



Title of Meeting: Western Wales Liaison Panel

Date & Venue of Meeting: Welsh Government Offices, Aberystwyth, 9 March 2016

Attendance

NAME	ORGANISATION
Martyn Evans CHAIR	Natural Resources Wales
Rhian Thomas	Natural Resources Wales
Huw Williams	Natural Resources Wales
Ceri Jones	Natural Resources Wales
Helen Cariss	Natural Resources Wales
Helen Millband	Natural Resources Wa.es
Jill Brown	Natural Resources Wales
James Dowling	Welsh Government
Frank Jones	Afonydd Cymru
Dafydd Jarrett	NFU
Paul Henderson	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
Carl Banton	Coal Authority
Gareth Lloyd	Snowdonia National Park
Jonathan Monk	MHPA
Jean-Francois Dulong	WLGA
Harriet Thomas	Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon
Richard Livock	PUMA Energy
Bernard Griffiths	FUW
Bob Gilchrist	Consumer Council for Water
Martin Bishop	Confor

Apologies: Jonathan Monk, Trevor West, Paul Donovan, Jim Evans, Paul Southall

1. Welcome, Minutes and actions (Paper 1)

Martyn Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda for the day, including the health and safety briefing.

The panel reviewed the minutes and actions from the last meeting and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. All actions had been completed.

2. River Basin Management Plan 2015-2021

2.1 Update (Paper 2 and 3)

Ceri Jones provided an update since the Western Wales River basin Management Plan was published in December (Paper 2). This included an overview of the Delivery Programme, Programme of Measures and more local programme of measures. The discussion included a review of the Terms of Reference for the Liaison Panel (Paper 3) now that the focus shifts from Planning to Delivery, there was also an update on work with the WFD Fish Classification which had been discussed at the previous Liaison Panel meeting

The Panel agreed that the focus needs to be on delivery and there were some concerns raised over timing on key programmes, in particular if there are delays in the WFD delivery, Paul Henderson raised concerns over alignment with the Water Industry Programme and potential lost opportunities.

It was suggested we look at the lessons learnt from this second cycle which is being reviewed by NRW over the next few months. This should also evaluate the lessons learnt from the current monitoring and classification programmes. This will be shared with the panel at the next meeting. **(Action:CJ)**

The panel asked about the economics work and in particular how this fits in with Natural Resource Planning and the Area Statements together with the implications of Area Statements. It was agreed that we could include this as an agenda item for the next panel meeting and the item was also added to the Forward Look. **(Action:CJ)**

It was agreed that we need to develop a clear set of actions of who is doing what, where and by when and should also be using the baseline classification and monitoring to show changes and improvements that have taken place. **(Action:CJ)**

Ceri Jones provided an update on the classification, in particular the WFD Fish Classification. NRW is currently reviewing the approach and timescales for the monitoring programme and the WFD classification as a whole, once finalised, the details will be shared with the Panel **(Action:CJ)**. In relation to WFD Fish Classification, Ceri Jones discussed the interim classification for 2016, it was agreed that we would continue to work

with Afonydd Cymru (Frank Jones) to look at this data and options to improve the approach to WFD Fish Classification **(Action:CJ and FJ)**.

Suggestions for the forward look were discussed and included:

- Consider how the WFD guidance for Local Authorities can be updated.
- Identify where there are mutual benefits for the delivery of actions for Flood Risk Management Plans and River Basin Management Plans.
- Natural resource Planning and Area Statements

2.2 Welsh Government Update

James Dowling provided a verbal update and began with the 2 key areas for WFD under the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act:

1) Reasons for failure – metal mines project. The Coal Authority have collated data from the various sources at NRW and are reviewing this with the intention of concluding with a ranked list of 13 metal mine sites with the potential for remediation at 3 or 4 sites in the next 2-3 years. The top 3 or 4 will be recommended to progress, subject to funding. Carl Banton offered to share the methodology and details of the sites being considered with the panel. **(Action:CB)**

2) A Diffuse Pollution Programme Board will be established to develop solutions to build upon and complement local project delivery. The board will help to co-ordinate activities and contribute to the delivery of improvements.

Welsh Government and NRW will be exploring better ways of working with farming groups. This includes a meeting with Farming Connect to discuss their programme of work and opportunities to work with them.

