



Title of Meeting: Dee Liaison Panel

Date & Venue of Meeting: 17 March 2016

Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Bickley Hall Farm, Cheshire

Attendance

Sector	Name & Organisation
Natural Resources Wales	MOIRA REYNOLDS Chair
Natural Resources Wales	CERI JONES River Basin Programme Manager
Natural Resources Wales	HELEN MILLBAND Senior Environmental Planning Officer
Natural Resources Wales	RICHARD MAY Conservation Officer
Environment Agency	JO HOLDEN Catchment Officer
Environment Agency	Dave Turnbell Principal Account Officer
Environmental NGO (Wales)	ADRIAN JONES Welsh Wildlife Trust
Fisheries	HOWARD STEVENS Fisheries
Fisheries	KEN O'HARA FOR RICHARD LUCAS Dee Rivers Trust
Water Companies (England)	KATE SNOW United Utilities
Water Companies (Wales)	EVE READ Dŵr Cymru – Welsh Water
The National Trust	PAUL SOUTHALL Environmental Advisor
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	SARAH BENNET AND CHRIS MEREDITH Conservation Manager and Conservation Officer
Welsh Government	JAMES DOWLING Water Branch

Apologies were received from: Richard Lucas, Rhian Thomas, Lynda Bigland, Bethan Beech, Kevin Owen, Rob Arden and Dennis Pugh.

1. Welcome, Minutes and actions (Paper 1)

Moira Reynolds welcomed everyone and outlined the agenda for the day including the health and safety briefing.

The Liaison Panel reviewed the minutes and actions from the 4th November 2015 and agreed that these were a true reflection of the meeting. The following actions were identified as ongoing:

ACTION: Ceri Jones and Helen Millband to look at how the upper Dee can be represented alongside the Dee River Basin Management Plan and Catchment Partnership Action Plans for the Tidal and Middle Dee.

ACTION: Jo Holden to ask Reaseheath College to come and give a presentation to the Dee Liaison Panel

ACTION: Ceri Jones - follow up and Liaison Panel suggestions for agriculture and discuss at the next Liaison Panel meeting

ACTION: Moira Reynolds to speak to Partnership Manager

ACTION: Ceri Jones to look at filling the recreational sector rep

2. River Basin Management Plan 2015-2021

2.1 Update (Paper 2 and 3)

Ceri Jones provided an update since the Dee River basin Management Plan was published in February (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 with alignment with the Water Industry Programme and potential lost opportunities.

The panel requested that a copy of the Local Authority Guidance is circulate and to provide feedback from work with the WLGA in Wales, **(Action: CJ)**

Habitat improvements were discussed including the Bala Study work and there was an action to provide further detail of this work through Bob Edwards and Dylan Williams which Moira Reynolds will follow up. **(Action: MR)**

It was suggested we look at the lessons learnt from this second cycle which is being reviewed by NRW and the Environment Agency 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)**

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 a brief update on classification, in particular the WFD Fish Classification. NRW and the Environment Agency are 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 and DT)**. In relation to WFD Fish Classification, Ceri Jones discussed the interim classification for 2016 in England and Wales which is being led by the Environment Agency, Ceri advised that we will continue to work with Afonydd Cymru (Frank Jones) in Wales to look at this data and options to improve the approach to WFD Fish Classification, this is a particular concern in the Western Wales River Basin District. **(Action:CJ)**.

Suggestions for the forward look in the Dee RBD were discussed and included:

- Funding and the role the Liaison Panel will have
- Flood Risk Management Plans in particular where habitat protection and creation fits in with the FRMPs
- Update on dredging and what this means for the Dee RBD
- Wellbeing and Future Generations work in Wales

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 and the connection with WFD:

- 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 of the sites being considered with the panel. It is anticipated that these sites will be in the Western Wales RBD.
- 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. They will also be looking at legislative and non-legislative frameworks, Adas are currently looking at the existing legislation.

3. Delivery

3.1 National Programme (Paper 4)

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

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

Ceri Jones and Dave Turnbull 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, this information should be included in the tracking and evaluation of the Delivery Programme **(Action:CJ)**.

Dave also shared a copy of the Environment Agency's graphic to help with communications, a copy will also be circulated with the minutes. **(Action:CJ)**

3.2 Local Programme

Helen Millband and Jo Holden gave a presentation which focused on local delivery in the Dee RBD.

