 'no deterioration'. **Action: DJ**
- Defer discussion on ecosystem approach to next meeting. Dave Levell asked for clarification on consistency of boundaries for the pilot areas which are part of the Natural Resource Planning programme. **Action: CJ**
- Classification updates to be shared when available. **Action: DJ**

2. Consultation on the updated River Basin Management Plan for Western Wales

DJ began the session with an overview of the consultation documents including the main document, annex, catchment summaries and Water Watch Wales. Attention was drawn to the consultation questions associated with the proposed changes to water body boundaries. In particular the panel focused on changes with coastal waterbodies and should lakes designated as SSSIs be included in the second cycle. Generally, small lakes don't fall within the European legislation and we are consulting on whether they should be designated as Special Protected Areas. Where waterbodies are removed, this will be for the purpose of EU reporting, improvements will still be included as part of the overall catchment objectives, DJ reassured the panel that measures would still be relevant in coastal waters.

Comments/actions:

- Concerns were raised about the delivery of statutory objectives such as protected areas.
- Concerns were raised about affordability of delivery. This will be discussed in more detail at the March panel meeting. **Action: CJ**
- Measures: The panel raised the need for a package of measures that set out who delivers them and by when. Some measures are co-dependent across the sectors. The Panel suggested that a task and Finish Group would be set up to look at this together with prioritisation and developing a delivery plan. HM asked for volunteers of the group to this work, Paul Henderson, Steve Hill and James Dowling put their names forward. It was also agreed that a forestry rep would be needed and that CJ would set up the first meeting for this work. **Action: CJ**
- The Panel were disappointed that there was no mention of the plans for N2K sites and asked when the Prioritised Improvement Plans (PIPs) would be published. PIPs will set out set the prioritised and costed actions for every Natura 2000 site in Wales with the aim of restoring and safeguarding them for the future. Hywel Manley agreed to look into the current situation regarding the publication of the PIPs and report back to the panel via email. The point was noted that partners cannot comment on the measures in the

plan and affordability without the PIPs. This was raised as a risk for the RBMP consultation. **Action: CJ**

- The panel asked which classification information would be used. DJ confirmed that it would be the 2014 data. This led to some discussion on deterioration and how this will be reported in the uRBMP. An update of this work will be provided at the next panel meeting. **Action: DJ**

Water Watch Wales

Comments/actions:

- Summary documents are still to be updated and loaded into the system, – check when would they would be available. **Action: JH**
- Request to include a legend so that it clear on what the colours represent on the maps. **Action: JH**
- The panel suggested that WWW could be used to share co-dependent measures.
- Projects – clarify what checks are in place to ensure that the information uploaded externally is from reputable sources. **Action: JH**
- Forward feedback on Water Watch Wales to Lynda Bigland who is collating feedback on Water Watch Wales throughout the consultation. **Action JB**

Communications/promoting the consultation

The panel provided feedback on the issues they felt should be focussed on during the consultation, who can help and additional communications tools required to support the consultation. The panel also provided a list of future events that we can use to promote the consultation. It was also agreed that a communications pack would be circulated to the group to help promote the consultation.

Comments/actions:

- Summarise feedback from Western Wales and Dee Liaison Panels and add to communications plan to form the basis of the engagement plan. **Action: CJ**

3. Progress with the first cycle

CJ discussed work with the current programme of investigations and measures. This will need to be reviewed both to show how far this work has taken us in the first cycle and to help steer the 2nd cycle approaches. This review will form part of the uRBMP and progress with this work will be discussed in more detail at the March panel meeting. **Action: CJ**

JH provided an overview of the Catchment Summaries. The panel were supportive of the approach with the summaries.

4. Forward Look

The forward look was considered and updated.

- Set up date for working group (Paul Henderson, Steve Hill, James Dowling, + Forestry rep) to discuss tracking of measures and delivery.

- Coal Authority to provide a case study Craig yr Aber scheme when completed.
- Consider how Agri schemes could be better targeted to help achieve WFD and SSSI targets.
- Look at opportunities to build in management of diffuse pollution into Rural Development Plans.
- Ecosystem approach and the ecosystem pilot areas – Dyfi, Tawe and Rhonnda.
- All Wales LP event early in the New Year.

5. AOB

- Voluntary Early Release Scheme – Natural Resources Wales are looking to reduce staffing numbers to 1850.
- A review of the laboratory at Penyfai is being undertaken as part of a rationalisation plan to review NRW offices. Paul Henderson offered to send details of a laboratory relocation undertaken by DCWW.

Next meeting 11th March 2015 at Cardigan Town Hall