The Panel suggested that the diffuse pollution work should interact with the Rural Development Programme and the objectives of Glastir and the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme. James will provide an update on progress at the next meeting. **(Action:JD)**

3. Delivery

3.1 National Programme (Paper 4)

The River Basin Management Plans are published and detailed information on the actions

The latest classification results and the programme of measures are available on Water Watch Wales

<http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/>

Ceri Jones provided an overview of the National Programme as set out in the supporting Paper.

Delivery needs to be tracked and evaluated, the Panel also commented that we need to know what actions are funded and which ones are not, in particular for those actions set out in the PIPs, this information should be included in the tracking and evaluation of the Delivery Programme **(Action:CJ)**.

It was noted that the reduction in the Section 15 payments could have an impact on delivery as the Section 15 funding was an effective measure.

3.2 Local Programme

Helen Millband gave a presentation which focused on local delivery in the Western Wales RBD.

- 21 water bodies have been identified where we aim to get to good by 2021.
- 4 water bodies have been identified that need to improve to moderate from poor.

Locally there will also be a focus on preventing deterioration as part of NRW's day job and work to tackle more complex waterbodies and catchments. To deliver this work NRW will continue to work with partners across the catchments. This work is also being joined up with the NRP Trials. An update was requested on the WFD work for Dyfi and Tawe Trails for a future meeting.**(Action :HM)**

The Panel raised the need for Guidance on the assessment of no deterioration. This is currently being revised by NRW and will be shared with the Panel when available. **(Action: CJ)**

Paul Henderson gave a presentation on Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's Water Quality National Environment Programme. In AMP6, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will undertake investigations, increase monitoring and improve assets to ensure that water companies meet European and national targets related to water improvements.

Frank Jones gave a presentation and shared a paper on the potential for delivery (2016-2021) for WFD objectives by Afonydd Cymru. This included a view of the constraints to delivery as a result of the WFD Fish Classification, WFD Process and a suggestion of a local disconnect within NRW for delivery. The paper and presentation also focused on the impacts associated with agriculture and forestry, in particular liming, together with suggestions for a way forward. The Panel had an open discussion on these issues and there was a mixed response to the constraints set out in Frank's paper in particular for agriculture. The panel considered that the best way to take this forward was to ensure that the Panel works in a constructive and collaborative way in line with the Terms of Reference for the Panel.

Paul Henderson commented that if the liming position is a policy that affects all of Wales like the fish hatchery policy then the panel would want and should be consulted.

Dafydd Jarrett gave an update and shared a paper on the scale of the issues and the practical actions on the ground that farmers are taking to improve water quality.

There was not enough time for a full discussion on delivery or for other sectors to present their work programmes. Agreed that these would be sent to Ceri Jones outside of the meeting, and Ceri will be following this up so that we can ensure future meetings focus on delivery. **(Action:CJ)**

4. Date of next Meeting – to be confirmed. A telephone meeting to be arranged to discuss delivery if required. Suggestion for site visit.

Ended at 1.30pm

Western Wales Liaison Panel – Membership 2016

Sector	Organisation	Name
Forestry	Natural Resources Wales	Helen Carris
Forestry	Confor	Martin Bishop
Industry	Puma Energy	Richard Livock
Habitats	Natural Resources Wales	Huw Williams
Farming - Wales	National Farming Union	Dafydd Jarrett
Ports	Milford Haven Port	Jonathan Monk
Environmental NGOs	Afonydd Cymru	Frank Jones
National Parks	Snowdonia National Park	Gareth Lloyd
Local Authorities - Wales	WLGA	Jean- Francois Dulong
Sea Fisheries	Welsh Government Sea Fisheries	Jeremy Frost
Water Consumers	Consumer Council for Water	Bob Gilchrist (and copy to Lia Moutselou)
Recreation	Escape Routes Cymru	Paul Donovan
Water Companies	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Paul Henderson
Farming - Wales	Farmers Union Wales	Bernard Griffiths

Environmental NGOs - Wales Environment Link Rep	Salmon & Trout Association	Richard Garner Williams
Mining	Coal Authority	Carl Banton
Land Management	National Trust	Paul Southall
Sea Fisheries	WFA (Welsh Fisherman's Association)	Jim Evans
Welsh Government	Welsh Government	James Dowling