Locally there will also be a focus on preventing deterioration as part of the day job and work to tackle more complex waterbodies and catchments, this includes dealing with incidents, providing advice, permitting, felling licences, and planning activities. To deliver this work NRW and the Environment Agency will continue to work with partners across catchments. Alongside the work of CaBA through the Defra funded partnership programme, in Wales, this work is also being joined up with the Natural Resource Planning Trials. Howard asked for clarity on what is planned for the Alyn and what fisheries managers can do. Helen and Howard will follow this up. **(Action: HM, HS)**

Jo Holden provided an update on actions and suggested we could learn from the best practice shared through the Catchment Based Approach web site (

<http://www.catchmentbasedapproach.org/>) and apply this to the Dee, Panel members were encouraged to look at this **(Action:All)**.

Jo also provided further detail on the Environment Agency's priorities which includes no deterioration, mapping of projects and waterbodies where actions have been confirmed. This detail is held in a spreadsheet which can be added to the programme across the Dee so partners can direct/ link their work where opportunities permit.

The discussion then focused on the WFD GiA Prioritised Projects that the Environment Agency has been working on with partners. The Panel agreed the following rank based on the information shared:

- 1) Alford Brook
- 2) Wych and Worthenbury
- 3) Love My Estuary

This will be put forward for 2016/17 by the Dee RBD Liaison Panel.

Tidal Dee Partnership - Sarah Bennet provided an update. The Action Plan is in place and includes a set of projects. In 2016/17 they would like to develop a cross border project as this is a blocker in the Tidal Dee and is needed to progress the work of the partnership. Chris Meredith then gave a presentation on the Love My Estuary Project, through the project they have walked 78% of the water courses, identified 293 potential issues and 77 active pollution pathways and undertaken 100 hours of stakeholder engagement. Priority sources have been identified such as sewage fungus, livestock poaching and tramping, septic tanks, sewage litter and oil entering the brook. The project has produced a Pollution Prevention Pack, this pack is unbranded and can be used by other partnerships, the Panel members were encouraged to make use of this pack. There was discussion on how access to land was achieved through the project and Chris will share the letter sent as part of the project to the Panel **(Action:CJ)**.

Middle Dee Partnership – Ken O'Hara provided an update. The Partnership have been undertaking farm visits and working on the Worthenbury and Wych Brook Rural Diffuse Pollution Project. Other work has been ongoing with the Dee Restoration Plan (Afon Ceiriog), NRW Joint Partnership working, Alford Brook Rural Diffuse Pollution Project and the River Alyn Habitat and Diffuse Pollution Project where survey work is due to start in April 2016.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water - Eve Read 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.

United Utilities - Kate Snow gave a presentation of the Dee Catchment work. 4 Catchment Advisors are now in post and funded to 2020. They are providing free health checks to farms, working with Adas this includes looking at farm infrastructure, use of slug pellets, sprayer MOT's and training. Chemical catchers are being deployed to monitor the environment.

They have faced challenges with obtaining contact details for farmers. The approach from Love My Estuary may help with this and Kate will look at the letter used. Adrian Jones advised that they could add some funding into the work on the Alyn so Kate and Adrian will follow this up. **(Action: KS and AJ)**

National Trust - Paul Southall gave a presentation on their work and making links with WFD priorities by mapping National Trust ownership with WFD Status using GiS. 3 work areas have been identified;

- 1) Snowdonia
- 2) Lowland Farmland
- 3) Abergwesyn Common

The Environment Agency are also keen to follow this work up with the National Trust. **(Action: PS and JH).**

There was insufficient time to have further discussion on local delivery and this will be followed up over the next 6 months to contribute to the delivery programme in the Dee RBD.

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

Ended at 1.30pm

Dee Liaison Panel – Membership 2016

Sector	Organisation	Name
Environmental NGOs	Welsh Wildlife Trust	Adrian Jones
Business and Industry	Kronospan Ltd	Dennis Pugh
Local Authorities - Wales		VACANT
Environmental/Fisheries/Angling NGOs	Dee Rivers Trust and Dee Middle Partnership	Richard Lukas

Fisheries	Local Area Fisheries Advisory Group	Howard Stevens
Ports		VACANT
Farming - Wales	NFU Cymru	Kevin Owen
NRW - Habitats	NRW	Bethan Beech
Water Companies - Wales	Dŵr Cymru - Welsh Water	Paul Henderson
Water Consumers	Consumer Council for Water	Bob Gilchrist (and copy to Lia Moutselou)
Water Companies - England	United Utilities	Kate Snow
Natural England	Natural England	Rob Arden
Local Authorities - England	Environment Agency	VACANT
EA	Environment Agency	Jim Ratcliffe or Dave Turnbull
EA	Catchment Partnerships	Jo Holden
Business and Industry	SME's	VACANT
Land Management	National Trust	Paul Southall
Recreation		VACANT
Welsh Government	Welsh Government	James Dowling